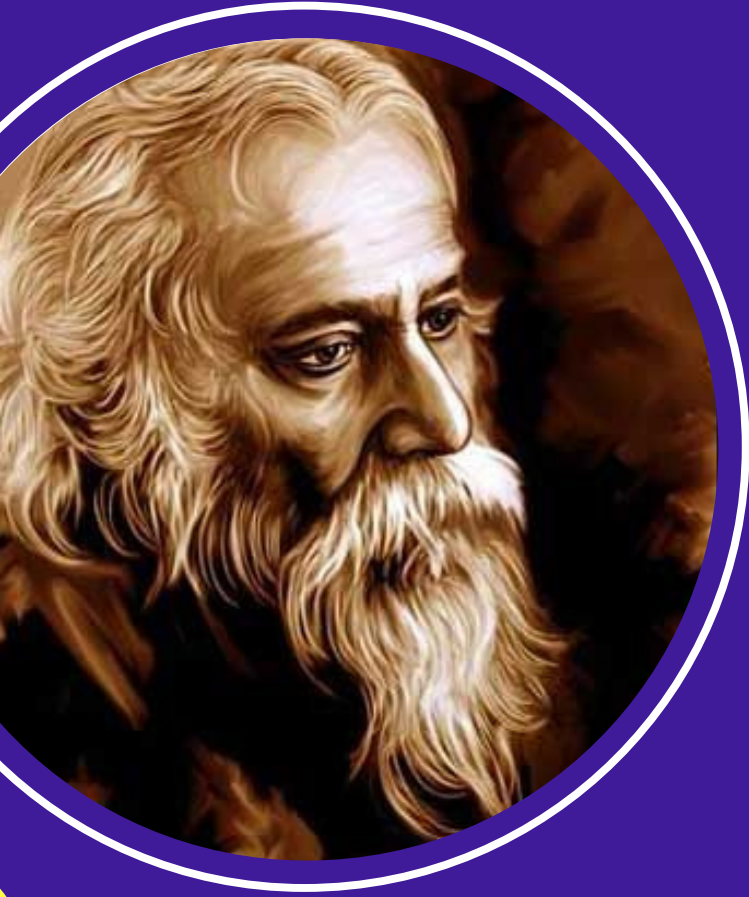


# CURRENT AFFAIRS



**JULY  
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 July 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**



**National Doctor's day : 1 July :-**

On July 1, India commemorates Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy's birth anniversary, an eminent physician, academician, freedom fighter, and politician. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy was West Bengal's first Chief Minister following India's independence. In 1961, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy was awarded the Bharat Ratna. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy was born in Patna in 1882. He was the youngest of five siblings. The theme of this year's National Doctors' Day is 'Family Doctor on the Front Line'.



**World Sports Journalists Day : 02 July :-**

Every year on July 2nd, World Sports Journalists Day or International Sports Journalists Day is observed. It is observed to recognise the value of sports journalists and to commemorate the anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). On World Sports Journalists Day, athletes have come out to show their support for these journalists who have played an

important role in their careers. From breaking news to exclusive scoops, sports journalists keep fans up to date on their favourite players and clubs.



**International Day of Cooperatives : 02 July :-**

Every year on the first Saturday of July, the International Day of Cooperatives is observed. The International Day of Cooperatives will be observed this year on July 2, 2022. The primary goal of this celebration was to raise awareness of cooperatives and highlight the cooperative movement's contributions to resolving the major problems addressed by the United Nations. The day also aims to strengthen and broaden collaborations between the international cooperative movement and other actors, such as governments at the local, national, and international levels. This year the theme of International Day of Cooperatives is 'Cooperatives Build a Better World.'



## World Zoonoses Day : 06 July :-

Every year on July 6, World Zoonoses Day commemorates the first vaccination against a zoonotic disease such as Ebola, Avian influenza, or West Nile virus. Zoonosis is a contagious disease transmitted from nonhuman animals to humans. Louis Pasteur, a French biologist, successfully administered the first vaccination against a zoonotic disease on July 6, 1885. The day is also observed to raise awareness about the dangers of zoonotic diseases and how to prevent them.



## World Chocolate Day : July 7:-

Every year on July 7, the world observes and celebrates World Chocolate Day. World Chocolate Day commemorates the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550. Previously, chocolate was only available in a few countries and regions, including Mexico and Central America. Chocolate travelled to many countries after being discovered by foreign invaders and became a favourite of its consumers. Chocolate also helps with immunity, brain function, cough, memory enhancement, heart health, and mood enhancement.



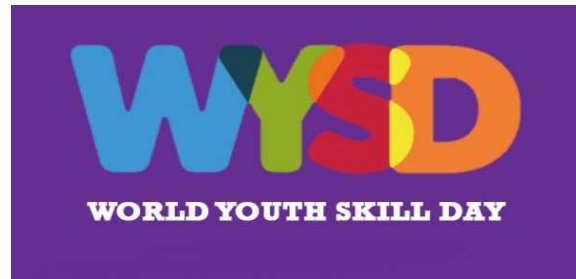
## World Population Day – 11 July :-

Every year on July 11, World Population Day is marked to increase public awareness of population-related concerns worldwide. This day's main goal is to increase public awareness of all the detrimental effects population growth has had on the steady advancement of nature. Around the world, events are held to commemorate this day, including workshops, debates, public contests, slogan competitions, lectures, and educational sessions. "A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and safeguarding rights and choices for all" is the topic for this year.



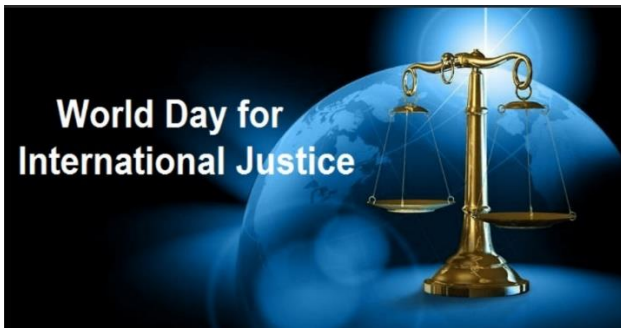
## World Malala day : 12 July :-

Every year on July 12, the world commemorates Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist. Malala, who now advocates for women's right to education around the world, was never allowed to attend school as a child. But, unlike many others, Malala refused to accept it and refused to return home. She advocated for the provision of education to young girls and was nearly killed as a result. Because July 12 is also her birthday, the United Nations quickly declared that the day will now be observed as 'Malala Day' to honour the young activist.



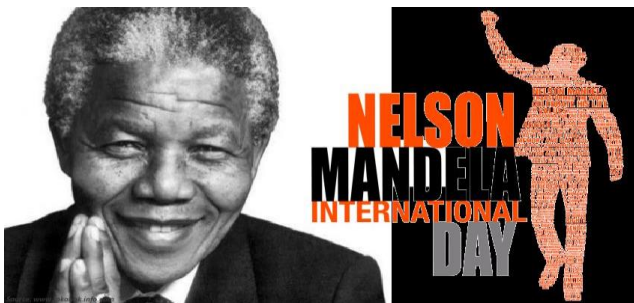
## World Youth Skills Day : 15 July :-

Every year on July 15th, World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is observed. Its goal is to raise awareness about technical and vocational education training, as well as the development of other skills that are relevant to both local and global economies. The United Nations General Assembly designated July 15 as World Youth Skills Day in 2014. (WYSD). The day also emphasises the critical role that skilled youth play in addressing current and future global challenges. The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2022 is 'Transforming youth skills for the future'.



## World Day for International Justice : 17 July :-

Every year on July 17, the World Day for International Justice is observed to recognise the strengthening of the international justice system and to promote victims' rights. It is also known as Day of International Criminal Justice, and it emphasises the importance of combating impunity and bringing justice to the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The theme for World Day for International Justice 2022 is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".



## International Nelson Mandela Day : 18 July :-

Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on July 18th around the world to commemorate Mandela's contributions to the culture of peace, human rights, reconciliation, and freedom. Nelson Mandela was born in South Africa on July 18, 1918. He was a brilliant politician, revolutionary, and humanitarian. Nelson Mandela's birthday is on July 18, so this day is known as Nelson Mandela International Day. The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2022 is "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are", according to the United Nations.



## International Chess Day : 20 July :-

Every year on July 20th, the world celebrates International Chess Day. After FIDE established International Chess Day in 1966, UNESCO proposed the idea of commemorating it. In 2019, a resolution passed by the United Nations officially recognised the day as an international event. On International Chess Day, FIDE, the International Chess Federation, and its 181 chess federations organise chess events and competitions around the world. The day is observed by 605 million regular chess players worldwide to recognise the significance of the fascinating game.



## National Broadcasting Day : 23 July:-

National Broadcasting Day is celebrated annually on July 23rd in India to commemorate the first-ever radio broadcast in the country, which went on air from the Bombay Station of the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927. Under British rule, radio broadcasting began in India in 1922 with programmes by the Bombay Presidency Radio Club. Since 1956, All India Radio (AIR) has been officially known as 'Akashvani.' It has the world's largest radio network and one of the world's largest broadcasting organisations in terms of the number of languages broadcast.



## Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas) : 24 July :-

Since 2010, July 24 has been observed as Income Tax Day in India. The I-T department decided in 2010 to set July 24 as the date for the annual celebration to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this levy beginning that year. Income tax was first levied as a duty in 1860, and the authority to levy it took effect on July 24, that year. Sir James Wilson imposed an income tax in India on July 24, 1860, to compensate the British

government for losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857.



## Kargil Vijay Diwas : 26 July :-

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on July 26 to commemorate the victory of Indian troops over infiltrating Pakistani troops. This year is the 23rd anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The Kargil War, also known as the Kargil conflict, took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC), with India winning. This is the day to remember the Kargil martyrs and the supreme sacrifice made by our brave soldiers to uphold and safeguard the nation's integrity.

## World Nature Conservation Day

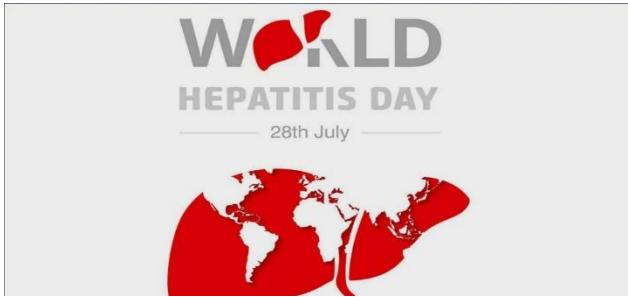


## World Nature Conservation Day : 28 July :-

Every year on July 28, the world celebrates World Nature Conservation Day. The event's goal is to raise awareness about the importance of preserving the environment and natural resources in order to keep the world healthy. One of the primary goals of World Nature Conservation Day is to save plants and animals that are on the verge of extinction. There is also a focus on preserving the various



components of nature. Flora and fauna, energy resources, soil water, and air are examples of these. The theme of World Nature Conservation day 2022 is 'Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature.'



### World Hepatitis Day : 28 July :-

Every year on July 28, World Hepatitis Day is observed to raise national and international awareness about hepatitis and to encourage individuals, partners, and the general public to take action to achieve global elimination goals by 2030. The 28th of July was chosen as the birthday of Nobel laureate Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for it. The theme for world hepatitis day 2022 is 'Bringing hepatitis care closer to you.'



### International Tiger Day : 29 July :-

Every year on July 29, International Tiger Day or Global Tiger Day is observed to raise awareness about tiger conservation. The 29th of July is significant because it is the date on which several countries signed the

agreement at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, which was held in Russia in 2010. The agreement aimed to raise awareness about the world's declining tiger population and to protect tigers' natural habitat. Cutting down trees, which causes habitat loss, hunting, and illegal trade in tiger body parts are some of the primary causes of tiger population decline. This year's theme for International Tiger Day is "India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population".



### International Friendship Day : 30 July :-

Every year on July 30, the world celebrates International Friendship Day. According to the United Nations, the UN General Assembly declared July 30 to be International Day of Friendship, with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and bridges between communities. Despite the fact that it is not a public holiday, people all over the world gather with their friends to toast to each other's good health and many more years together.



### World Ranger Day : 31 July :-

Every year on July 31, World Ranger Day is observed to commemorate Rangers killed or injured while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage. A Ranger is someone who is in charge of preserving and protecting

parklands and natural protected areas. A ranger is typically a forest ranger or a park ranger. On this day in 1992, the International Ranger Federation (IRF) was established. World Ranger Day was established in 2007 by the International Ranger Federation.

## 2: Agreements



### PhonePe And Kotak General Insurance Collaborated To Provide Motor Insurance :-

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance) has announced a partnership with PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd (PhonePe), India's leading digital payments platform, to provide motor insurance to 380 million PhonePe customers. Kotak General Insurance will provide its customers with quick and easy car and two-wheeler insurance policies via PhonePe. This collaboration will allow PhonePe customers to purchase car and two-wheeler insurance online in just a few clicks from the comfort of their smartphones.

### Freo Partners With Equitas Small Finance Bank To Launch Digital Savings Account :-

Freo, a Bengaluru-based fintech startup, has launched Freo Save, a digital savings account in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank, in an effort to become a full-stack neobanking platform offering lending, savings, and wealth-growth products to consumers. The startup, which began as a lending fintech through its platform MoneyTap, announced in a media address that it aims to open a million accounts within the new savings vertical over the next 10 months. According to the company, Freo Save will offer customers an interest rate of up to 7% on balances ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 crore.





## Government Department Will Work With SBI, To Establish An Integrated Pension Platform:-

According to an official statement, the Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will collaborate with the State Bank of India (SBI) to develop an integrated pension portal to improve the quality of life for pensioners. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, special sessions were held on income tax issues affecting pensioners as well as digital means of submitting annual life certificates. It was decided that immediate efforts are required to create an integrated pension portal by connecting the DoPPW and SBI portals.



## Axis Bank And EazyDiner Collaborate To Introduce Dining Delights :-

Axis Bank, a private lender, has announced the launch of Dining Delights for bank customers in collaboration with EazyDiner, a leading table reservation and restaurant payment platform. The programme will provide a variety

of benefits, including the ability to choose from over 10,000 premium restaurants in India and Dubai, instant table reservation confirmation, and exclusive offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app. Dining Delights will soon offer premium cardholders an exclusive birthday celebration experience called 'Celebrations with Axis Bank and EazyDiner.'



## IIT Hyderabad And Greenko Inks A Pact To Establish Sustainable Sci-Tech School :-

Greenko, a provider of energy transition and industrial decarbonisation solutions, has partnered with IIT-Hyderabad to establish the country's first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology. The Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST) will help fill research, education, and skill gaps in the field of sustainable development. Climate change mitigation, artificial intelligence and space technology, energy transition, and industrial transformation will all be promoted at the school.



## IGSS Ventures And Tamil Nadu Govt Signs MoU To Establish Semiconductor Park:-

IGSS Ventures, a prominent global player in the semiconductor industry, has signed an agreement with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a semiconductor park. It was signed in Chennai in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin. The industrial park will be built on 300 acres of land, with a five-year investment commitment of 25,600 crore rupees. The company has stated that it intends to establish a semiconductor fabrication unit as part of the Centre's 'India Semiconductor Mission.' According to a government press release, the industrial park has the potential to create 1500 direct jobs.



## Tata Power And Tamil Nadu Inks A Pact To Establish A Solar Manufacturing Facility :-

Tata Power has announced a Rs 3,000 crore agreement with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a new facility to manufacture solar cells and modules in the state's Tirunelveli district. A company statement said "Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to invest approximately Rs 3,000 crore for setting up a greenfield 4GW solar cell and 4GW solar module manufacturing plant in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu".



## SBI Updates Agreement With Air Force For Defence Salary Package :-

The Indian Air Force and the State Bank of India (SBI) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme, according to SBI. This scheme will provide various benefits and features to all serving and retired Air Force personnel, as well as their families. According to a press release, the lender provides extensive benefits to Air Force personnel, including complimentary personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance, and additional cover in the event of on-duty death (during action).



## Rashtriya Raksha University, DroneAcharya Tie Up To Set Remote Pilot Training Centre:-

The Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) has established a 'Remote Pilot Training Centre' (RPTC) on its campus in Gandhinagar's Lavad village to teach drone flying to defense/security forces personnel as well as citizens. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between RRU and DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations, a drone service provider and training organisation, to establish a private partnership training centre on the university campus. The RPTC at RRU will have DGCA certified drone trainers teaching the trainees about quadcopters while adhering strictly to certification requirements.



### Shriram General Insurance And City Union Bank Signed Corporate Agency Agreement :-

City Union Bank (CUB), a private sector lender, has signed a corporate agency agreement with Shriram General Insurance to distribute the latter's insurance products through its nationwide branch network. According to the terms of the agreement, Shriram General Insurance will provide personal lines of insurance products such as motor, accident, home, and travel insurance to the bank's customers, as well as commercial lines of insurance products such as property, marine, and engineering insurance.



### Indian Air Force & PNB Signs MoU For 'PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme' :-

Public sector bank in India The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide specially designed products to defence personnel through its flagship scheme, 'PNB Rakshak Plus.' Personal accidental insurance and air accidental insurance are available to serving, retired, and trainee members of the defence forces, central armed police forces, state police forces, metro police, and retired defence pensioners. Under the scheme, personnel of all three branches of the military are eligible to open a salary account.



### SBI Subsidiary And MEA Sign Agreement Regarding Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund :-

SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of External Affairs to establish the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund) for collaborative projects

with global partners. The TDC Fund will channel India's approximately Rs.175 crore (£17.5 million) commitment to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund), which is being established in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) under the India-UK Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).



## Nasscom Joins Hand With Google For DigiVaani Call Center :-

The Nasscom Foundation, in collaboration with Google, has established a call centre to assist women farmers in scaling up their businesses. Nasscom Foundation CEO Nidhi Bhasin said at the launch of the "DigiVaani Call Center" that the project is being run as a pilot to initially reach out to 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs across six states: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan. She stated that Google has funded the project and that the decision to scale up DigiVaani will be made in a year.



## RIL Tie-Up With Athletics Federation Of India To Support Indian Athlete :-

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have announced a long-term partnership to enable the holistic growth of athletics in the country. According to a press release from Reliance Industries, the partnership aims to discover and nurture Indian athletes from across the country, as well as provide them with world-class facilities, coaching, and sports science and medicine support, by leveraging the Reliance Foundation ecosystem, which includes the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre and Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital.



## MoU Signed Between RBI And Bank Indonesia To Further Their Shared Cooperation :-

The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia have agreed to expand their cooperation in payment systems, digital financial innovation, anti-money laundering, and counter-terrorism financing (AML-CFT). On the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Bali, the two central banks signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve mutual cooperation. The MoU will be implemented through policy dialogue, technical cooperation, information exchange, and collaborative work.



## JSW Steel And BCG Collaborate To Quicken The Decarbonization Process :-

JSW Steel has announced a partnership with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in order to meet its decarbonization targets. JSW Steel has set an ambitious goal of reducing carbon emissions by 42% by 2029-30 compared to 2005. According to a ministry document, the iron and steel industry globally accounts for approximately 8% of total carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions on an annual basis, while it accounts for 12% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in India. As a result, in light of the commitments made at the COP26 climate change conference, the Indian steel industry must significantly reduce its emissions.

## 3: Appointments



## Ruchira Kamboj Named As Next Permanent Representative Of India To The UN :-

Ruchira Kamboj, a senior diplomat, has been named India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Kamboj, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1987 batch, is currently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan. She will succeed T S Tirumurti as India's UN ambassador. Kamboj is expected to begin the assignment soon. She was the All India women's Civil Services batch topper in 1987, as well as the 1987 Foreign Service batch topper. Ruchira Kamboj is the country's first female ambassador to Bhutan.



## P Udayakumar Took Charges As NSIC's Chairman And Managing Director :-

P Udayakumar, Director of NSIC, was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC). He is a mechanical engineer from College of Engineering, Guindy, with a post-graduate degree from IIM Bangalore and 12 years of Board experience. Over a 12-year period, he was involved in numerous initiatives of the Ministry of MSME and NSIC's growth story. He is an expert in the MSME domain. He is also an Investment Committee member of the PE growth fund namely SRI Fund, the Fund of Fund of Ministry of MSME.



## **Dr D J Pandian Appointed To Lead NDB's India Regional Office In Gift City :-**

The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) has appointed former bureaucrat Dr D J Pandian as Director-General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), according to the bank. Pandian previously worked as Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the Beijing-based Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), of which India is the second largest shareholder after China. In January, he was succeeded by former RBI Governor Urjit Patel.



## **Senior IPS officer Dinkar Gupta Appointed As Director General Of NIA :-**

Dinkar Gupta, a 1987-batch IPS officer and former Punjab Police Commissioner, has been named Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Appointments Committee has approved Gupta's appointment as NIA Director until March 31, 2024, when

he will retire. Gupta, who holds a Master's degree in police administration, was appointed Director General of Punjab Police in 2019 and served for two years and seven months. He was appointed Chairman of the Punjab Police Housing Board after requesting permission for a central deputation.



## **S.S. Mundra Appointed As Chairman Of BSE :-**

The BSE's board of directors has appointed S S Mundra, a public interest director, as the exchange's chairman. Mundra will take over for Justice Vikramajit Sen. Mr. Mundra stepped down as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India in July 2017 after a three-year tenure. He was previously the Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda, where he retired in July 2014. He was also the RBI's representative on the Financial Stability Board (G20 Forum) and its various committees. In addition, he served as Vice-Chair of the OECD's International Network on Financial Education.





## Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary Chosen To Lead India International Centre :-

Former Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change Shyam Saran has been appointed President of the prestigious India International Centre. After leaving government service in 2010, he has headed the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a prestigious think tank focusing on economic issues from 2011 to 2017 and was Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board under the National Security Council from 2013 to 15.



## Parameswaran Iyer Appointed As CEO Of NITI Aayog :-

According to a government notification, Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. He was previously the secretary of drinking water and sanitation. He resigned from his position in July of last year. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Parameswaran Iyer, IAS, Retd. as chief executive officer, NITI Aayog vice Shri Amitabh Kant upon completion of his tenure on 30.06.2022, for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier" the notification said.



## Anil Khanna Named As The Acting President Of IOA :-

The Delhi High Court ruled that Narinder Dhruv Batra could not continue as President of the IOA and named Anil Khanna as acting President. The Delhi High Court ordered veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra to resign as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) "in a contempt proceeding" a month after it asked him to do so. On May 25, Batra was removed as IOA president after the Delhi High Court overturned the post of 'life member' in Hockey India, for which he had run and won the apex body elections in 2017.



## **Tapan Kumar Deka Appointed As New Director Of Intelligence Bureau :-**

Tapan Kumar Deka, a Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer from the 1988 batch, was appointed Director of Intelligence Bureau for a two-year term beginning on the date of his appointment or until further orders, whichever comes first. Deka took over for outgoing Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose term ended on June 30. Deka has spent the majority of his career with the Intelligence Bureau. In June of last year, he was promoted to the rank of Special Director in the Wing from the position of Additional Director in the Intelligence Bureau.



## **IRS Officer Nitin Gupta Named As The New Chairman Of CBDT :-**

Nitin Gupta, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Services officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the Income Tax department's administrative body. Gupta, an Income Tax cadre member, is currently serving as a member (investigation) in the CBDT and will retire in September 2023. The post of the CBDT chief was being held in an additional capacity by board member and 1986-batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh after J B Mohapatra retired on April 30.



## **Samant Kumar Goel Re-Appointed As Chief Of RAW :-**

Samant Kumar Goel, a 1984-batch Punjab cadre IPS officer, has been given a one-year extension as secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) until June 30, 2023. Goel was set to retire on May 31, 2020, but because he was appointed RAW chief on June 26, 2019, he was given a fixed tenure of two years until June 30, 2021. On May 27, last year, the central government granted him his first extension of service until June 30, this year. Goel is from Malerkotla in the Punjab district of Sangrur. In 1986, he became a trainee IPS officer in Amritsar and later served as SSP in Batala, Amritsar, and Gurdaspur.



## **Paritosh Tripathi - MD & CEO, SBI:-**

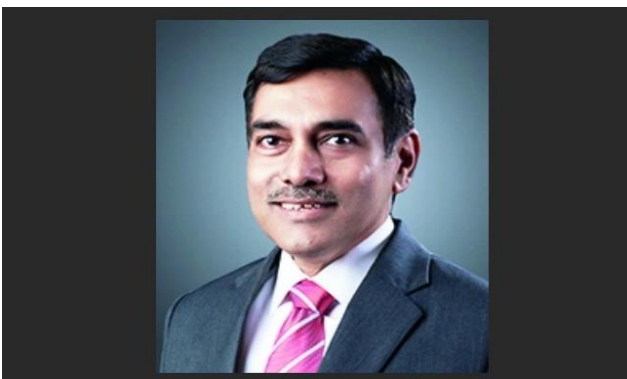
With effect from July 5, Paritosh Tripathi was appointed managing director and CEO of private non-life insurer SBI General Insurance. He succeeds P.C. Kandpal, who has been appointed as the State Bank of India's Corporate Center's Deputy Managing Director (DMD)-(P&RE) (SBI).

With more than 32 years of banking experience, Mr. Tripathi has held positions in a number of divisions, including international banking, bancassurance, mid-corporate segment, and MSME.



## Rajendra Prasad assumes charge as MD of High-Speed Rail Corporation:-

Rajendra Prasad assumed the charge of Managing Director, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited on 7th July 2022. He is also working as Director Project, NHRCL since November 2017 and is overall in-charge of civil engineering works of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project, popularly known as Bullet Train Project. As the Director Project, NHRCL, he has spearhead the civil works of the MAHSR section in the state of Gujarat i.e. 352 Km including the award of biggest single Infrastructure contract in the country comprising of 237 Km long via-duct and 4 stations



## IRARC's Avinash Kulkarni To Head India Debt Resolution Company :-

Avinash Kulkarni, the chief executive of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Company (IRARC), has been appointed to lead the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL), which will be the sole agent in resolving more than 83,000 crore of bad loans to be acquired by the government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). Kulkarni is an SBI veteran, having served in a variety of capacities at the public-sector behemoth. SBI Capital Markets, the investment banking and advisory arm of the SBI group, has been one of his assignments.



## IWF Chooses Mohammed Jalood As President :-

Mohammed Jalood, an Iraqi official, has been elected president of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). Jalood is a long-serving IWF official who served as general secretary and collaborated with Al-Mana at the Asian Weightlifting Federation. Jalood is the IWF's first permanent president since Tamás Aján stepped down in 2020 after 44 years in charge. Under his presidency, he faced allegations that failed drug tests were covered up and millions of dollars went missing.



## Rahul Narwekar, The Youngest Speaker In The Country :-

Rahul Narwekar, a new MLA, was elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, defeating Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi. Devendra Fadnavis, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, described Narwekar as the country's "youngest speaker." The position of Speaker became vacant after Congress' Nana Patole resigned in February 2021 to become the party's state unit chief. In the absence of a Speaker, Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal was acting as Speaker in the House.



## PT Usha, Ilayaraja Among Four Nominated To Rajya Sabha :-

P T Usha, a legendary athlete, and music maestro Ilayaraja were among those nominated to Rajya Sabha. Veerendra Heggade, philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple, and noted screenwriter V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament. The nominations, made by the President on the advice of the Union Cabinet, are seen as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's concerted effort to expand its footprint in the Southern region, as all four nominees hail from Southern states.



## Aviva India Appoints Asit Rath As New CEO And MD :-

Asit Rath has been named Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of private life insurer Aviva Life Insurance Company India. According to a press release, he will succeed Amit Malik, who is leaving the company after ten years. According to the company, Rath is the CEO of Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance and has 22 years of banking and insurance experience in India and Myanmar. Aviva India is a partnership between Dabur Invest Corp and Aviva International Holdings Limited, a UK-based insurance group.



## R Dinesh Named The Confederation Of Indian Industry's New President :-

At the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) National Council meeting in Delhi, R Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, was elected President Designate for 2022-23. Simultaneously, Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, was elected Vice-President of CII. Dinesh served as Chairman of the CII Southern Region in 2018-19, and has previously served as Chairman of the National Committees on Logistics, CII Family Business Network India Chapter Council, and CII Tamil Nadu State Council, according to a statement from the industry chamber.



## R K Gupta Named As Deputy Election Commissioner :-

Senior bureaucrat R K Gupta has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. He comes in place of T Sreekanth a 2004 batch IAS officer of UT cadre. Gupta, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, will serve as deputy election commissioner (Joint secretary level) till 28 February next year, the date of his superannuation, the Personnel Ministry order said.



## Suranjan Das Named As The New President Of AIU :-

:-

Suranjan Das, vice chancellor of Jadavpur University, was elected president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Mr. Das, a well-known historian, joined AIU as vice president a year ago. His presidency began on July 1 and will last one year, according to a notice issued by the AIU. Mr. Das stated that he will concentrate on implementing the key components of the new education policy (NEP), such as securing government funding for state universities engaged in significant research endeavours and working to raise the quality of Indian universities to international levels.



## Alvaro Lario Named As New President Of IFAD :-

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has named Spain's Alvaro Lario, its top finance executive, as its new President. Lario, the seventh president of IFAD, will take over the UN agency at a critical time when global food prices are rising due to the Ukraine war, climate change, and the pandemic, with the world's poorest countries bearing the brunt of the

burden. Lario, IFAD's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Associate Vice-President for Financial Operations since 2018, has pledged to double IFAD's impact on rural poor communities.



## Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister Of Andhra Pradesh Elected YSRC President For Life :-

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister and National President of the YSR Congress Party, has been unanimously elected as the YSR Congress Party's lifetime president. Party national general secretary V. Vijaya Sai Reddy announced this at the conclusion of the party's plenary in Guntur, saying 22 sets of nominations were filed, and since there was no other nomination, the party unanimously elected Mr. Jagan as lifetime president. The party also agreed to amend Articles 8 and 9 of its constitution and unanimously elected Mr. Jagan as the party's lifetime president.



## GoI Clears Appointment Of Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay As CMD Of GSL :-

Unlike the recent trend of naming retired naval officers as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel has named Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, who joined GSL as a trainee manager, as CMD of the Miniratna PSU. Upadhyay was working as the director of operations at GSL when he was chosen over six other candidates for the position. As GSL CMD, Upadhyay will be the corporation's chief executive, reporting to its board of directors and the government.



## Meena Hemchandra Appointed As Temporary Chairperson Of Karur Vysya Bank :-

Karur Vysya Bank, a private sector lender, announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former RBI executive Meena Hemchandra as the bank's part-time chairman for three years. In May, the bank recommended to the RBI Hemchandra's candidacy for the position of non-executive independent (part-time) chairperson of the bank. The term of Hemchandra (64) has been approved for three years, beginning on the date of taking office. She is a career banker who has worked in various departments of the RBI for over 35 years.



## Mustafizur Rahman Named As Bangladesh High Commissioner To India :-

The Bangladesh government has appointed Mustafizur Rahman as the country's next High Commissioner to India. Mustafizur Rahman is Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Offices in Geneva as well as its Ambassador to Switzerland. Ambassador Rahman is a career foreign service officer from Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Foreign Affairs cadre's 11th batch. Throughout his diplomatic career, he has worked in Bangladesh Missions in Paris, New York, Geneva, and Kolkata.



## Droupadi Murmu elected first tribal President of India :-

On July 21, NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu made history by becoming India's first tribal leader to be elected President. Murmu had secured her victory over opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the presidential

election by crossing the half-way mark and polling well over 53% of the vote by the end of the third round. She will be the first President born after independence and the youngest to hold the office. She is also only the second woman to hold the office of President. On July 25, she will be sworn in.



## VK Singh Appointed As Director (Technical) Of REC Limited :-

According to a company statement, V.K. Singh has been appointed Director (Technical) of REC Limited. Singh was previously an Executive Director at REC, with a portfolio that included Private Sector Project Management, Entity Appraisal, and Procurement. He is also a Director on the Board of REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee and has worked for power sector PSUs such as NTPC, PGCIL, and REC for over 33 years.



## Ashish Kumar Chauhan Named As The Next MD & CEO Of NSE :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved Ashish Kumar Chauhan's appointment as managing director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). Vikram Limaye, whose term as Managing Director and CEO ended on July 16, was replaced by Chauhan. Despite the fact that Limaye was eligible for reappointment, he did not seek an extension at the NSE. Chauhan is currently the MD and CEO of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), and his term will expire in November.



The Khadi and Village Industr  
Commission (KVIC)

## Manoj Kumar Assumes Charge As KVIC's New Chairman :-

According to an official statement, Manoj Kumar has taken over as Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. On May 23, his predecessor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, was appointed Lt Governor of Delhi. After taking over as KVIC Chairman, Kumar stated that his priority would be to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat," while also establishing the maximum number of small and micro units and creating self-employment through various KVIC schemes to achieve the larger goal of self-reliance in India.



## Lt Gen (Retd) Raj Shukla Appointed As Member Of UPSC :-

Lieutenant General Raj Shukla (retired), former Army training command chief, has been appointed to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the civil services exam to recruit the country's civil servants. Smita Nagaraj, the UPSC's senior most member, administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at the Commission's headquarters here, according to an official. Shukla, a professional aviator and powerful orator, has written nearly 70 articles/publications and lectured/participated in over 180 talks/seminars in India and abroad.



## Brijesh Gupta Appointed As MD Of RattanIndia Power :-



Brijesh Gupta has been named managing director of RattanIndia Power, according to a statement. Gupta has over three decades of industrial experience, having worked in the renewable, steel, mining, and commodities sectors in India and abroad. Mr. Brijesh Gupta is a graduate of Nagpur's Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering and has held positions of leadership in Adani Enterprises, Essar Group, Welspun, and Atha Group. He has international experience, having worked in the United States, the Middle East, Iran, and the Indian Subcontinent.



## Jayanti Prasad Named As Whole Time Member Of IBBI :-

Mr. Jayanti Prasad has been appointed by the Central Government to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for a five-year term. Shri Prasad, an IA&AS Officer from 1986 batch has 35 years of national and international civil services experience in dealing with various regulations, laws and procedures in the field of International & National Audit, Accounts, Human Resources, Administration, International Relations, Capacity Building, Finance & Budget Management, Commercial & Public Sector Laws, Auditing and Finance etc.



## Sanjay Agarwal will chair the committee constituted by the Center to strengthen the MSP system :-

Nearly eight months after the government repealed the three controversial farm Acts, centre has constituted a high-powered panel under the chairmanship of former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agarwal to make the minimum support price (MSP) mechanism more effective and transparent as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his televised address announcing the repeal. Meanwhile, among other names, representatives of agriculture universities and institutions have also been included in the panel.



## Rajarshi Gupta named as Managing Director of ONGC Videsh :-

Rajarshi Gupta has been appointed Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) overseas investment arm. He takes over for Alok Gupta, who retired last month. "Rajarshi Gupta has more than 33 years of wide-ranging experience in supervisory, managerial and strategic planning capacities in domestic and international operations of ONGC and ONGC Videsh," the company said in a statement. He was previously Executive Director - Chief of Corporate Strategy & Planning at ONGC.



## Tata Projects Appoints Vinayak Pai As Managing Director :-

TATA Projects has announced the appointment of Vinayak Pai as Managing Director. According to the company, Pai has taken over the reins from Vinayak Deshpande, who will retire after more than 11 years at the helm. Pai has over three decades of experience with leading engineering and EPC firms, where he held key positions in teams responsible for engineering design, technology licencing, project management, business development, and operations.

## 4: Awards



## Odisha, 'Mo Bus' Service received the prestigious UN Public Service Award :-

Mo Bus, Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority's bus service, has been named one of ten global recipients of the United Nations' annual Public Service Awards for 2022. According to the UN, the public transportation system has been recognised for its role in "promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)." The Odisha government in 2018 "reorganized the public transit services in the city to provide an integrated, reliable and inclusive public bus service system" the UN recognition said.



## S M Krishna, Narayana Murthy, Prakash Padukone Selected For 'Kempegowda International Award' :-

Infosys founder and IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy, Former Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna and former badminton player Prakash Padukone have been chosen for the inaugural 'Kempegowda International Award.' C N Ashwath Narayan, Karnataka Higher Education Minister and Vice-President of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority, made the announcement. According to the minister, each of the three achievers has contributed in their own unique way to Bengaluru's development and fame.



## HCL Technologies Bags Microsoft Partner Of The Year Awards 2022 :-

HCL Technologies received recognition at the Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022 for innovation and the implementation of customer solutions based on Microsoft technology. HCL Tech was named the global winner of the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences, as well as the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner). The IT firm was also named a finalist for the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Internet of Things in 2022. (domain finalist). The Microsoft Partner Awards honour Microsoft partners who have created and delivered outstanding Microsoft-based applications, services, and devices in the previous year.



## UK Parliament Honours Tanuja Nesari With Ayurveda Ratna Award :-

Tanuja Nesari, Director of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), was honoured by the UK Parliament with the Ayurveda Ratna Award for her contributions to the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad. Dr Nesari has been honoured for her exceptional service of the highest order for the promotion of Ayurveda by an

ITSappg committee represented by dignitaries, including Amarjeet S. Bhamra, Ambassador for Ayurveda and Yoga in Great Britain; Virendra Sharma, MP, UK Parliament and Chair, ITSappg; and Bob Blackman, MP, UK Parliament and Chair, ITSappg.



## Michelle Poonawalla Received The Coveted Shiromani Award :-

Well-known artist, businesswoman, and philanthropist from the renowned Poonawalla family, Michelle Poonawalla received the coveted Shiromani Award from Mr. G. P. Hinduja, co-chairman of Hinduja Group, at the NRI World Summit 2022 in the United Kingdom for her contribution to the field of Art. She was also a speaker at the prestigious House of Lords, UK. Poonawalla's work frequently explores universal themes that resonate with audiences all over the world, whether in India or the United Kingdom.



## Ukrainian Mathematician Maryna Viazovska Wins Prestigious Fields Medal 2022 :-

Maryna Viazovska, a Ukrainian mathematician, is one of four recipients of the 2022 Fields Medals, one of the highest honours in mathematics bestowed upon scholars under the age of 40. She was one of four winners of the prize, which is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize, for her solution to the sphere packing problem. Hugo Duminil-Copin of France, June Huh of the United States, and James Maynard of the United Kingdom were the others. Viazovska, who is based at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, is only the second woman to receive the award, according to Scientific American.



## Veteran filmmaker K P Kumaran Awarded JC Daniel Award 2021 :-

K P Kumaran, a veteran filmmaker, has received the J C Daniel Award 2021, the Kerala government's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The annual award, named after J C Daniel, who made the first silent film in Mollywood, includes a cash prize of Rs five lakh, a citation, and a plaque, according to Cultural Affairs Minister V N Vasavan. The award selection committee stated that Kumaran's half-century film career brought a new visual language and emotion to Malayalam parallel cinema.



## Jonny Bairstow & Marizanne Kapp named ICC Players of the Month for June :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the June 2022 ICC Player of the Month awards. Jonny Bairstow of England was named Men's Player of the Month, while South Africa's power hitting batter Marizanne Kapp was named Women's Player of the



## Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award Inception Announced By Dr. Jitendra Singh :-

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), has announced the establishment of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration for academic excellence in memory of India's first President. Dr. Jitendra Singh, who presided over the 320th meeting of the IIPA Executive Council, congratulated the Director General and IIPA staff on receiving ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Month. Jonny Bairstow won the award following his outstanding performance against New Zealand last month. In the race for "Player of the Month," he beat out teammate Joe Root and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell.



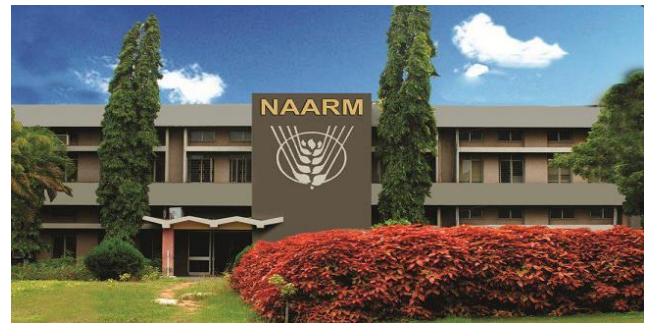
## Japan's 'Order Of The Rising Sun' Award Conferred To Narayanan Kumar :-

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star were conferred on Vice Chairman of the Sanmar Group Narayanan Kumar by Japanese Consul-General Taga Masayuki in recognition of his contribution to the strengthening of economic relations between Japan and India. Mr. Kumar is one of the recipients of the Spring 2022 Imperial Decorations. In his speech, Consul-General Taga expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Kumar for his tireless efforts in promoting friendship, goodwill, and mutual understanding between Japan and India.



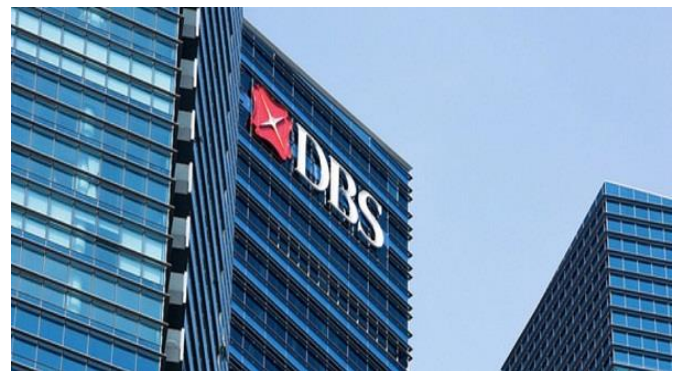
## Maharashtra Gov Presents Mother Teresa Memorial Award To Dia Mirza & Afroz Shah :-

At Raj Bhavan Mumbai, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari presented the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for 2021 to actor Dia Mirza, UN Goodwill Ambassador for Environment, and 'UN Champion of the Earth' awardee Afroz Shah. The Harmony Foundation's awards were presented to Dia Mirza and Afroz Shah in recognition of their outstanding work for environmental protection. Governor Koshiyari stated on the occasion that service to the environment is service to God.



## NAARM Received Sardar Patel Award Of ICAR :-

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has awarded the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance. NAARM Director Ch Srinivasa Rao accepted the award from Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi. The awards were presented at an event commemorating the ICAR's 94th Foundation Day.



## DBS Bank Named 'World's Best SME Bank' By Euromoney For Second Time :-

DBS has been named the 'World's Best SME Bank' for the second time, cementing the bank's position as a global industry leader in assisting SMEs to grow and expand across borders and digitally. DBS' latest global best SME

bank honour comes from Euromoney, a leading UK-based financial publication that has named DBS the 'World's Best SME Bank' for the second time since 2018. Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, DBS has relentlessly relied on emerging technologies to assist SMEs, particularly micro and small businesses, in managing their credit risk.

## 5: Banking



### South Indian Bank Launches "SIB TF Online" EXIM Trade Portal :-

South Indian Bank has launched a new portal for its corporate EXIM customers called 'SIB TF Online.' The portal provides a platform for remote trade-related payments to foreign entities. After uploading the necessary transaction supporting documents, the customer can initiate the payment request via SIB TF Online. SIB TF Online is yet another achievement by the bank in its efforts to make its operations more technologically advanced. It comes on the heels of the launch of the internet banking service, which allows retail savings and NRE SB customers to initiate foreign remittances without visiting a branch.



### Karnataka Bank Launches "V-CIP" For Savings Bank Account Opening :-

Karnataka Bank has introduced an online SB (Savings Bank) account opening service via the 'Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).' According to a press release, the facility enabled on the Bank's Corporate Website allows any prospective customer to open an SB account online and complete KYC verification via video call at their convenience. The paperless digital process is powered by the bank's Application Programming Interface (API), which auto-fills the account opening form and instantly validates the PAN/Aadhaar number via video call.



## Campus Power A New Digital Platform For Students From ICICI Bank :-

ICICI Bank has launched a digital platform called 'Campus Power' to assist students who want to study in India or abroad. The platform meets the diverse needs of the entire student ecosystem, which includes students, parents, and institutes. The new Campus Power platform helps users discover financial products that meet their needs, such as bank accounts, including overseas accounts, education loans with tax benefits, foreign exchange solutions, payment solutions, cards, other loans, and investments.



## Co-branded contactless RuPay credit cards introduced by BOB and Nainital Bank :-

BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and Nainital Bank, which was founded in 1922 by Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, has announced the launch of the Nainital Bank - BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card, which is being launched in Nainital Bank's centenary year, is intended to reward customers for

everyday spending categories such as grocery and department stores. The card has no joining fee and a nominal annual fee that is waived on annual spends of Rs. 25,000.

APM Finvest Limited



## Mufin Finance Get Prepaid Payment Instrument Licence From RBI :-

Mufin Finance, a leading NBFC, has received preliminary RBI approval to issue semi-closed prepaid payment instruments (PPI). A semi-closed PPI licence enables digital banks, fintech firms, and large consumer-facing applications to introduce features such as digital payment solutions for lending. Mufin Finance is the RBI's fourth NBFC to receive such a licence. The company is laying the groundwork for the launch of MufinPay, a digital payment solution that will complement its lending business.



## Max Life Introduces Instant Insurance Confirmation (Insta-COI)+ :-

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has launched a smart solution, 'Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)'+,

for customers purchasing the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan,' a non-linked, non-participating individual life insurance savings plan, on the Max Life website or Policybazaar platform. The Insta-COI feature enables intimation to the proposer regarding the commencement of the risk cover pending release of the policy contract ensuring a quick and hassle-free onboarding.



## SBI Card partners with Aditya Birla Finance to launch 'Aditya Birla SBI Card' :-

In a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd, SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, announced the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card,' a highly rewarding lifestyle credit card. The card is intended to provide customers with significant reward points for spending on telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among other things. As a result, the 'Aditya Birla SBI Card' is one of the most appealing cards for customers across segments, with exciting benefits on both premium and mass brands.



## Avanse Financial And Edelweiss Collaborate To Provide Student Travel Insurance :-

According to a statement, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has partnered with education-focused NBFC Avanse Financial Services to provide travel insurance to Indian students studying abroad. According to EGI, its plan provides comprehensive coverage for medical, stay, travel inconvenience, emergencies, and losses. EGI Executive Director and CEO Shanai Ghosh said the partnership with Avanse Financial Services will empower "students to realize their aspiration of studying in universities overseas without having to worry about the financial stress arising out of studying and living overseas".



## RBI Imposes Monetary Penalty On IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India announced penalties of approximately Rs 1 crore each on Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank for regulatory compliance deficiencies. Kotak Mahindra Bank has been fined Rs 1.05 crore for violating certain rules under the 'Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014'. According to the RBI, IndusInd Bank has been fined Rs 1 crore for failing to comply with certain Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations.





### South Indian Bank Tie Up With Kerala Forest & Wildlife Dept For Digital Payment Collection:-

The South Indian Bank has entered into an agreement with Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Department to enable digital payment collection at eco-tourism centres, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units, and eco-shops throughout the state. Through this collaboration, South Indian Bank's digital collection system will now be available at all 124 tourist destinations managed by the Forest Department. The collaboration will begin with the installation of 124 POS machines at various eco-tourism centres, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units, and eco-shops run by 36 forest department agencies throughout Kerala.



SURAKSHA AUR BHAROSA DONO

### SBI General Insurance Launches Cyber VaultEdge Insurance Plan :-

SBI General Insurance has introduced the Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that provides financial

protection against cyber risks and attacks. To address the heightened risks that individuals face due to cybercrime and instances of reputation damage, fraudulent transactions with credit cards, debit cards, theft of personal information, etc., SBI General has designed SBI General Cyber VaultEdge which offers a range of benefits and protects individuals against cyber risks.



### Union Bank launched Open Banking Sandbox and Metaverse Virtual Lounge :-

At a Mumbai event, the Union Bank of India announced the launch of the Metaverse Virtual Lounge and Open Banking Sandbox environment. In the beginning, Uni-verse, the Bank's Metaverse Virtual Lounge, will host product information and videos. In a statement, the bank stated that Uni-verse will provide customers with a one-of-a-kind banking experience, allowing them to roam around the lounge and learn about bank deposits, loans, government welfare schemes, and digital initiatives, among other things, as if they were in the real world.



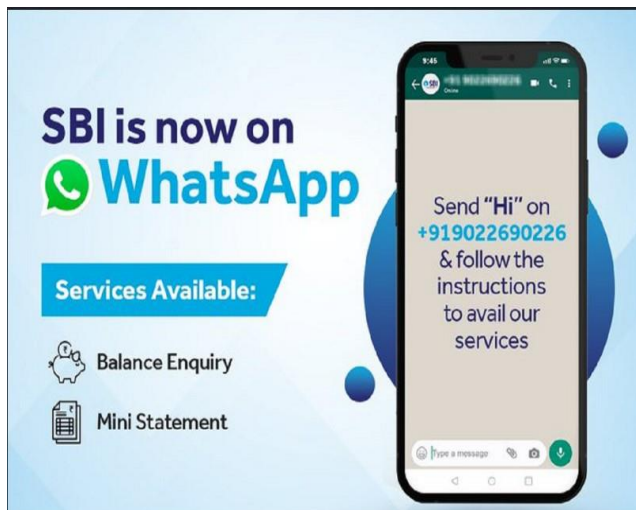
## Integration With New Tax Site Completed By Kotak Mahindra Bank :-

Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed technical integration with the Income Tax Department's new e-filing portal, making it the first private bank to do so. Customers can now pay their direct taxes via the portal's e-pay tax tab using Kotak net banking or by visiting a branch. Customers will benefit from a simpler, faster, and more convenient tax payment process. Kotak Mahindra Bank's Dipak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, stated that with this facility, Kotak Bank becomes one of the first to offer a direct tax payment ecosystem across all channels.



## Urban Cooperative Banks 4-Tier Regulatory Structure Adopted By RBI :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to adopt a simple four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) based on deposit size, with the goal of strengthening their financial soundness. An expert committee led by former RBI deputy governor N S Vishwanathan made a slew of recommendations to strengthen UCBs. Among other things, the committee recommended a four-tiered regulatory framework based on bank deposit sizes and areas of operation.



## SBI launched WhatsApp Based Banking Service:-

The State Bank of India has launched WhatsApp Banking services in an effort to make banking more convenient for its customers. The SBI announced on Twitter that customers can now obtain certain banking services from the lender via WhatsApp, which may come in handy for many as they will no longer need to download it or visit an ATM. SBI WhatsApp Banking services will be available to bank customers who send a message saying 'Hi' to the number +919022690226, the bank said in a tweet.



## Digit Insurance Launched 'Pay As You Drive' For Motor Insurance :-

Digit General Insurance, a private insurer, has announced the addition of a 'Pay-as-you-drive' add-on feature to its motor insurance product portfolio. It will provide vehicle owners with low usage with a discount of up to 25% on annual premiums. This benefit is available to vehicle

owners as part of comprehensive coverage, as well as motor own damage (OD) policies. This follows the decision by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to allow insurers to offer novel products.

## 6: Books and Author



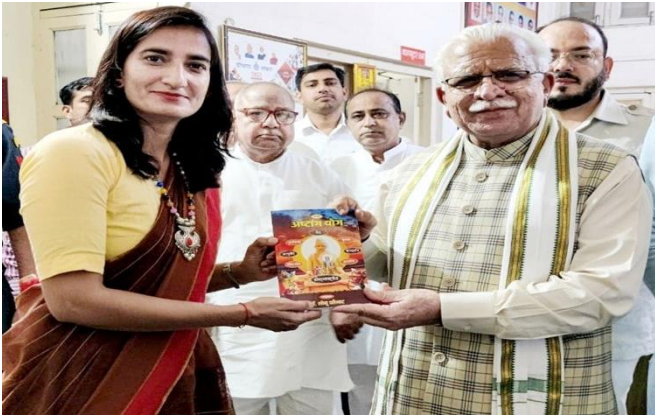
### US-Canadian Author Ruth Ozeki Wins Women's Prize For Fiction :-

Ruth Ozeki, a Canadian-American author, received the prestigious literary award for her novel "The Book of Form and Emptiness." Ozeki wins 30,000 pounds sterling (\$36,000 or €34,900) and a bronze figurine named Bessie, both of which are sponsored by an anonymous donor. The author's name will be brought to the public's attention as a result of the recognition. Ozeki, 66, is an English professor, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. The Women's Prize, which was established in 1996, is open to female English-language writers from all over the world.

### A Book Titled "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India" By RN Bhaskar :-

The biography of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani, chairman and founder of Adani Group, will be released in October by Penguin Random House (PRHI). "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India," written by journalist-author RN Bhaskar, claims to reveal previously unknown aspects of one of the world's richest men for the first time. It will be distributed by PRHI's 'Hamish' imprint. According to the publishers, the book delves deep, detailing a variety of fascinating anecdotes from Adani's life, illuminating his early childhood and his entry into business.





## Haryana CM Releases A Book 'Ashtang Yoga' By Dr Sonu Phogat :-

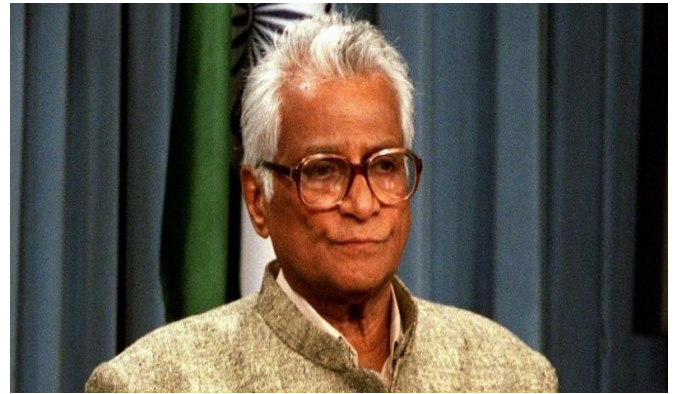
On the eve of the 8th International Yoga Day, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal released a book titled Ashtang Yoga by Dr Sonu Phogat. He expressed pride that the book on Yoga was released on the eve of International Yoga Day, praising the efforts of writer Dr Sonu Phogat. He stated that it will be beneficial to the people. He stated that everyone should make a Yoga resolution and that he must connect himself to the resolution. He stated that the Yog to Sehyog Mantra will show us a new path to the future.



## Malayalam book release from seabed marks history :-

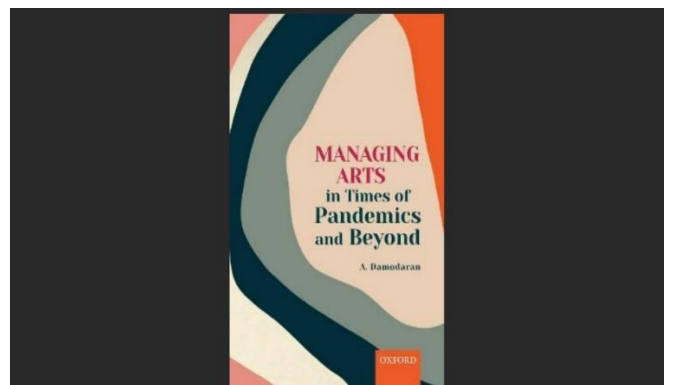
In Thiruvananthapuram, a Malayalam book was released from the depths of the sea for the first time in history. Mathrubhumi Books published Paul Sunny's collection of poems 'Srivante Chirakulla Pennu,' which

depicts the lives of coastal villages in Southern Travancore, their language, and culture. Deep-sea researcher and the first woman scuba diver from the Kerala coast, Aneesha Ani Benedict, received the first copy of the book from poet D Anilkumar at Vizhinjam port.



## Biography of George Fernandes Is Set To Release On July 25 :-

Penguin Random House India (PRHI) has announced the publication of a new biography of one of India's most outspoken union leaders and former Central Minister George Fernandes. Rahul Ramagundam's "The Life and Times of George Fernandes" will be published on July 25 by Penguin's 'Allen Lane' imprint. Fernandes, who was born on June 3, 1930, in Mangalore to a Christian family, shot to national prominence in 1974 as a trade unionist in Mumbai, organising a railway strike that brought the country to a halt.



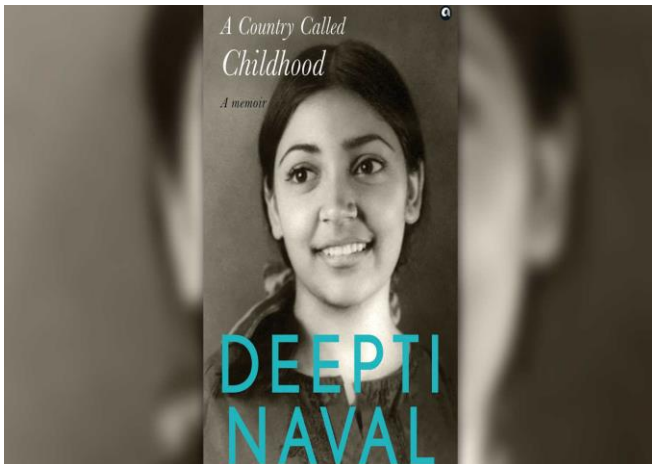
## Prof. Damodaran's book 'Managing Arts in times of Pandemics and Beyond' Launched :-

IIM Bangalore hosted the launch of the book titled, 'Managing Arts in times of Pandemics and Beyond', authored by Prof. A Damodaran of the Economics & Social Sciences area of the institute. The book, published by Oxford University Press, is divided into eight chapters and seeks to approach arts organisations in India and abroad from a management standpoint, against the backdrop of COVID-19 and in light of digital technology advancements such as blockchain. A special chapter is devoted to India's, the United States', Japan's, Canada's, and Russia's cultural and arts policies.



## Meenakshi Lekhi launched 'Swadhinta Sangram Na Surviro' book :-

Meenakshi Lekhi, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, launched a book in Gujarati commemorating the contributions of freedom fighters at a function in Ahmedabad. The book, 'Swadhinta Sangram Na Surviro,' honours 75 freedom fighters and tells the stories of their sacrifices for the country. The book is part of the "Swadhinta Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to commemorate the country's 75th year of independence.



## Veteran actor Deepti Naval's memoir 'A Country Called Childhood' launched :-

Deepti Naval, a veteran actor, has launched her memoir "A Country Called Childhood," published by Aleph Book Company, in New Delhi. The book was launched by actor Sharmila Tagore. The Book took the audience through more of the actor's childhood memories, such as the Partition, the Indian exodus from Burma, and growing up in a syncretic Amritsar. The story begins with her birth in 1952, and readers follow her to the United States (following her father, who had left a little earlier) and the life of an immigrant across the seas.



## A New Edition Of Viswanathan Anand's Memoir 'Mind Master' Released :-

Hachette India has released an expanded paperback edition of five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand's widely acclaimed memoir 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life' ahead of the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad. The book, which includes a

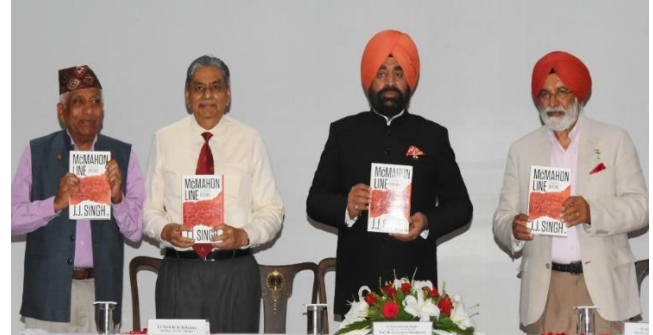
bonus chapter on navigating uncertainty and rapidly changing realities in the aftermath of the pandemic, was released on July 15. Anand co-wrote it with author-journalist Susan Ninan. Anand became the first Asian World Chess Champion at a time when chess was largely a Soviet dominated.



## A new book titled 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' by Prarthna Batra :-

Prarthna Batra's debut book, 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success,' was launched at The Park in New Delhi by sporting icon Sakshi Malik. In 2020, Prarthna Batra launched a YouTube series about entrepreneurship, featuring achievers from various fields of work. She interacted with celebrities such as Barkha Dutt, Prajakta Koli, and Sakshi Malik in this series. Her book encapsulates the essence of these discussions.

Prarthna, 17, has spoken at a number of large public forums, including the annual Women's Economic Forum in 2019, where she was one of three youngest speakers.



## Himachal Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Unveils Book 'The McMahon Line' :-

At Raj Bhavan, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar released "The McMahon Line: A Century of Discord," written by former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and former Chief of Army Staff General JJ Singh (Retd). The former Army Chief's experiences and research on the India-China border dispute inspired the book. The Governor stated that General JJ Singh (Retd) had documented his experience, research, and practical knowledge, which could be useful. The book focused on the McMahon line's politics, history, structure, and geography.

## 7: Defence



## "BRO Cafes" To Be Established At 75 Border Areas In 12 States And UTs :-

The Ministry of Defence has approved the establishment of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 locations on various sections of roads with Border Roads Organisation across 12 states and Union territories. These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists while also stimulating economic activity in border areas and creating jobs for locals, according to a statement from the ministry. The scheme calls for the development and operation of roadside amenities through public-private partnerships with agencies.



## IAF Joined Egyptian Air Force In Tactical Leadership Program :-

The Indian Air Force announced a month-long tactical leadership programme in Egypt from June 24 to July 24 with three Su-30 MKI jets and two C-17 transport aircraft. It stated that the exercise provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the IAF's reach and capability against the backdrop of the current geopolitical scenario. According to the IAF, the programme will also provide an opportunity to showcase the Su-30 MKI, which is manufactured in India, as well as the country's expertise in deeper indigenisation of spares and components.



## India Successfully Conducts VL-SRSAM Missile Test Off The Coast Of Odisha :-

The indigenously developed shipborne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), was successfully flight tested off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha by the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy. The VL-SRSAM system is designed to attack high-speed airborne targets at ranges of 40km to 50km and altitudes of around 15km. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and the Indian Navy on the mission's success.



## Bharat Electronics Signed An MoU With Belarusian Company For Supply Of Airborne Defence Suite :-

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd, India (a subsidiary of DI Belarus) to strengthen collaboration between the three companies for the supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for Indian Air Force helicopters. ADS is a system that protects helicopters. Under the 'Make in India' category, BEL will be the prime contractor and will be supported by DI with manufacturing and maintenance for the supply of advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suites for helicopters.



## India sells defence goods at a record Rs 13,000 crore in 2021-2022 :-

According to a top defence ministry official, India sold defence equipment and technology worth a record Rs 13,000 crore in 2021-22, a remarkable increase of 54.1% from the previous year. The US, the Philippines, and other nations in South-East Asia, the Middle East, and Africa are the main destinations for the nation's exports of defence goods. Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary at the Department of Defence Production (DDP), stated during a press conference that "we have registered Rs 13,000 crore of exports in 2021-22, which is the largest exports number that we have recorded in defence."



## Indian Army Organised Suraksha Manthan-2022 :-

The Indian Army's Desert Corps organised the "Suraksha Manthan 2022" on border and coastal security in Jodhpur (Rajasthan). Interoperability, operational cohesion, and logistics issues were ironed out during the discussions in order to improve overall security along the International Boundary (IB) and coastal sectors. A joint training calendar was also developed in order to improve interoperability and jointness among security forces. It was also decided to create an enabling security environment and a tangible capability development road map in order to accomplish this.



## DRDO Conducted Successfully Tests Out Autonomous Aircraft's Maiden Take-Off :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the maiden flight of the Stealth Wing Flying Testbed (SWIFT), an aircraft that flew in fully autonomous mode for 15 minutes in Chitradurga, Karnataka. According to the official press release, the flight marked a significant milestone in proving critical technologies for the development of future unmanned aircraft, and it is a critical step toward self-reliance in strategic defence technologies.



## IAF Father-Daughter Team Of Fighter Pilots Makes History :-

Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, a veteran fighter pilot currently stationed at the IAF headquarters, and his



daughter Flying Officer Ananya Sharma (24), who was commissioned in December and is undergoing 'transitional' fighter training, recently flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 planes at the Bidar airbase. "There has not been any previous instance in the Indian Air Force where a father and his daughter were part of the same fighter formation for a mission," the IAF has said in a release.



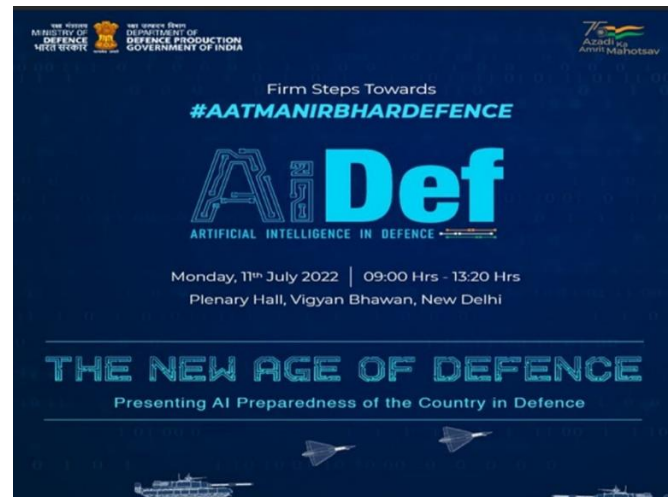
## Lt. General Mohan Subramanian Appointed As Force Commander Of UN Mission In South Sudan :-

Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian of the Indian Army has been named the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), succeeding fellow officer Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar. Prior to the appointment of Subramanian, India had provided fifteen Force Commanders who had served in various UN missions. For decades, India has had a strong association with and presence in UN peacekeeping missions. Over 200,000 Indians have served in 49 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948.



## Indian Navy Commissions The First ALH Squadron INAS 324 :-

In accordance with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the first Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 324 on the Eastern Seaboard operating the Advanced Light Helicopter MK III was commissioned. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a state-owned company, designed and built these helicopters in India. According to an official statement, Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, commissioned Indian Naval Air Squadron 324. "KESTRELS" is the name given to INAS 324.



## First-Ever Exhibition And Seminar On "AI In Defense" Organised :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Department of Defence Production's first-ever 'Artificial Intelligence in Defence' (AI Def) symposium and exhibition in New Delhi. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said at a press conference in New Delhi that it is a big event where 75 newly developed AI products/technologies with defence applications will be launched as part of the celebrations marking 75 years of Independence - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - and to promote the 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative in Defence.



## Rajnath Singh Launched Project 17A Stealth Frigate 'Dunagiri' :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the P17A stealth frigate Dunagiri onto the Hooghly River in Kolkata, which was built by PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. The P17A frigates are guided-missile frigates. Rajnath Singh stated before the launch that such launches by Indian shipyards represent the country's progress toward self-sufficiency. He stated that India is doing everything possible to assist its neighbour Sri Lanka in its time of need. 'Dunagiri,' named after a mountain range in Uttarakhand, is the fourth ship in the P17A Frigates fleet.



## INS Sindhudhvaj Decommissioned After 35 Years Of Service :-

INS Sindhudhvaj retired from the Navy after 35 years of service. The ceremony's chief guest was Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The decommissioning was attended by 15 former commanding officers, including the commissioning CO, Commodore SP Singh (Retd), and 26 commissioning crew veterans, according to a navy release. Sindhudhvaj, as the name implies, was the flag-bearer of indigenisation and the Navy's efforts to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' in the Russian-built Sindhughosh class submarines throughout her Navy career.

## 8: Economy



## RBI Spent More To Print ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, ₹200 Notes In FY22 :-

In FY22, the selling price of bank notes in denominations of ₹ 20, 50, 100, and 200 has increased. However, for notes in the denomination of ₹500, the prices have remained unchanged. According to information obtained through RTI from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd (BRBNML), the selling price for 1,000 pieces of 50 increased by around 23% in FY22 over FY21, while that of 20 increased by just over 1%. The selling price is the price at which printing presses supply paper currency to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is their sole buyer.



## Uttarakhand: Project To Boost Rain-Fed Agriculture Approved By World Bank :-

The World Bank has approved a project worth Rs 1,000 crore to take rain-fed farming to new heights in Uttarakhand's hilly regions. The watershed department will carry out the Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project. The project, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, was proposed by the state government for World Bank funding. According to an official release, the project will also aid in springshed management, increasing agricultural productivity, controlling migration, and promoting cluster-based agriculture.



## High Carbon Emitters To Receive Incentives To Reduce Footprint :-

India is considering a number of policies to encourage high-carbon emitting industries such as steel, cement, and thermal power plants to install carbon capture facilities. Production-linked incentive schemes, viability gap funding, or carbon credits could all be used to

provide incentives. According to an official, the country's policy think-tank, Niti Aayog, will soon issue a policy prescription for carbon capture and utilisation of carbon dioxide emitted by industries as part of the plan to achieve Net Zero by 2070.



## India Likely To Be Affected By US Recession, Could Impede Growth In Medium Term :-

According to Nomura's Nomura India Normalization Index (NINI), the Indian economy is now racing back to above-normal levels, driven by broad-based improvements in consumption, investment, industry, and the external sector. However, with a 'prolonged mild recession' in the US, as predicted by the firm, India's economy is likely to slow in the medium term. Growth challenges already exist, with India being the only Asian country with inflation that is significantly above its target.



## IN-SPACe Authorises India's First Set Of Space Start-Ups To Launch Payloads :-

The Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) has begun authorising Indian private firms, ushering in the private space sector in India. IN-SPACE is an autonomous, single-window nodal agency established to promote, authorise, monitor, and supervise non-governmental private entities (NGPEs) in India. IN-SPACE authorised Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, and Digantara Research & Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, to launch their payloads.



## Government Authorised SBI To Issue And En-Cash Electoral Bonds :-

The government had approved the issuance of the 21st tranche of electoral bonds, which went on sale on July 1. As part of efforts to increase transparency in political funding, electoral bonds have been promoted as an alternative to cash donations to political parties. State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches from July 1 to July 10, according to a statement from the finance ministry.



## Rs 1,44,616 Crore Gross GST Revenue Collection For June 2022 :-

According to data released by the Finance Ministry, gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections increased 55.8 percent year on year to Rs 1,44,616 crore in June (for sales in May), the second highest level since the indirect tax regime was implemented in July 2017. Economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, particularly action against counterfeit billers, and the impact of inflation have all contributed to the increase in GST. This is the fifth time since the inception of GST that monthly collections have exceeded Rs 1.40 lakh crore, and the fourth month in a row since March 2022.



## MoD Gives Approval To HDFC, ICICI, And Axis Bank To Offer Finances For International Purchases :-

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has designated three private sector banks, namely HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank, to provide Letter of Credit (LoC) and direct bank transfer services for the Ministry's overseas procurement. This is consistent with the Department of Financial Services' continued opening of government business to private sector banks. In this regard, PCDA, New Delhi recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with each of these three banks on behalf of the MoD.



## Internet Exchanges Launched In Durgapur And Bardhaman By National Internet Exchange Of India :-

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has inaugurated two new NIXI Internet Exchange Points (IXP) in West Bengal: Durgapur and Bardhaman. According to a government press release, the launch of these internet exchanges is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision to connect every Indian to open, safe, trusted, and accountable internet, as well as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) vision 1000 days.



## Akasa Air Gets Air Operator Certificate From DGCA To Take Off :-

Akasa Air, owned by billionaire investor Rakesh Juhunjhunwala, has been cleared for takeoff. The

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued the no-frills airline its air operator certificate (AOC). The airline will begin operations at the end of July. The AOC is granted at the end of a lengthy process outlined by the DGCA. On June 21, the airline welcomed its first Boeing 737 Max aircraft. After adding its second aircraft, it intends to begin service connecting metro cities with tier II and III cities.



## National Rail And Transportation Institute Upgraded As Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya :-

The National Rail And Transportation Institute in Gujarat will be elevated to the status of a central university and renamed the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, according to Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur. The university's establishment has also been approved by the cabinet. Following the Central University of Gujarat, the Gati Shakti University will become the state's second central university. According to the minister, the university's capacity will be increased, and more courses will be added.



## Agnikul Cosmos Opened India's First Rocket Engine Factory In Chennai :-

Agnikul Cosmos, a space technology startup, has opened India's first 3D-printed rocket engine manufacturing facility in Chennai. Rocket Factory 1 was unveiled in the presence of Pawan Goenka, chairman of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre), Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran and Isro chairman S Somanath . IIT-Madras Research Park houses the 10,000-square-foot facility. The manufacturing facility can produce two rocket engines per week and thus one launch vehicle per month.



## Union Minister Narendra Tomar Launched E-NAM Platform :-

During the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). The Agriculture Ministry also announced a Rs 37 crore equity grant to 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which will benefit approximately 3.5 lakh farmers. This will improve farmers' digital access to a wider range of markets, buyers, and service providers, as well as increase transparency in business transactions.



## RBI Imposed Penalty Of Rs 1.67 Cr On Ola Financial Services For Non-Compliance Provisions :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined Ola Financial Services Private Ltd Rs 1.67 crore for failing to comply with certain provisions. "RBI has imposed monetary penalty of Rs 1,67,80,000/- on Ola Financial Services Private Limited (the entity) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on PPIs dated August 27, 2021 and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016 (as updated from time to time)," RBI said in a press statement.



## Following \$100 Million In Investment, OneCard Becomes India's 104th Unicorn :-

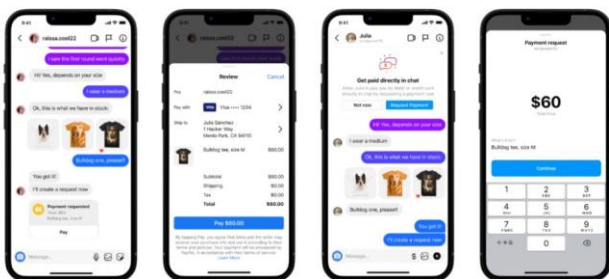
OneCard, a mobile-first credit card company, became India's 104th unicorn after raising \$100 million in a series D round led by Temasek. So far in 2022, India has

produced over 20 fintech unicorns, including OneCard, Open, Oxyzo, and Yubi (formerly CredAvenue). The latest round of funding for OneCard, which is owned by Pune-based FPL Technologies, included participation from existing investors such as QED, Sequoia Capital, and Hummighbird Ventures. Temasek India has confirmed its investment in OneCard.



### L&T Tech: First Company To Directly Obtain And Implement 5G Spectrum :-

L&T Technology Services is the first technology company to publicly express a desire for the government to direct the allocation of spectrum for captive 5G networks. It will obtain spectrum to establish a 5G non-public network in order to develop use cases for the technology. In addition, the engineering and R&D services firm will deploy 5G solutions for parent company Larsen & Toubro globally. India recently issued regulations allowing non-telecom enterprises to obtain spectrum directly from the telecom department in order to build private 5G networks.



### Instagram's New Payments Feature Lets Users Buy Products Via Direct Messages :-

Meta announced a new payment feature on Instagram that allows users to buy products and track orders via direct messages (DMs). Users can now chat in-app with the company. In 2020, the company introduced the ability to shop. According to reports, the payments in messages feature on Instagram will be available to qualified business accounts. The platform also allows buyers and sellers to interact in real time. Users will be prompted to enter and review payment and shipping information.



### \$1 Billion Loan From The World Bank Approved For The PM ABHIM :-

According to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the World Bank has approved a USD one billion loan to support India's flagship PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Mr Mandaviya said in a written response that the loan, which was approved on June 28, 2022, consists of two complementary loans of USD 500 million each for "Transforming India's Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP)" and "India's Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSPP)."



### 3 Cooperative Banks Restricted From Undertaking Banking Business By RBI :-

Depositors in Karnataka's Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank, Raigad Sahakari Bank, and Maharashtra's Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank will be unable to withdraw funds, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The cooperative bank restrictions will be in effect for six months. The restrictions were imposed due to the company's deteriorating financial situation. Concerning Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank, the RBI stated that 99.87 percent of depositors are fully insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) scheme.

## 9: International



### Gustavo Petro, Former Rebel Warrior, Elected President Of Colombia :-

Former rebel fighter Gustavo Petro received 50.5 percent of the vote in Colombia's presidential election's second round, putting him in line to become the country's first leftist president. Petro's victory underscores a continuing shift to the left in South American politics, which saw leftist leaders win elections in Peru last July and Chile and Honduras this year. Colombia saw a wave of anti-establishment protests last April against corruption, stagnation, increased taxation during the pandemic, and a new health-care reform.



### Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake Added To UNESCO World Network Of Biosphere Reserves :-

Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake National Park has been added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, according to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The lake is located near the Russian border in the Northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul. The decision to add Khuvsgal Lake National Park to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves was made during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme held in Paris, France.





## World's Biggest Freshwater Fish Discovered In Cambodia :-

Guinness World Records has confirmed that a 13-foot-long, 661-pound stingray discovered in Cambodia's Mekong River earlier in June is the world's largest freshwater fish (GWR). According to the report, the extraordinary fish, also known as a whipray, measured 2.2 m (7 ft 2 in), which is equivalent to the length of two ping-pong tables, with a foot of "wings" on each side (30 cm). Scientists believe the animal is a good thing for the river, which is under threat from human development, damming, and climate change.



## South Korea Sent Its First Satellite Into Orbit Using A Domestic Nuri Rocket :-

South Korea has successfully launched its first domestic space rocket, officials said, a victory that not only boosted the country's growing space ambitions but also demonstrated that it possesses key technologies for developing a space-based surveillance system and larger

missiles in the midst of tensions with rival North Korea. After lifting off from South Korea's space launch centre, the three-stage Nuri rocket successfully released and placed its operational "performance verification" satellite at an altitude of 700 kilometres (435 miles).



## China Launched Three New Yagon-35 Remote Sensing Satellites :-

Official media reported that China successfully launched three new Yagon-35 remote sensing satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province. According to the state-run Xinhua news agency, the satellites will primarily be used for science experiments, land resource surveys, agricultural product yield estimation, and disaster prevention and reduction. The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation's Long March carrier rocket series is responsible for approximately 96.4 percent of all launch missions in China.



## Garuda Aerospace To Establish A Facility In Malaysia :-

Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd, based in Chennai, has announced a partnership with Malaysia-based HiiLSE Global Sdn Bhd (HiiLSE Drones) to build a 2.42-hectare drone factory in Malaysia for Rs 115 crore. The company produces 30 different types of drones and provides over 50 different services, including precision agriculture spray, industry 4.0 upgrade services, structural damage inspection, seed dropping, solar panel cleaning, project monitoring, drone delivery of medicines for hospitals, and drone delivery of food packages.



## Indo-United States, against Drug Trade :-

An Indo-US Counter-Narcotics Working Group (CNWG) meeting was conducted on July 8, 2022, to examine drug law enforcement and the rise in heroin seizures from Afghanistan. Director-general of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), SN Pradhan, served as the delegation's leader. The Amended Letter of Agreement on enhancing collaboration and sharing intelligence was signed by Tarun Bajaj, the Indian revenue secretary, and Patricia Lacina, the US Charge d'Affaires.



## 10th World Peace Forum :-

A panel discussion on "BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges" was held as part of the World Peace Forum. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, India's ambassador to China, was present at the panel discussion. He emphasised that the BRICS nations can tremendously benefit the world when they work together on this occasion. He claims that India participates in many international events since doing so will allow it to actively collaborate with other nations and hence potentially contribute more. India participates in various global organisations, such as ASEAN.



## Togo And Gabon Become Commonwealth Association Members :-

Former French colonies Gabon and Togo have joined the Commonwealth as its 55th and 56th members, respectively. At the conclusion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, Commonwealth leaders accepted applications from the

two West African countries. It comes after formal expressions of interest from Gabon and Togo, as well as consultation with member countries. Neither country has a historic association with the Commonwealth, with both gaining independence from France in the 1960s.



## Khushi Patel From UK Is Crowned Miss India Worldwide 2022 :-

Khushi Patel, a biomedical student of United Kingdom, has been crowned Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant held outside of India. Vaidehi Dongre of the United States was named first runner-up, and Shrutika Mane was named second runner-up. The top 12 contestants in the pageant had previously won various other competitions around the world. Patel, who is majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in psychology, expressed her joy at winning the Miss India Worldwide 2022 pageant.



## Singapore's T. Raja Kumar Appointed As The New President Of FATF :-

Singaporean T. Raja Kumar has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog. Kumar has replaced Marcus Pleyer who was holding the post till now, and will discharge his service for next two years. Kumar has been working against global terror financing for quite a long time. Soon after taking over the charge, Kumar presented his objectives for the coming Plenary period (July 2022 -June 2024) to strength the FATF.



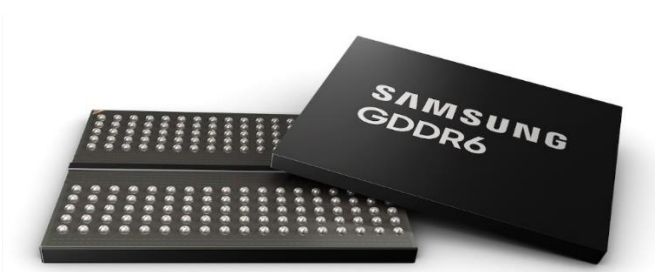
## Yair Lapid Takes Over As 14th Prime Minister Of Israel :-

Yair Lapid has been officially elected as Israel's 14th Prime Minister. Lapid's tenure could be brief as he takes over the caretaker government ahead of Israel's election on November 1, according to the Times of Israel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated Yair Lapid on his appointment as Prime Minister of Israel and extended his heartfelt congratulations to the country's new leader. PM Modi went on to say that he is looking forward to furthering our strategic partnership as we celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations.



## Gita Gopinath Becomes 1st Woman To Feature On IMF's 'Wall Of Former Chief Economists':-

India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and the second Indian to be inscribed on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) "wall of former chief economists". Raghuram Rajan, the IMF's Chief Economist and Director of Research from 2003 to 2006, was the first Indian to receive the honour. Gopinath was named IMF Chief Economist in October 2018 and later promoted to First Deputy Managing Director in December of that year. For three years, Gopinath was the world's first female chief economist at the Washington-based global lender.



## Samsung Created Fastest Graphics DRAM Chip In The World :-

Seoul, Samsung announced the development of a new graphics dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) chip with increased speed and power efficiency. According to the company, the 24-gigabit Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6) uses third-generation, 10-nanometer technology and has a data processing speed that is more

than 30% faster than existing products. The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at up to 1.1 terabytes per second, according to Samsung, which is faster than processing 275 full HD movies in a second.



## Varanasi Named 1st Cultural And Tourism Capital Of SCO :-

Varanasi, the world's oldest living city, has been named the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) first Cultural and Tourism Capital for 2022-23. According to reports, the bloc's Secretary General, Zhang Ming, informed. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member organisation that looks after the economic and security interests of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and India. The organization's goal is to promote tourism and human contact among people from various countries.



## Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List: Gautam Adani Surpasses Bill Gates :-

According to Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires list, India's Gautam Adani has surpassed Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to become the world's fourth richest person. Adani is worth \$115.7 billion, while Gates is worth \$104.6 billion. Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla and SpaceX, is ranked first on the list, with a net worth of \$235.8 billion. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman and managing director (MD) of Reliance Industries, is ranked tenth on Forbes' list, with a net worth of \$90 billion. Only Adani and Ambani are Indians in Forbes' top ten list.



## Dinesh Gunawardena Sworn In As The 15th Prime Minister Of Sri Lanka :-

Dinesh Gunawardena, a 73-year-old Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Member of Parliament, has been appointed as the island nation's 15th Prime Minister. President Ranil Wickremesinghe swore in Gunawardena at the Prime Minister's Office. Gunawardena was appointed Home Minister by then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in April. With Gotabaya having fled the country and resigned from his position, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Sri Lanka's eighth President on July 21.



## Kamal Haasan Honoured By The UAE, Obtains A Golden Visa :-

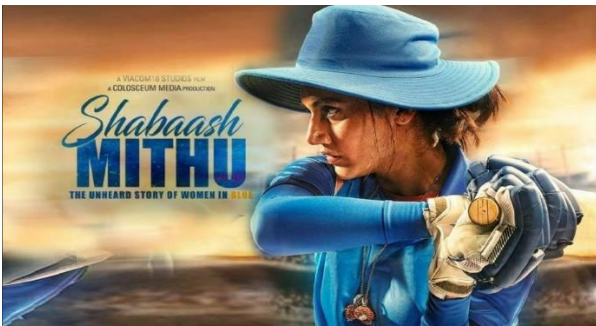
## Egypt's Seif Ahmed Named As FIH Acting President :-

Following the resignation of Indian administrator Narinder Batra, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has appointed Egypt's Seif Ahmed as acting president. Batra resigned as FIH president and as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He also renounced his membership in the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which was directly related to his IOA position. The FIH said in a statement that its Executive Board has officially accepted Batra's resignation and unanimously appointed Ahmed as interim president until new elections are held on November 5.

Previously, Mohanlal and Mammooty were granted the UAE's Golden Visa. Kamal Haasan has now been granted the Golden Visa as well. The actor thanked Emirates officials on Twitter for granting him the UAE's Golden Visa. He also posted photographs of officials handing him the Golden Visa. Kamal Haasan was most recently seen

in the blockbuster hit Vikram. Vikram is a film directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and stars Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, and Fahadh Faasil in lead roles. Raaj Kamal Films International produced the film, which was distributed in Tamil Nadu by Udhayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies.

## 10: Miscellaneous



### 'Shabash Mithu': A Biopic On Former Indian Women's Cricket Team Captain Mithali Raj :-

The trailer for Taapsee Pannu's Shabaash Mithu was recently released. The film is a biopic based on the life of former Indian Women's Cricket Team captain Mithali Raj. Mithali Raj has played international cricket for 23 years and has scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs, breaking several records. The film follows her journey as she strives to become a cricketer against all odds. The struggle of the women's cricket team to establish their own identity is also depicted in the film.



### Rumeli Dhar Retires From All Forms Of International Cricket :-

Rumeli Dhar, an India seam bowling all-rounder, has announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket. The 38-year-old, who has played 18 T20Is, 78 ODIs, and four Tests for India, announced her retirement via social media. Dhar made her international debut against England in an ODI in Lincoln in 2003. In 100 matches for India, she scored 1328 runs and took 84 wickets. She was instrumental in getting India to the final of the 2005 World Cup in South Africa, as well as the 2007 Quadrangular tournament in Chennai.



### NSE And BSE Approve The Merger Of PVR-INOX :-

The merger of Multiplex chains PVR and Inox Leisure has been approved by the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE). In March of this year, the boards of directors of PVR and INOX approved the merger of the two multiplex chains. If the merger goes

through, Pavan Kumar Jain will be named non-executive chairman of the Board, and Ajay Bijli will be named managing director. While Sanjeev Kumar will be appointed as the combined entity's executive director, Siddharth Jain will be appointed as a non-executive non-independent director.



### DGCA's Air License :-

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, a renowned stock market investor, has backed the start-up company Akasa. It will begin providing services by the end of July. On June 21, 2022 in India, Akasa Air will take delivery of its first Boeing 737 max aircraft. In November 2021, the startup carrier placed an order with Boeing for 72 "737 Max" planes. It includes two variants from 737 MAX family, viz., 737-8 and 737-8-200. Receiving the "Air Operator Certificate" is an important milestone.



### India G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant :-

As G-20 Sherpa, he will take Piyush Goyal's post. In September 2021, the G-20 Sherpa position was given to him. Amitabh Kant has been chosen since India will preside over the G-20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. India is slated to do so in 2022. There was a need for a full-time Sherpa during India's G-20 chairmanship. Amitabh Kant has replaced Piyush Goyal for this reason. Shaktikanta Das, Suresh Prabhu, and Montek Singh Ahluwalia are additional Sherpas for the G-20.



### Midday Meal Kitchen, Varanasi :-

After the BJP won the assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first visit to his home district of Varanasi and inaugurated the Akshaya Patra noon meal kitchen. During his visit, Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation for development projects worth Rs. 1,774 crore that are intended to improve the nation's infrastructure and standard of living. 1 lakh students' lunches can be made in the LT College kitchen. In response to the opening, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav declared that all 11 locations recommended by the SP administration should start using kitchens.



## Derecho Storm System:-

The American states of Minnesota, Nebraska, and Illinois were affected by the "Derecho Storm System" on July 5, 2022. The speed of the winds increased to about 140 km/h as the Derecho Storm System moved into these states. Power lines and trees were both pushed over by the winds. Green sky were created by the storm, a sight never before seen. Its name is derived from the Spanish word "la derecha," which in English means "straight."



## Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa back in action :-

After the fuel-starved nation received 3,700 metric tonnes of LP gas, the embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are still unknown because the protesters overran both his office and the official residence, ordered officials to ensure the efficient distribution of cooking gas, according to his office's statement on July 10. People have been obstructing

roads all around the nation in recent months in an effort to pressure the government to address the problem of severe gas shortages.



## Reliance Jio VS Bharti Airtel :-

According to industry executives and analysts, the Adani Group's entry into the 5G spectrum race and its plans to provide private captive network solutions could lead to increased competition for India's top telcos, who could see a decline in their potential revenue from enterprise services as well as from airwaves leasing. Industry insiders anticipate that the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate, which is flush with cash, may engage in a bidding war for 5G airwaves in both the highly sought-after but pricey 3.3–3.67 GHz band and the less expensive 26 GHz band with Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.





## Largest Bacteria In The World Discovered In Caribbean Mangrove Swamp :-

In a Caribbean mangrove swamp, scientists discovered the world's largest bacterium. Most bacteria are microscopic, but this one is visible to the naked eye. According to Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and co-author of a paper announcing the discovery in the journal Science, the thin white filament, approximately the size of a human eyelash, is "by far the largest bacterium known to date." Scientists have not yet been able to grow it in lab culture, but the cell has an unusual structure for bacteria, according to the researchers.



## FanCode Named Ravi Shastri As Brand Ambassador :-

Ravi Shastri has been named as FanCode's new brand ambassador. According to the company, FanCode has exclusive rights to India's West Indies tour and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Shastri's appointment aims to highlight FanCode's 'fan-first' proposition by leading the upcoming campaigns for these properties. "Ravi Shastri is one of few sports personalities who has experienced success as a player, a coach and a broadcast analyst, and this has helped him develop a deep connection with casual and die-hard sports fans alike," Yannick Colaco, co-founder, FanCode, said.



## PokerBaazi Appointed Shahid Kapoor As Its Brand Ambassador :-

PokerBaazi.com has announced that actor Shahid Kapoor has joined the company as a brand ambassador. PokerBaazi aims to build a strong poker ecosystem in India, and Kapoor's involvement with the brand aligns with the brand's commitment to popularise and raise awareness of poker among the general public. "We look forward to a successful collaboration and with our upcoming campaigns hope to drive valuable discussions around the PokerBaazi story," Navkiran Singh, founder and CEO, Baazi Games said.



## Amit Shah Virtually Unveils 'Statue Of Peace' Of Swamy Ramanujacharya :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has virtually unveiled Swamy Ramanujacharya's 'Statue of Peace' in Srinagar, which is housed in a temple in the Sonwar region. While unveiling the statue, Shah stated, "This will be a message

of peace in not only Kashmir, but the whole country... The Gujarat government, too, will install a Ramanujacharya statue next year.” In February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the saint's 216-foot statue in Hyderabad. Ramanuja is known to have revolted against untouchability discrimination and played a significant role in bringing about a significant change in society.



## I&B Ministry unveils new logo on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Prasar Bharati :-

Prasar Bharati, India's Public Service Broadcaster, unveiled its new logo after serving as the voice of the people of India through AIR (All India Radio) and Doordarshan. Prasar Bharati added a new chapter to its glorious history by adopting a visual identity in the form of a new logo. Secretary I&B Apurva Chandra unveiled

the new logo in the presence of CEO Prasar Bharati Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Prasar Bharati, Member (Finance) DPS Negi, and senior officers from the Ministry of I&B and Prasar Bharati.



## Jahnvi Dangeti Becomes AATC's Youngest Analog Astronaut :-

Jahnvi Dangeti, 19, has made history by becoming the youngest person to complete the Analog Astronaut programme at the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) in Krakow, South Poland. Ms. Jahnvi, a native of Palakollu in the West Godavari district, completed the AATC's two-week training programme (June 14 to 25). The AATC chose six people for the programme from around the world, including three women, based on their previous accomplishments and affiliation with space programmes.

## 11: National



## Bengaluru: PM Inaugurates The B R Ambedkar School Of Economics :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the new Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University campus and unveiled a statue of the architect of the Indian Constitution that has been installed on the campus. At the event, he also unveiled 150 'Technology Hubs' created by transforming Karnataka's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The state government contributed Rs 657 crore of the total cost, while Tata

Technologies Limited (TTL) and its industry partners contributed Rs 4,080 crore.



## Shanan Dhaka Secured 1st Rank To The First Women's NDA Batch :-

Shanan Dhaka, 19, of Haryana's Rohtak district, has topped the entrance exam for the NDA's first women's batch. According to government statistics, 1,77,654 of the 5,75,856 applicants for the entrance exam were women. The exam was held in November of last year, and women were only permitted to take it following a Supreme Court order to the Centre in September. She passed the NDA entrance exam in 40 days and made her dream a reality through hard work and perseverance, thanks to a well-planned strategy.



## 'Single-Use Plastic' Use Banned By Union Govt. From 1st July, 2022 :-

From July 1, 2022, India has banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of identified single-use plastic (SUP) items with low utility and high

littering potential throughout the country. The government of India has taken firm steps to mitigate pollution caused by littered single-use plastics in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to phase out single-use plastic items by 2022. Certain single-use plastic items with high littering potential will be banned across the country beginning July 1, 2022.



## PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Vanijya Bhawan And The NIRYAT Site:-

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, inaugurated 'Vanijya Bhawan' and launched the NIRYAT portal in Delhi. Among those in attendance were Union Ministers Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Som Prakash, and Smt Anupriya Patel. The Prime Minister cited the new Vanijya Bhawan as a symbol of his Government's commercial achievements during this time period. According to the Prime Minister, the NIRYAT - National Import-Export for Yearly Analysis of Trade portal will aid in breaking down silos by providing real-time data to all stakeholders.



## 'Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture' delivered by PM :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the first Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture at Vigyan Bhavan in the capital (AJML) on 8 July 2022. He also spoke to the crowd at various points during the event. The opening keynote address at the inaugural AJML was delivered by Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore, on the theme "Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth." Arvind Panagariya and OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann took part in a panel discussion following the presentation.



## Unemployment Rate India :-

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has released data showing that India's unemployment rate increased from 7.12 percent in May 2022 to 7.8 percent in June 2022. The rise in the unemployment rate in rural areas was the primary cause of the increase. From 6.62 percent in May 2022 to 8.03 percent in June 2022, the rural unemployment rate rose. From 8.21% in May 2022, the urban unemployment rate dropped to 7.30% in June 2022. The highest unemployment rate in June 2022 are Haryana (30.6 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (29.8 per cent).



## MoU to End TB :-

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in order to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) in India (MoH&FW). To eradicate TB in India by 2025, the MoU would create interministerial collaborations and strategic alliances. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) Joint Secretary, Dr. P. Ashok Babu, and the MoPR's Economic Adviser, Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera, both signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



## Karnataka's Sini Shetty Crowned Femina Miss India 2022 :-

During a glamorous ceremony held at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Sini Shetty of Karnataka was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022, while Rajasthan's Rubal Shekhawat was named First Runner-

Up and Uttar Pradesh's Shinata Chauhan was named Second Runner-Up. Sini Shetty, 21, was born in Mumbai and has a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. She is currently pursuing a professional course called CFA (chartered financial analyst). She is also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer.



## People Can Receive R. 10 Lakh Without Telling Authorities After Center Modifies FCRA :-

The Union Home Ministry has amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to allow relatives to send more money to India freely. The new rule allows relatives to send 10 lakh rupees without notifying the government. Individuals will now have three months to notify the government if the amount exceeds the limit, up from 30 days previously. A requirement that an organization/individual receiving foreign funds declare such contributions on its official website every quarter has also been removed.



## PM Modi Unveiled 30-Ft Statue Of Freedom Fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju :-

On the 125th anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju's birth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of the freedom fighter at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of Independence. Following the unveiling of the statue, Prime Minister Modi began his speech in Telugu, paying tribute to the revolutionary leader and hailing him as an inspiration for the entire country. At a young age, Alluri Sitarama Raju led guerrilla resistance against the British in the region.



## CBSE Launches Pariksha Sangam Portal To Streamline Board Examination Results :-

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently launched Pariksha Sangam, a digital portal designed to streamline all board exam and result-related activities. The CBSE portal 'Pariksha Sangam' aims to integrate the various exam-related processes carried out by the school regional offices and the board's headquarters. Through CBSE Pariksha Sangam, students will be able to apply for revaluation of their results, request photocopies of their answer sheets, and much more. As part of the portal, an integrated communications and payment system has also been launched.



## Western Railways Opened Longest Skywalk Connecting Mumbai's Bandra Terminus To Khar Station :-

Western Railways recently opened the world's longest skywalk. The 314m long and 4.4m wide skywalk connecting Bandra Terminus to Khar station will allow passengers to disembark at Khar station and take the south FOB directly to Bandra (T). "A 314 m long & 4.4 m wide skywalk connecting Bandra Terminus to Khar station has been opened for the convenience of passengers. It will enable passengers to reach Bandra (T) directly by disembarking at Khar station & taking south FOB. It is connected with all platforms of BDTs," Western Railway's tweet read.



## PM Narendra Modi Unveils National Emblem On The Roof Of New Parliament Building :-

In a special ceremony attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Housing Minister Hardeep Puri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the national emblem that will be placed atop the new Parliament building. The National Emblem, which stands 6.5 metres tall and weighs 9,500 kilogrammes, was cast at the top of the building's central foyer. The metal sculpture has been built in Aurangabad, Jaipur and Delhi by artists Sunil Deore and Lakshman Vyas.



## PM Inaugurated Deoghar Airport And Several Other Development Projects :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Deoghar airport and laid the groundwork for the Rs 16,800 crore 'Maha Vikas' project in Jharkhand. The prime minister also dedicated the AIIMS, Deoghar's In-Patient Department (IPD) and operation theatre services to the nation. He dedicated and laid the groundwork for several road, energy, and other infrastructure projects totaling Rs 10,000 crore. On May 25, 2018, Modi laid the foundation stone for a 657-acre Deoghar airport built at a cost of Rs 401 crore as a key step toward providing direct connectivity to Baba Baidyanath Dham (the Shiva temple).



**Jute Mark India (JMI) Logo Launched By Government :-**

With the unveiling of the "Jute Mark India" logo by Union Textile Secretary U P Singh, the government has introduced certification of authenticity for jute products. Singh described it as a campaign to promote and protect Indian jute products. The Jute Mark India (JMI) scheme will provide traditional jute and jute products with a collective identity as well as assurance of origin and quality. The National Jute Board is the Union Textiles Ministry's nodal agency in charge of promoting jute and jute products in India and abroad.

**Consumer Affairs Department Launches Jagriti, Its New Mascot :-**

The Department of Consumer Affairs has introduced "Jagriti," a mascot designed to empower consumers and raise awareness of their rights. Jagriti will be portrayed as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights and addressing consumer problems. The "Jagriti" mascot will be used to raise consumer awareness of the Department's various awareness programmes. In all media campaigns, the Jagriti mascot will be displayed alongside the tagline "Jago Grahak Jago."



**India Reaches A Milestone Of 200 Crore Vaccinations For COVID-19 :-**

On July 17, 2022, India's cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage surpassed 200 crore, or 2 billion, 18 months after vaccinations began in the country on January 16, 2021. 199.97 crore covid vaccine doses were administered across the country until Saturday night, July 16, including 5.48 crore precaution doses. The previous milestone of 100 crore doses was reached in 277 days. On September 17 last year, 2.5 crore vaccine doses were administered in a single day, the highest so far.



## 12: Obituaries



### Assamese actor Kishor Das dies at 30 after battle with cancer :-

Kishor Das, an Assamese actor, died after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 30. Since March of this year, Kishor Das has been receiving cancer treatment at a Chennai hospital. According to reports, he was also infected with COVID-19 at the time of his death. Kishor, one of the most well-known faces in Assamese entertainment, had a successful career. He appeared in several Assamese television shows, including 'Bandhun,' 'Bidhata,' and 'Nedekha Fagun.'



### Veteran Bengali director Tarun Majumdar passes away at 92 :-

Tarun Majumdar, a veteran Bengali director, died at the age of 92. He died in a Kolkata hospital from age-related complications. In his films, he was known for highlighting the lives of middle-class families. During the 1960s,

1970s, and 1980s, he had a significant impact on the Bengali film industry. Tarun Majumdar received the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 1990. Aside from that, the veteran filmmaker received four National Awards, as well as Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards (BFJA Awards), among several others.



### Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe assassinated while giving speech :-

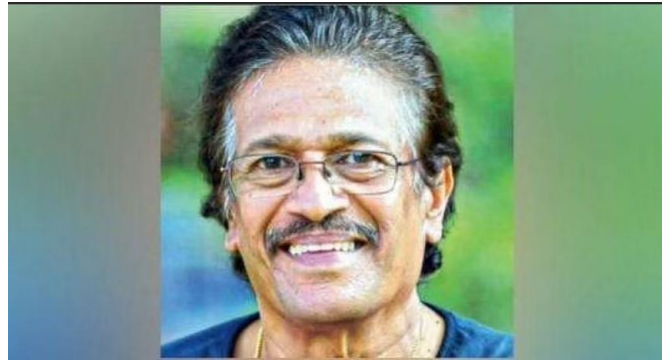
Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe died in hospital after he was shot at a political campaign event. Abe was shot at twice while he was giving a speech on a street in the city of Nara on 8 July 2022. The suspect, named as Tetsuya Yamagami, admitted shooting Abe with a homemade gun. Several other handmade weapons, similar to those used in the attack, had been confiscated after a search of the suspect's house. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida condemned the attack, saying: "It is barbaric and malicious and it cannot be tolerated."





## **Visionary British Theatre Director Peter Brook Passes Away :-**

Peter Brook, 97, was one of the world's most innovative theatre directors, who perfected the art of staging powerful drama in unusual settings. The British director used the entire globe as his stage, mounting productions ranging from challenging Shakespeare adaptations to international opera and Hindu epic poems. Although Brook was revered in the theatre, he was less well known among the general public due to his refusal to conform to commercial tastes. In 1970, he left Britain to work in Paris.



## **Former India Goalkeeper EN Sudhir Passes Away :-**

EN Sudhir, a former India international goalkeeper who played for India in the 1970s, died in Mapusa, Goa. Sudhir, who made his international debut against Indonesia in the 1972 Olympic qualifiers in Rangoon (now Yangon), represented India in 9 matches. He also played for the national team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the 1974 Asian Games. In the Santosh Trophy, he represented three different states: Kerala (1969 and 1970), Goa (1971, 1972, 1973), and Maharashtra in 1975.



## **'Father Of Indian Internet' BK Syngal Passes Away :-**

Brijendra Kumar Syngal, the former chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, has died. He was 82. Syngal, an IITian, took over VSNL in 1991 after leaving satellite communications company Inmarsat. Under his leadership, the company launched India's internet service and the world's largest global depository receipt issue. Syngal, known as the "Father of the Internet" in India, joined Reliance after a controversial departure from VSNL. He worked for a consulting firm in recent years.



## **Freedom Fighter Gandhian P Gopinath Nair Passes Away :-**

P. Gopinathan Nair, a freedom fighter, died at the age of 100. Nair was being treated for age-related issues. P Gopinathan Nair was awarded the Padma Shri for his lifelong commitment to Gandhian ideology. He had taken part in the liberation struggle. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor Arif Muhammad Khan, opposition

leaders, and people from all walks of life expressed their condolences. "Gopinathan Nair is a valuable link connecting the era of the national freedom struggle with the present era" Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said.



## Malayalam Actor & Filmmaker Prathap Pothan Passes Away at 69 :-

Pratap Pothan (69), a popular actor-director in the Malayalam film industry, died at his home in Chennai on July 15, 2022. According to reports, the actor was discovered dead in his apartment in Kilpauk, Chennai. Pratap is a well-known actor who has appeared in over 100 films in multiple languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi. Pratap made his acting debut in the Malayalam film Aaravam, which was directed by the legendary Bharathan. He also appeared in several of the director's other films, including Thakara and Lorry.



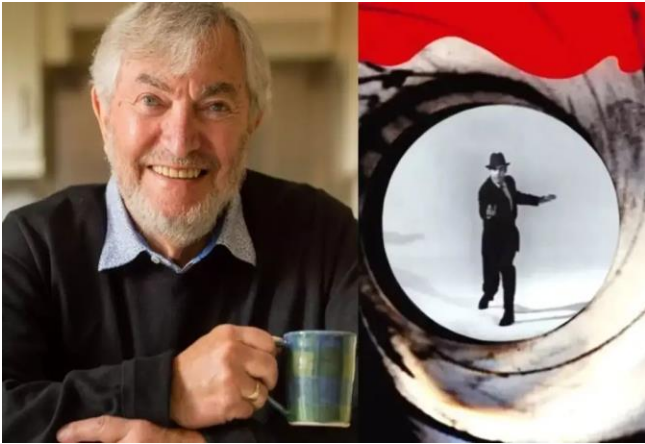
## Indian MMA fighter Nikhil Suresh passed away after sustaining injuries during a fight :-

Nikhil Suresh, an Indian MMA fighter, died as a result of injuries sustained during a fight at the K1 Kickboxing championship in Bangalore, which was organised by the K1 association of Karnataka. His team announced the news on social media. The coach also stated that the venue did not have an ambulance or trained medical personnel. He also stated that Nikhil Suresh could have been saved and demanded that the organisers of Combat Sports events in India overhaul their safety protocols.



## Former Rajasthan minister Indira Mayaram passed away:-

Indira Mayaram, a former Rajasthan minister, died of cardiac arrest on July 16. She was 87 years old. CM Ashok Gehlot expressed his condolences on the death of Mayaram, a state minister during his first tenure from 1998 to 2003. Arvind Mayaram, a former IAS officer, is the chief minister's economic advisor. "My deepest condolences on the passing away of Indira Mayaram ji, former Rajasthan Minister and mother of Dr. Arvind Mayaram ji, Economic Advisor to CM. May God give strength to the bereaved family in this difficult time and may the departed soul rest in peace" CM Gehlot tweeted.



## British Composer Monty Norman, Known For James Bond Theme, Passes Away :-

Monty Norman, a British composer best known for creating the theme music for the James Bond films, has died. He was 94. On April 4, 1928, Norman was born Monty Noserovitch in east London to Jewish parents. He is best known for writing the score for Dr. No, a 1962 James Bond film starring Sean Connery. Monty Norman began his singing career in big bands before transitioning to composing, writing songs for musicals and films such as Songbook and Poppy and Make Me An Offer, as well as pop stars such as Cliff Richard.



## Former Punjab Speaker Nirmal Singh Kahlon Passes Away :-

Nirmal Singh Kahlon, a former Punjab Assembly Speaker and senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader, died after a long illness. He was 79. Kahlon, a close friend of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, was elected MLA from Fatehgarh Churian in 1997 and 2007. From 1997 to 2002, Kahlon served as the Akali government's minister of rural development and panchayat. From 2007 to 2012, he was also the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa of the Congress defeated him in the 2012 and 2017 Assembly elections.



## Renowned Ghazal Singer Bhopinder Singh Passes Away :-

Veteran ghazal singer Bhopinder Singh, known for crooning classics such as "Naam Gum Jayega" and "Dil Dhoondta Hai," died at a city hospital of suspected colon cancer and COVID-19-related complications, according to his wife Mitali Singh. He was 82. Throughout his decades-long career in Bollywood, the singer became best known for songs such as "Do Diwane Shehar Mein," "Ek Akela is Shehar Mein," "Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Aasman," "Duniya Chhute Yaar Na Chhute," and "Karoge Yaad Toh," among others.



**Noted Scientist And Director ILS, Ajay Parida Passes Away :-**

Dr. Ajay Parida, a well-known scientist and the Director of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) in Bhubaneswar, died at Guwhati, according to official sources. Parida, 58, was a Padma Shri awardee. Dr. Parida's untimely death has been mourned by Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal, Andhra Pradesh Governor BB Harichandan, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and many other dignitaries. Former DMET Prof CBK Mohanty, who confirmed Dr Parida's death, praised his contribution to the people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 13: Ranks & Reports



**Indian's Funds In Swiss Banks Jumps Over Rs 30 Lakh Crore In 2021 :-**

Funds parked in Swiss banks by Indian individuals and firms, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, jumped to a 14-year high of 3.83 billion Swiss francs (over Rs 30,500 crore) in 2021, thanks to a sharp increase in holdings via securities and similar instruments, according to annual data from Switzerland's central bank. The increase in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 2.55 billion Swiss francs (Rs 20,700 crore) at the end of 2020, is the second year in a row.



**India Comes Third In Renewable Energy Installations In 2021 :-**

According to a report, despite the promise of a global green recovery in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, this historic opportunity has been lost, India ranked third globally for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021, trailing only China (136 GW) and the United States (43 GW). The Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022) from REN21 warns that the global clean energy transition is not taking place, making it unlikely that the world will meet critical climate goals this decade.



## **Coursera Global Skill Report 2022: India Ranked 68<sup>th</sup> :-**

According to Coursera's latest Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022, India's overall skills proficiency has dropped four places to 68th in the world. India is ranked nineteenth in Asia. The report findings also revealed an increase in India's technological proficiency levels from 38% to 46%, with the country improving its position by six spots. Data science proficiency, on the other hand, has dropped from 38 percent in 2021 to 26 percent in 2022, resulting in a 12-rank drop. The report's key findings include Cloud Computing being India's strongest technology skill, with 74 percent proficiency.



## **World Gold Council Report: India Ranked 4th In Global Gold Recycling :-**

According to a World Gold Council (WGC) report, India has emerged as the world's fourth largest recycler, with 75 tonnes recycled by 2021. According to the World Gold

Council report titled 'Gold refining and recycling,' China topped the global gold recycling chart in 2021, recycling 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy in second place with 80 tonnes and the United States in third place with 78 tonnes. According to the World Gold Council report titled 'Gold refining and recycling,' India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) by 2021, from 300 tonnes in 2013.



## **UN Projected India's Urban Population To Be 675 Million In 2035 :-**

According to the United Nations, India's urban population will be 675 million in 2035, second only to China's one billion, with the global urban population expected to grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050 following the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the United Nations-Habitat World Cities Report 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic only temporarily slowed urbanisation. According to the report, the global urban population is on track to increase by another 2.2 billion people by 2050.



## QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023: Mumbai Tops In India :-

According to the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023, London is the best city for students looking to study abroad in terms of affordability, student facilities, and university standard, among other considerations. Seoul and Munich are in second place, with Zurich and Melbourne in fourth and fifth place, respectively. India's highest-ranked student city is Mumbai at 103 spot. It is followed by Bengaluru at 114 ranks. Chennai and Delhi have made their entries to the list this year at 125 and 129, respectively.



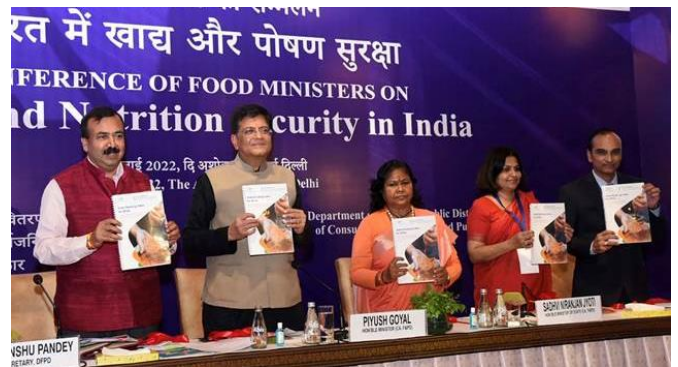
## India's Service Sector Activity Grew At Its Fastest Rate In 11 Years :-

In June, service activity grew at the fastest rate in over 11 years. According to a private survey, this comes amid new demand orders and an increase in economic activity following the removal of pandemic restrictions. Data released by S&P Global showed that Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) services rose from 58.9 in May to 59.2 in June, the highest since April 2011. Although firms anticipate that the recovery in services activity will be sustained over the next 12 months, concerns about price pressures have dampened business confidence.



## Odisha Tops State Ranking For Implementation Of National Food Security Act 2022 :-

According to the government, Odisha has topped the state rankings for implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through ration shops, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. During a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022. Tripura ranks first among the special category states (North Eastern states, Himalayan states, and Island states). Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in second and third place, respectively.



## NFSA 2022: Odisha Ranked No. 1 For Implementation Of NFSA :-

The Centre has ranked Odisha first in the country in the state ranking index NFSA-2022 for creating resilient food systems to optimise benefit delivery. Odisha which got an index score of 0.836 is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in the second and third place

respectively. UP received an index score of 0.797, while Andhra received a score of 0.794. Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal made the announcement at the Food Ministers Conference on Food and Nutrition Security in New Delhi.



## India's Undernourished Population Drops To 224.3 Million As Per UN Report :-

According to a UN report, the number of undernourished people in India has decreased in the last 15 years to 224.3 million in 2019-2021. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report, issued by UN agencies Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO), the number of people affected by hunger worldwide increased to 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## India's Retail Inflation At 7.01% In June :-

According to government data, retail inflation in India in June was 7.01 percent based on the consumer price index (CPI). This is the third month in a row that inflation has remained above 7%, and the sixth month in a row that it has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6 percent. When determining its bimonthly policy, the RBI primarily considers retail inflation. In June 2022, food basket inflation was 7.75 percent, down from 7.97 percent the previous month.



## WEF's Gender Gap Report 2022: India Ranks Low At 135th Globally :-

India was ranked 135th in terms of gender parity, despite a five-place improvement since last year due to improved performance in economic participation and opportunity. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual Gender Gap Report 2022, Iceland remains the world's most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden. On the list of 146 countries, only 11 are ranked lower than India, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran, and Chad ranking lowest.



## Nomura Cuts India's GDP Forecast For 2023 To 4.7% :-

Nomura has reduced its 2023 forecast for India's economic growth, as measured by GDP, to 4.7 percent from 5.4 percent previously, citing recession fears and rising interest rates. According to Nomura, India's economy is however racing above its pre-pandemic level, led by a sharp recovery in the services sector and supported by the lag effects of easy financial conditions, a public capex push, and an increase in real bank credit growth. According to the report, the improvement has been widespread across consumption, investment, industry, and the external sector.



## Ahmedabad & Kerala Features In TIME Magazine's The World's Greatest Places Of 2022 :-

TIME magazine has named Ahmedabad and Kerala among the 50 extraordinary destinations to visit in its list of the World's Greatest Places to Visit in 2022. These are two of India's most popular tourist destinations. Other cities that made the top 50 list besides Ahmedabad and Kerala include Seoul, Buahan in Bali, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and many more. According to the publication, they solicited nominations for places from their international network of correspondents and contributors in order to compile the list of the World's Greatest Places.



## Trade Deficit Widens To Record \$26.1 Billion In June :-

The merchandise trade deficit in India reached a new high of \$26.18 billion in June, exceeding the government's previous estimate of \$25.63 billion, after the Commerce Ministry revised both the export and import figures for the month upward. In May, the previous monthly record merchandise trade deficit was \$24.3 billion. The trade deficit last month was nearly three times as large as the \$9.6 billion shortfall in June 2021. The increase in imports was driven by coal, gold, and petroleum products, as previously estimated, but each had significant upward revisions.



## Henley Passport Index 2022: India Ranks 87<sup>th</sup> :-

The Henley Passport Index, which ranks passports based on the number of destinations their holders can visit without a visa, has ranked India 87th out of 199 passports. The index is based on exclusive data from the



International Air Transport Association (IATA) and is supported by Henley and Partners, a research firm. As countries begin to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and reopen borders in order to encourage travel, several Asian countries have risen to the top of the list this time. The Index has been topped by Japan, Singapore, and South Korea.



### Tamil Nadu Tops In Smart City Fund Utilisation :-

Tamil Nadu tops the list of states in terms of utilising funds from the government's flagship Smart City Mission. While Tamil Nadu has spent more than Rs 3,932 crore of the Rs 4,333 crore released by the Centre, Uttar Pradesh comes in second with Rs 2,699 crore spent out of the Rs 3,142 crore released by the Centre. On June 25, 2015, the Central Government launched the Smart Cities Mission (SCM). From January 2016 to June 2018, a total of 100 smart cities were chosen through four rounds of competition.



### Morgan Stanley Cuts India's FY23 GDP Forecast To 7.2% :-

Morgan Stanley, an American brokerage, has reduced its FY23 real GDP growth estimate for India by 0.40 percent to 7.2 percent, citing slower global growth. Furthermore, GDP growth will slow to 6.4 percent in FY24, according to the brokerage, which is 0.30 percent lower than the previous estimate. The majority of observers predict that GDP growth will exceed 7% in FY23. The RBI forecast is also 7.2 percent. The brokerage expects global growth to slow to 1.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022, down from 4.7 percent in the previous quarter.



### India Innovation Index 2021: Karnataka, Manipur And Chandigarh Topped :-

Karnataka remained first in the India Innovation Index 2021's major states category, followed by Telangana and Haryana. Manipur was the best performer among the north eastern and hilly states, followed by Uttarakhand and Meghalaya. Chandigarh was the best performer in the union territories and city states category, followed by Delhi. The India Innovation Index, developed by NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness, is a tool for assessing and developing the country's innovation ecosystem.



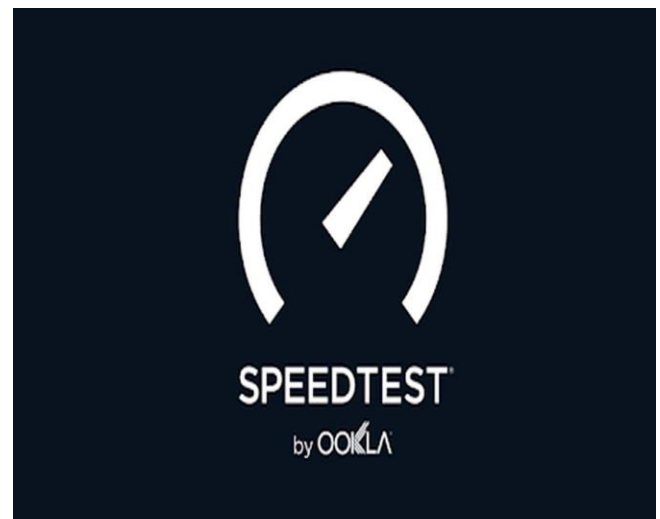
## **FICCI Downgrades India's GDP Growth Forecast For 2022-23 To 7% :-**

According to industry body FICCI, India's economy is expected to grow by 7% in the current fiscal year, down from 7.4% previously projected, owing to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties. According to FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey (July 2022), the Reserve Bank of India's policy rate is expected to reach 5.65 percent by the end of this fiscal year. The current policy rate (repo) is 4.9 percent. The current round of survey was conducted in June and included leading economists from industry, banking, and financial services.



## **ADB Cuts India GDP Growth Forecast For FY23 To 7.2% :-**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reduced India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 7.2% from 7.5%, citing pandemic and war-related effects, as well as inflationary pressures. India, however, will continue to surpass China which is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2022 as against the earlier estimate of 5 per cent. In 2023 also, China is expected to grow by 4.8 per cent. In April, the Manila-headquartered multilateral funding agency had forecast the Indian economy to grow by 7.5 per cent.



## **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index June 2022: India Ranks 118 :-**

According to Ookla's Speedtest Global Index, India fell three spots in the global ranking for mobile median speed while improving on fixed broadband metrics. According to Ookla, India recorded 14 Mbps median mobile download speeds in June 2022, which was slightly lower than the 14.28 Mbps recorded in May 2022. "This decrease in download speeds has brought the country to the 118th position in June from 115th in May 2022," Ookla said in a statement. Each month, Ookla's index compares Speedtest data from around the world.

## 14: Schemes & Committees



### **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Launches NIPUN For Promoting Upskilling Of Nirman Workers :-**

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, has launched an innovative project in New Delhi called the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers (NIPUN). NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under its flagship scheme, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission DAY-NULM, to train over one lakh construction workers through new skilling and upskilling programmes, as well as provide them with work opportunities in foreign countries. According to the Minister, the initiative will allow Nirman employees to become more proficient and skilled.



### **Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana Launched By Prime Minister Narendra Modi :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojna,' a nutrition scheme for pregnant and lactating mothers, in Vadodara, Gujarat, ahead of the state assembly elections. PM Modi stated at a rally in Vadodara, "For development in 21st century, development of women is very important. From the armed forces to mines, my government has opened all doors for women to join the career of their liking" He stated. The Mukhya Mantri Matrushakti Yojana, worth Rs 800 crore, aims to provide nutritional food to pregnant and lactating women.



### **Assam Becomes 36th State/UT To Implement One Nation One Ration Card:-**

Assam has become the 36th sState/UT to implement the One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) programme. As a result, the ONORC plan has been successfully implemented in all 36 states/UTs, making food security portable across the country. During the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ONORC plan has played a significant role in ensuring subsidised foodgrains to NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries. This is a one-of-a-kind Citizen Centric initiative in the country, which is being quickly implemented and will benefit approximately 80 Crore people.



## **Kushal Karmi, Mission :-**

Mission Construction workers' abilities were to be improved through the creation of Kushal Karmi. The Delhi Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board and Delhi Skill & Entrepreneurship University were partners in the commencement of this programme (DSEU). Workers participating in this programme will go through a 15-day intensive training course that will aid in their upskilling. This initiative will aid the workers in the future by helping them upskill them. Construction firms will also profit from it because they will be able to hire qualified personnel. Workers will receive training from the university on the job.



## **Kerala Govt Launched "MEDISEP" Scheme For State Government :-**

MEDISEP, the medical insurance scheme for State Government employees, pensioners, and their eligible family members, was rolled out by the Kerala

Government from 01 July 2022. The scheme will provide cashless medical assistance with annual coverage of up to 3 lakhs. For the policy period 2022-24, the annual premium would be Rs 4,800 plus 18% GST. MEDISEP is being implemented by Oriental Insurance Company, a public sector insurer. The state finance department has issued an order in this regard.



## **Himachal Pradesh CM Launched 'Nari Ko Naman' Scheme For Women :-**

Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur has announced a scheme 'Nari Ko Naman' that will allow female passengers in the state to pay only half the fare for intra-state travel. The Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) will now charge women half the fare for domestic travel within the state. Seema Thakur, the state's first female bus driver, drove him to the event venue in a state transport bus. Thakur also announced a reduction in the minimum bus fare from Rs 7 to Rs 5 for all passengers across the state in another scheme.



## Jitendra Singh Launched IS4OM For Safe & Sustainable Space Environment :-

Around 60 start-ups have registered with ISRO since Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently "unlocked" the Indian space sector, with many of them working on projects related to space debris management. Other Start-Up proposals include nano-satellites, launch vehicles, ground systems, research, and so on. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, stated this after launching the "ISRO System for Safe & Sustainable Operation" (IS4OM) at the ISRO Control Centre in Bengaluru.



## India's 1st Elevated Urban Expressway "Dwarka" To Be Operational By 2023 :-

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, stated that the Dwarka Expressway, India's first elevated urban expressway, will be operational by 2023. The minister stated in a series of tweets that the Dwarka Expressway, which is being built as India's first elevated urban expressway, will relieve traffic congestion on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and arterial roads, which are heavily used by commuters from west Delhi. According to a press release, once operational in 2023, it will significantly help reduce air pollution in Delhi-NCR.



## Meghalaya To Invest 300 Crore In Childhood Education Programmes :-

Conrad K Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, stated that the government has set aside Rs 300 crore from externally aided projects to invest in early childhood education programmes. Sangma stated that the government is focusing on improving elementary education in the state and has developed a plan to invest in early childhood education programmes. According to him, the goal of early childhood education is to ensure that the child's learning capabilities are maximised.



## 75th Independence Day: Govt To Start Nationwide Campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga' :-

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence, the Central Government will soon launch a nationwide campaign called Har Ghar Tiranga, which will encourage citizens to fly the national flag at home. The initiative was launched under the auspices of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, for which the Ministry of Culture serves as the nodal ministry. To further honour the Indian National Flag, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who oversees all efforts under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, has approved the programme 'Har Ghar Tiranga.'



## Tripura Government Launched 'Earn With Learn' Scheme :-

The Tripura government will relaunch the 'Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan' after 8,850 school students were discovered to have dropped out during the covid-19 pandemic. The government has also announced a unique scheme called 'Earn with Learn,' under which college students will be delegated to conduct surveys to identify dropouts, and they will be given Rs 500 for each successful re-admission. The survey will require nearly 10,000 surveyors, and the government has decided to include college final year students in the project.



## CM Introduces E-FIR Service And A Police App For Uttarakhand :-

The Uttarakhand police app and e-FIR service have been launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama. The police app is an integrated version of the State Police's five online services. Dhama stated on the occasion that the app will provide better services to the people. He stated that this is an excellent contribution to the government's policy of simplification, solution, and resolution. He also praised the initiative to put Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of smart policing into action.



उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## Govt Establishes Commission To Build A Framework For Right To Repair :-

The Consumer Affairs Department has formed a committee to create a comprehensive framework for the right to repair. The framework's goal is to empower local consumers and product buyers while also harmonising trade between original equipment manufacturers and

third-party buyers and sellers. Its goal is also to emphasise the development of sustainable product consumption and the reduction of e-waste. When the framework is implemented in India, it will be a game changer for product sustainability.

## 15: Science & Technology



### IOC Launched Indoor Solar Cook Top Surya Nutan :-

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's largest oil company, has launched a stationary, rechargeable, and indoor cooking stove that uses the sun's energy to cook food while remaining stationary in the kitchen. The stove, which has a one-time purchase cost and requires no maintenance, is being marketed as a replacement for fossil fuels. The innovative cook top, dubbed 'Surya Nutan,' was demonstrated at the residence of Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at an event in Delhi attended by Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh.



### Arianespace Successfully Launched GSAT-24 Indian Communication Satellite :-

The GSAT-24 satellite, developed by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was successfully launched from Kourou in French Guiana (South America) by the French company Arianespace. GSAT-24 is a 4180 kg 24-Ku band communication satellite with pan-India coverage for DTH applications. Tata Play has leased the entire satellite capacity from NSIL, a Government of India company under the Department of Space. It was NSIL's first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission following space sector reforms.



## Oracle Introduced OCI Dedicated Region For Indian Market :-

Oracle, a U.S.-based technology company, has introduced the 'OCI dedicated Region' for the Indian market in order to tap the government sector and regulated industries. The 'OCI dedicated Region' will allow customers to leverage public cloud while meeting strict latency and data-sovereignty requirements. With the 'OCI Dedicated Region,' the company can now provide cloud services directly to customers rather than through Oracle's public cloud data centres. This ensures that all of these data residency and data security requirements for customers in industries such as banking are met.



## Delhi Airport Becomes India's First To Run Entirely On Hydro And Solar Energy :-

The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in Delhi has switched to hydro and solar power for its consumption needs, making it India's first airport to run entirely on a

combination of these forms of green energy, according to the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) airport's operator. According to DIAL, while they use a combination of hydro and solar power, a large portion of this is now hydro dependent. According to DIAL, this is part of the airport's goal of becoming a "Net Zero Carbon Emissions Airport" by 2030.



## Tata Power Commissions India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project :-

Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has completed India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala, a remarkable feat with a total installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak. Tata Power Solar successfully constructed a scaffolding platform on the water body, allowing the entire solar plant to float. This is the first project in the category of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) via Power Purchase Agreement.





## Startup schools, Google :-

Google, a tech giant, established the Startup School India programme, which intends to assist 10,000 companies in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns by compiling pertinent material on startup building into a structured curriculum. Fireside conversations involving Google leaders and partners from the whole startup ecosystem will take place during the nine-week virtual programme. The goal of Startup School is to provide early-stage startup owners with the resources, products, and information that expanding businesses require. It consists of a series of guided online trainings.



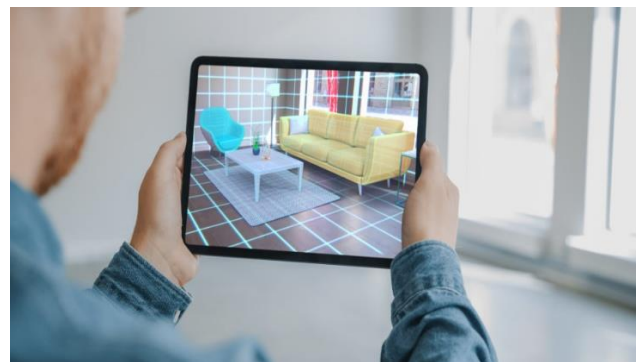
## New flora and wildlife records and discoveries :-

India's faunal database gained 540 new species in 2021. Thus, there are currently 1,03,258 different animal species in existence. In 2021, 315 more taxa were added to the Indian flora, bringing the total number of floral taxa to 55,048. Out of 540 species of wildlife, 406 were newly discovered, and 134 were new records for India. 13 new genera were also found in 2021. One new species is from a mammal, 19 are from fish, and 35 are from reptiles. There are 298 species in the 315 taxa of the flora, as well as 17 intraspecific taxa that are brand-new to Indian flora. A total of 204 taxa are brand-new to science, and 125 are new records for the country's distribution.



## First Indian Autonomous Navigation :-

Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, just opened TiHAN, India's first autonomous navigation facility, on July 4, 2022. On the IIT Hyderabad campus, TiHAN was officially launched. With a budget of Rs. 130 crores, the Union Ministry of Science and Technology created the navigation facility. "Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation" is known as TiHAN. A real-time CPS system is being developed and deployed by TiHAN, using autonomous UAVs and ground or surface vehicle. This will find applications in many sectors of national importance.



## Augmented reality in Mumbai :-

The first Augmented Reality (AR) experience in a train station in India is now available at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). With the use of this

technology, station visitors will be able to access a real-time, digital timetable that includes railroad information and scrolls on a dedicated screen. In addition to being able to virtually travel anywhere in the world, passengers of the aircraft will be able to interact with animals, see magic tricks, and experience snowfall thanks to Augmented Reality (AR) magic mirrors.



## PSLV-C53 Rocket Carrying Three Singapore Satellites Launched By ISRO :-

From its Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) launched three satellites for Singapore. The PSLV-C53 mission launched to place three satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The spacecraft carried the DS-EO satellite, NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite, and Scoob-1 from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This was Isro's second launch mission of the year, and the Indian space agency's second commercial launch.



## NTPC Commissions India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project In Telangana :-

The largest floating solar power plant in India, with a total capacity of 100MW, has finally been commissioned at NTPC's Ramagundam power plant in Hyderabad, Telangana. The plant, which cost 423 crore to build, has 4.48 lakh photovoltaic (PV) panels floating over 500 acres of the NTPC-Ramagundam reservoir. Each floating platform contains one inverter, one transformer, and one HT breaker, and the solar modules are mounted on floaters made of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) material.



## BESCOM Developed 'EV Mitra' Mobile App :-

BESCOM, the Electricity Company from Bengaluru, has created the EV Mitra mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in the city. The app also includes information on charges at each charging station for electric vehicles. Electric vehicle owners can use the simple app to reserve a parking space in advance. Previously, BESCOM launched the EV Jagruthi Web portal as a joint initiative of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom. BESCOM has established 136 charging stations in Bengaluru, with another 152 to follow soon.



## **Nokia Partners With IISc To Set Up Networked Robotics Center Of Excellence:-**

Nokia and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore have collaborated to establish the Nokia Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Networked Robotics at the IISc. The CoE will encourage interdisciplinary research in robotics and advanced communication technologies such as 5G and artificial intelligence (AI). "Our collaboration with a world-class company like Nokia will enable us to explore new frontiers for advanced technology research to benefit society as well as provide state-of-the-art training to our students to enable them to become technology leaders in the coming decades" said Prof Govindan Rangarajan, director at IISc.



## **AAI Leh Airport Is Being Built As Nation First Carbon-Neutral Airport :-**

In accordance with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making Ladakh a carbon-neutral region, AAI's Leh airport is being built as a carbon-neutral airport, a first in India.

For heating and cooling, a "Geothermal system" in conjunction with a Solar PV Plant will be installed in the New Airport Terminal Building. As its heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating, this system works by exchanging heat between the air and the ground. The Geothermal system at the Leh Airport Terminal Building project is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 900 tonnes per year.



## **India's First indigenously developed HPV Vaccine Receives DCGI Approval :-**

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the market launch of India's first quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer. The Serum Institute of India will manufacture this vaccine (SII). Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India, made the announcement via Twitter. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) recently approved the qHPV vaccine after reviewing clinical trial data. The vaccine's phase 3 data was found to be satisfactory, and recommendations were made.



## Ola Introduces India's First Indigenously Made Lithium Ion-Cell :-

Ola Electric has launched India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell, the NMC 2170, and announced that mass production will begin in 2023 from its upcoming Gigafactory. "A cell is the heart of the EV revolution. Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research centre that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed," said Bhavish Aggarwal, Founder and CEO of Ola Electric. Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August 2021 and has established India's largest 2W manufacturing facility.



## First-Ever 'Made In India' Surgical Robotic System Installed At Rajiv Gandhi Institute :-

According to a company statement, a leading cancer hospital in Delhi has installed the "first-ever made in India surgical robotic system" devised by a new-age medical technology start-up that will make robotic surgery more accessible to patients. The system was established at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCI), a forward-thinking project of the Indraprastha Cancer Society and Research Centre aimed at providing the best oncological care to those in need.



## Successful Testing Of India's First 5G Private Network Announced By Bharti Airtel :-

The country's first 5G private network has been successfully deployed by Bharti Airtel at the Bosch Automotive Electronics India (RBAI) facility in Bengaluru. Airtel's on-premise 5G captive private network was built using the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) trial spectrum . Using the trial spectrum, the company said it has implemented two industrial grade use cases for quality improvement and operational efficiency at Bosch's manufacturing facility. The private network established on trial spectrum at the Bosch facility can manage thousands of connected devices.



## Rajasthan Introduces The First Digital Lok Adalat In India :-

During the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Chairman of NALSA Uday Umesh

Lalit launched India's first AI-powered, end-to-end digital Lok Adalat. Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA 22)'s digital Lok Adalat was designed and developed by its technology partner Jupitice Justice

Technologies. The two-day event was inaugurated by N V Ramana, Chief Justice of India, in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law and Justice, and Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

## 16: Sports



### Sunil Chhetri Becomes Joint 5th Highest Goalscorer :-

Sunil Chhetri, captain of the Indian men's football team, has become the joint fifth highest goalscorer in international football history. Chhetri accomplished this feat against Hong Kong in their AFC Asian Cup Qualifier match, scoring his 84th goal. On the international stage, he has now matched the goalscoring exploits of legendary Real Madrid and Hungarian player Ferenc Puskas. Chhetri also broke legendary football player Pele's record of 77 goals earlier in October 2021. He is now third on the list of active international goal scorers, trailing only Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal and Lionel Messi of Argentina.



### Lisa Sthalekar Becomes First Female President Of FICA :-

Lisa Sthalekar, a legendary Australian cricketer, has been elected as the Federation of International Cricketers' Association's (FICA) first female president. The FICA Executive Committee meeting in Nyon, Switzerland, confirmed the 42-year-old former Australia captain in the role. Sthalekar played 187 international matches for Australia across three formats, and was a member of the Australian teams that won the ODI World Cups in 2005 and 2013, as well as the T20 World Cups in 2010 and 2012. She retired from the game following Australia's ODI World Cup victory in Mumbai in 2013.



### India Jump Two Spots To 104 In FIFA Rankings :-

The Indian football team reaped the benefits of its strong Asian Cup qualification campaign, climbing two places to 104th in the latest FIFA world rankings. The Indian football team is ranked just below New Zealand (103), which missed out on a place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup after losing a 0-1 intercontinental play-off to Costa Rica

in June. This was India's fifth overall qualification in the competition and the first time in their history that they qualified for two Asian Cups in a row.



## **Cyclist Ronaldo, First Indian Cyclist To Win Silver At Asian Championship :-**

Ronaldo Singh made history by finishing second in the sprint event on the final day of the Asian Track Championship, becoming the first Indian cyclist to win silver in a continental tournament in the senior category. Ronaldo's performance was the best by an Indian cyclist in a continental championship. He fought hard against Japan's experienced rider Kento Yamasaki, but won silver. Yamasaki won back-to-back races against Ronaldo to finish on top of the podium. Singh had previously won bronze medals in the 1km time trial and the team sprint.



## **36th National Games announced by Gujarat's CM :-**

Gujarat's chief minister, Bhupendra Patel, announced that the 36th National Games will be held in his state for the first time ever from September 27 to October 10. The famous event is being held following a seven-year break; the previous one was in Kerala in 2015. This is due to a multitude of issues, including the coronavirus epidemic since 2020. In a different post, the chief minister asserted that Gujarat has top-notch athletic facilities and that sports are enjoying a rebirth. To make the national games the greatest sporting event ever, the government will take all reasonable measures.



## **Rafael Nadal won the opening match at Wimbledon :-**

Rafael Nadal conquered his fear in the opening match at Wimbledon. After losing to Roger Federer in the 2019 Wimbledon semifinals, Rafael Nadal returned to action. Rafael Nadal defeated Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo in four sets on Tuesday in his opening round of the competition for his third Wimbledon victory. Rafael Nadal, a two-time winner, initially appeared to be in charge of the match and aggressively handled the first two sets. Rafael Nadal has been pulled out of the Wimbledon 2022 semi-finals due to an abdominal injury.



## Dhanalakshmi Becomes 3rd Fastest Indian Woman In 200m :-

Sekar Dhanalakshmi won the 200m gold medal in a personal best time at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet. Dhanalakshmi ran a respectable sub-23 second time of 22.89s, breaking her previous personal best of 23.14s set last year. She had won a gold medal in the 200m at the national Inter-State Championships in Chennai earlier in June in a time of 23.27 seconds. Dhanalakshmi is only the third Indian woman to run sub-23 seconds, following Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).



## Jasprit Bumrah Breaks Lara's World Record :-

India captain Jasprit Bumrah bludgeoned hapless Stuart Broad for 29 runs, breaking the world record for most runs off a single over in Test cricket by one run, beating the legendary Brian Lara's feat. Lara held the world record for the 18 years, having hit South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in

2003-04, including four fours and two sixes off six legal deliveries. Former Australia player George Bailey also scored 28 in an over, but he trailed Lara in boundary count.



## Elorda Cup: Boxers Alfiya Pathan And Gitika Clinch Gold Medals :-

Alfiya Pathan and Gitika, the reigning Youth World champions, delivered sensational performances to win gold medals at the inaugural Elorda Boxing Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro, two other female boxers, received silver medals. The 33-member Indian contingent finished its campaign with 14 medals, including two gold, two silver, and ten bronze on the final day. Both Alfiya and Gitika received \$700 in prize money for their gold-medal performances in their senior international debut.



## Wimbledon 2022: Novak Djokovic Wins Seventh Title :-

Novak Djokovic won his seventh Wimbledon title and 21st Grand Slam title with a four-set victory over Nick Kyrgios, whose challenge fizzled after a blistering start. Top seed Djokovic won 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) to tie Pete Sampras's All England Club record of seven titles and move within one of Roger Federer's eight Wimbledon titles. The 35-year-old Serbian is now one Slam ahead of Federer in the all-time standings, and only one behind Rafael Nadal's record of 22 majors.



## **Bhagwani Devi, 94, Won Gold Medal In 100-Meter Sprint In Finland :-**

Bhagwani Devi Dagar, 94, of India, won the gold medal in the 100-meter sprint at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri congratulated Bhagwani Devi on Twitter, writing, "Inspirational! Even at 94, Bhagwani Devi Ji wins a #Gold in 100-meter sprint & two #Bronze medals for at the World Masters Athletics Championships 2022 in Finland." The World Masters Athletics Championships are an athletics (track and field) event for athletes aged 35 and up.



## **Mohammed Shami Becomes Fastest Indian Bowler To Take 150 ODI Wickets :-**

In the first ODI between India and England at the Kennington Oval, Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to 150 ODI wickets. To reach 150 ODI wickets, the seamer needed to play 80 matches. Shami, who finished with match figures of 3/31 from seven overs in India's 10-wicket victory, accomplished the feat with his second wicket. The 31-year-old broke former pacer Ajit Agarkar's record of 150 ODI wickets in 97 matches. Agarkar had achieved the same feat in 2002 against Sri Lanka at the same venue.



## **India Bagged 22 Medals In Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships In Manama, Bahrain :-**

Indian wrestlers dominated the Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships in Manama, Bahrain, winning 22 medals, including four gold. In addition to the four gold medals, India won nine silver and nine bronze medals in the event. Priyanka, Arju, and Antrim won three gold medals among the 22 medals won by the women's team. Sujeet won India's fourth gold medal in men's freestyle wrestling at the 65kg weight class. India finished second in the women's wrestling team standings, second in the men's freestyle standings, and fifth in the men's Greco-Roman standings.





## Birmingham World Games 2022: Abhishek Verma And Jyothi Surekha Vennam Win Bronze In Archery :-

:-

At the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, the Indian compound mixed team archery duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won a bronze medal by defeating their Mexican opponents by one point. This was India's first World Games medal, and it was former World Cup gold medalist Verma's 50th podium finish at the international level. Verma is now the only Indian archer to have won medals at every level of compound archery, including the World Games, World Championship, World Cup Final, World Cup, Asian Games, and Asian Championship.



## Shohidul Islam Bangladeshi Pacer, Suspended For A Doping Offence :-

Bangladesh pacer Shohidul Islam has been suspended for ten months after the International Cricket Council (ICC) found him guilty of violating doping regulations.

According to an ICC press release, the cricketer has been barred from all forms of the game until March 27, 2023, after admitting to the offence. The 27-year-old pacer has only appeared in one T20 international for Bangladesh, against Pakistan. He was a member of Bangladesh's touring squad for series in New Zealand and South Africa. He did not, however, play any matches there.



## Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram Won Tournament In Spain :-

Aravindh Chithambaram of India won the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open on tie-break after defeating Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani. Chithambaram, Hovhannisyan, and Sadhwani, along with seven others, finished with eight points from ten rounds. Chithambaram, a former national champion, won the top prize due to a higher tie-break score. Chithambaram began the tournament with four consecutive victories before settling for draws in the next two rounds.



## R. Praggnanandhaa Triumphs At The Paracin Open

:-

R Praggnanandhaa, a young Indian Grandmaster, has won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia. The unbeaten 16-year-old finished half a point ahead of the field. Praggnanandhaa, the second seed, finished with 8 points after nine rounds. Alexandr Predke, the top seed, finished second with 7.5 points, ahead of Alisher Suleymenov and India's AL Muthaiah, who both scored 7. R Praggnanandhaa will be part of a strong India 'B' team competing in the 44th Chess Olympiad, which begins on July 28 near Chennai.



## Tokyo to host 2025 World Athletics Championships

:-

Tokyo, Japan, has been chosen by the World Athletics Council to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships. The 2025 World Athletics Championships will bring the sport's biggest stars back to Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, which hosted the Olympic Games last year, in the centenary year of the Japanese Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF). In 2025, Tokyo will be able to fill its Olympic stadium with fans who were unable to attend the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games due to pandemic restrictions.



## West Indies Cricketers Lendl Simmons & Denesh Ramdin Announce Retirement :-

Former West Indies captain Denesh Ramdin has announced his retirement from international cricket, effective immediately. Ramdin last played for the West Indies in a T20I in December 2019. Ramdin led the West Indies in 17 matches - 13 Tests, three T20Is, and an ODI - after being named Test captain in 2014, succeeding Daren Sammy, who had retired from the format. In 2015, Jason Holder took over as captain. Meanwhile, West Indies batsman Lendl Simmons has retired from international cricket.



## England All-Rounder Ben Stokes Announces ODI Retirement :-

England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes has announced his retirement from one-day international cricket. Stokes' ODI career will be remembered for his Player-of-the-Match performance against New Zealand in the 2019

World Cup final at Lord's. His unbeaten 84 helped send the match into a Super Over, and England won their first 50-over World Cup title in dramatic fashion. Stokes has emerged as one of England's top all-rounders since making his One-Day International debut against Ireland in 2011.



## Neeraj Chopra wins a silver medal in the javelin at the world championships :-

At the World Championships, Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever silver medal in Athletics. Anju Bobby George, the legendary long jumper, was the first Indian to win a medal — bronze — at the World Championships in 2003 in Paris. Neeraj Chopra, 24, won the bronze medal with a throw of 88.13m, finishing second. Anderson Peters of Grenada won gold with a best throw of 90.54m, while Olympic silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic took bronze with 88.09m.



## Bangladeshi Cricketer Tamim Iqbal Announces Retirement From T20Is :-

Tamim Iqbal, Bangladesh's ODI captain, has announced his retirement from T20 Internationals following his team's 50-over series victory over the West Indies. He will play his final T20 International in March 2020. The 33-year-old has appeared in 78 Twenty20 Internationals and scored 1758 runs. Tamim took a six-month break from the shortest format in January, but he did compete in a domestic tournament during that time. Tamim is one of Bangladesh's best openers, having scored 5082 runs in Tests and 7943 runs in ODIs.



## Commonwealth Games 2022: Mirabai Chanu wins India's first gold medal :-

Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-breaking streak, breaking four in a power-packed performance to win India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on July 30, 2022. Chanu smashed the Commonwealth and CWG records in a stunning performance. The former world champion finished with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which was significantly higher than her personal best. In the snatch section, she equaled her national record lift of 88kg.

## 17: State



### India's First 'Balika Panchayat' Constituted In Five Villages Of Gujarat :-

Recently, the country's first "Balika Panchayat," a panchayat model "of the girls, by the girls, and for the girls," was established and began operations in five villages in Gujarat's Kutch district. The country's first girl Panchayat aims to promote girls' social development and ensure girls' active participation in politics. Following the success of the initiative in Kutch, the Ministry of Women and Child Development intends to replicate the girl panchayat system throughout the country. Several villages in Gujarat's Kutch district had previously held Balika Panchayat elections.



### Ek Nath Shinde Took Oath As Maharashtra CM :-

After a week of political turmoil in Maharashtra, rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde took oath as the state's chief minister. After some hesitation, BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis took oath as deputy chief minister. Shinde and Fadnavis held their first cabinet meeting shortly after taking their oaths at the Raj Bhavan and decided to call a special session of the state Assembly on July 2 and 3. The newly formed government will face a trust vote in the Assembly, as well as the election of a new Speaker of the House.



### Union Minister Unveiled Seismology Observatory In Udhampur :-

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the Seismology Observatory in Dandayal, Udhampur district, Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences has established the third such centre in J&K at a cost of 20 lakh rupees. The observatory will compile a complete seismic record of Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, and many other districts. Jitendra Singh stated that the central government is establishing 152 earthquake observatories in the next four months, including three more in the Kashmir division.



## Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel Launches 17th 'Shala Praveshotsav' :-

In Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the 17th 'Shala Praveshotsav,' a drive to enrol students in the state's primary schools. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Patel stated that the dropout rate of students has significantly decreased as a result of the children's mass enrollment drives. He claimed that the dropout rate has been reduced from 37.22 percent in 2002 to 3.07 percent. He stated that the state government's top priority is to ensure that every child has access to an education.



## Electric vehicle policy, Chhattisgarh:-

With the goal of establishing Chhattisgarh as an EV manufacturing hub, halting environmental damage, and generating jobs, the EV policy 2022 was established. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel accepted the policy during the cabinet meeting. Chhattisgarh government has made a target to increase registration for electric

vehicles in five years, in a manner that it accounts for 15 per cent of new registrations of individual or commercial vehicles.



## 'Right to health bill' Rajasthan :-

The Right to Health Bill, "the first of its type in India," which intends to commit to providing high-quality and reasonably priced health care services through public and private health care providers, is set to be introduced in the Assembly by the Rajasthan government. The government had created a draught bill in January that outlines the rights of patients, their companions, and healthcare professionals as well as a procedure for resolving grievances from all parties.



## Chhattisgarh school project funded by World bank :-

The Central Government gave the Chhattisgarh government its in-principle approval to move forward with a USD 300 million initiative for school education.

The Chhattisgarh government is negotiating this project alongside the World Bank. The plan permits the Chhattisgarh government to borrow USD 300 million over a five-year period. Compared to market interest rates, the government will be permitted to pay less for this borrowing. Government has to payback this amount over a period of 20 years.



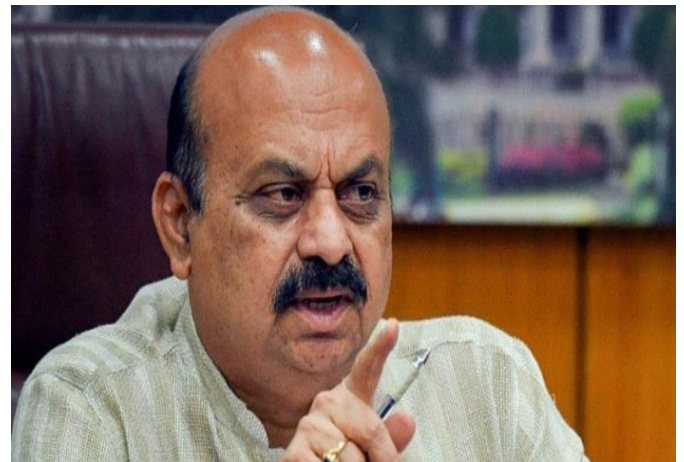
## Tripura: Kharchi festival:-

Thousands of devotees gathered at Khayerpur on the eastern edge of Tripura to start a week-long traditional Kharchi festival that included prayers to 14 gods and goddesses. Despite being primarily a tribal event, Kharchi Puja has Hindu religious roots. The festival has also drawn devotees and sadhus from Bangladesh, a neighbouring country, and all around India. The Tripura royal family's "Rajmala" claims that Queen Hiravati once went to the river Maharani to take a bath when she observed a wild buffalo pursuing the 14 gods.



## Yogi Adityanath laid groundwork for 13 Expressways, UP :-

Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister, has laid the groundwork for Uttar Pradesh's greatest highway network. The state's roadway connectivity to many other countries throughout the world will soon be improved. With 13 expressways currently in operation, the state is the first in the country to achieve so. Thirteen expressways totaling 3200 km, six of which are in use, are also being built. Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister, has laid the groundwork for Uttar Pradesh's greatest highway network. Better highway connectivity from many other countries will soon be available.



## Karnataka to implement R&D Policy:-

Karnataka is expected to implement India's first state-specific research and development (R & D) policy. To ensure its successful execution, a Task Force led by Professor Ashok S. Shettar, the Vice-Chancellor of KLE Technological University (KLE Tech), Karnataka, and other officials has been established. Backdrop The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai, presided over a meeting in Bengaluru, Karnataka, with the Chairman of the R & D Task Force, Professor Ashok S. Shettar, and other representatives.



## Modi to lay foundation for projects worth Rs 16,000 crore in Jharkhand :-

Deepak Prakash, the state president of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jharkhand and a member of the Rajya Sabha, expressed his confidence in the attendance of a sizable crowd to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event where he will lay the foundation stone for several development projects totaling more than Rs 16,000 crore on Tuesday in Deoghar. He predicted that the day would be momentous for Jharkhand, particularly the Santhal Pargana district.



## Uttarakhand Becomes First State In India To Implement NEP At Pre-Primary Level :-

Uttarakhand was the first state in the country to begin implementing the Centre's New Education Policy, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launching 'Bal Vatikas' at anganwadi kendras across the state to strengthen the pre-primary education system. The 'Bal

Vatikas' will operate at the state's 4,457 anganwadi kendras and will be equivalent to nursery classes in a private school. Speaking on the occasion, Dhama stated that the New Education Policy (NEP) implementation marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country.



## Kerala Becomes First State To Have Own Internet Service :-

Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The announcement came after the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd, the government's ambitious IT infrastructure project to make the internet available to everyone in the state, received an Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence from the Department of Telecommunications. The project, which aims to bridge the digital divide in society, can now begin operations, according to the CM.



## Himachal Pradesh Becomes The 1st Indian State To Connect All Registered Commercial Vehicles :-

Himachal Pradesh is the first state in the country to link all registered commercial vehicles equipped with a Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) to an Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) (ERSS). Through VLTD,

these vehicles can now be tracked anywhere in the country. Over 9,423 vehicles have been registered and are linked to ERSS. It is now being monitored by both the police and the transportation department. For the safety of women and children in the state, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur stated that it would be simple to detect vehicle theft and accidents.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



## Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu Inaugurates 20th Folk Fair In Odisha's Puri :-

Shri Bishweswar Tudu, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti, has inaugurated the 20th Folk Fair (National tribal/folk song & dance festival) and 13th Krishi Fair 2022 at Saradhabali in Puri, Odisha. The two fairs aimed at preserving tribal culture and promoting agricultural innovation, respectively. Shri Tudu opened the fair by thanking the organisers for the event and their valuable efforts over the last two decades to preserve the rich tribal art and culture. He urged everyone to visit the Krishi Fair stalls and learn about the agricultural innovations and techniques on display.



## Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy Launched "Jyotirgamaya" Festival In New Delhi :-

Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched Jyotirgamaya, a festival in New Delhi that showcases the talent of unsung performers. Sangeet Natak Akademi has organised this festival as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the occasion of World Music Day to showcase the talent of rare musical instruments from across the country, including street performers and train entertainers. Mr Reddy stated on the occasion that music is a universal language and that Indian music, like its culture, is very diverse.





## Jammu And Kashmir To Host G-20 Meetings In 2023 :-

In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir will host the G-20 meetings in 2023, an influential grouping of the world's major economies. This will be the first major international summit held in Jammu and Kashmir since the state's special status guaranteed by Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn in August 2019 and it was divided into two union territories. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was named India's G-20 Sherpa in September of last year.



## 'Vivatech 2020' Conference: India Recognized As 'Country Of The Year' :-

Vivatech 2020, Europe's largest start-up conference, has named India the "country of the year." "This is a great honour for India to be recognized as the country of the year for Vivatech 2020. This is due to the contribution of the Indian start-ups to the world. This is the recognition of Indian start-ups. We have embarked on this exciting

journey, Nowhere in the world will you find the energy level we have among the young minds in the country" said Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.



## Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel Inaugurates The National Conference On Millets :-

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries, inaugurated the National Conference on Millets in New Delhi on the theme "The Future Super Food for India," which was organised by industry body ASSOCHAM with the support of M/o Food Processing Industries. The purpose of the conference was to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security. Speaking at the National Conference on Millets about the benefits of millets, the Minister stated that millets are among the oldest eatables in the country.



## Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Mango Festival In Belgium :-

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated a 'Mango Festival' in Brussels to raise awareness among Europeans and create a market for Indian mangoes in Europe. Mangoes such as Banganapalli from Andhra Pradesh, Malihabad Dasherri from Uttar Pradesh, Amrapali from Odisha, Lakshman Bhog, Himsagar, Jardalu mango, Langra mangoes, and 12 GI-tagged items were on display during the event. India is a major supplier of mangoes to the rest of the world, despite the fact that the majority of mangoes are exported to the Middle East rather than Europe.



## Grand Hackathon: 3 Day Event Launched By Shri Piyush Goyal :-

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has virtually kicked off a three-day "Grand Hackathon" hosted by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in collaboration with NABARD. The physical event, which was a hybrid event, was held at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Fort, Mumbai. The "Grand Hackathon" is divided into two categories: Agri Grant Challenge and Agri Innovation Hackathon, both of which will showcase innovations that will assist the agricultural sector in adopting eCommerce. According to the Minister, this government's top priority has been the welfare of farmers and doubling their income.



## PM Modi Inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 At Gandhinagar :-

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, launched the Digital India Week 2022 at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The grand expo-"Digital Mela" with over 200 stalls showcasing Digital India solutions for facilitating "Ease of Living" is an integral part of the Digital India Week. Thousands of visitors flock to the Digital Mela to see and learn about the latest innovations and new technologies from the Emerging Tech pavilion, which showcases AR/VR, Drone Technology, and Robotics.



## Parshottam Rupala Inaugurates India's First Ever Animal Health Summit :-

According to Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, there is a need to strengthen the cooperative movement in the livestock sector to better understand the importance of animal health to the country's food and nutrition security, rural incomes, and prosperity. The NASC Complex in New Delhi hosted the first India Animal Health Summit 2022. Shri Rupala was the keynote speaker at the inauguration of the 'India Animal Health Summit 2022,' which was co-hosted by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group.



## India Chosen To Join 2003 Convention On UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee :-

India has been elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage's Intergovernmental Committee for the 2022-2026 cycle. The elections for the Intergovernmental Committee took

place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris during the 9th General Assembly of the 2003 Convention. Six countries, namely India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand, had submitted applications to fill the four vacant seats in the Asia-Pacific group. From the 155 State Parties present and voting, India received 110 votes.



## PM Narendra Modi Attended First Virtual I2U2 Summit :-

The first-ever I2U2 virtual summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. PM Modi stated during the summit, "From this very first summit, I2U2 has established a positive agenda. We have identified joint projects in various sectors and prepared a roadmap to go ahead." Under the I2U2 framework, we've agreed on increasing the joint investment in 6 important areas of water, energy, transport, space, health, and food security, he added.

# SECTION 2



# Practice Questions with Answers



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**1. Which Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) was recently observed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)?**

- A) 8th
- B) 7th
- C) 6th
- D) 5th

**2. Tata Power Solar Systems commissioned India's largest floating solar power project at\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- B) Kayamkulam, Kerala
- C) Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Tumkur, Karnataka

**3. Government of India has increased the upper age limit from 21 years to how many years for 2022 for the recruitment process for Agneepath scheme?**

- A) 22 years
- B) 23 years
- C) 25 years
- D) 26 years

**4. RBI gave nod to which of the following bank to set up an operations support subsidiary?**

- A) Bank of India
- B) Canara Bank

- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) State Bank of India

**5. Which of the following has reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business?**

- A) NABARD
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- D) Irdai

**6. Which Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) was recently observed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)?**

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**10. Which of the following has reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business?**

- E) NABARD
- F) Ministry of Finance
- G) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- H) Irdai

**11. RBI gave nod to which of the following Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for the issuance of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)?**

- A) Berar Finance Limited
- B) Galada Finance limited
- C) Mufin Finance Limited
- D) Rajath Finance Limited

**12. A \$250 million loan for "India State Support programme for Road Safety" was recently approved by which of the following organization?**

- A) World Bank
- B) UNDP
- C) IMF
- D) ADB

**13. To offer Paperless Permanent Account Number (PAN) Services which of the following company has collaborated with Protean eGov Technologies?**

- A) BharatPe
- B) PayNearby
- C) Paytm
- D) Razorpay

**14. When did late Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry chairman of the Shapoorji Pallonji group, received the Padma Bhushan in the field of trade and industry?**

- A) 2018
- B) 2016
- C) 2015
- D) 2014

**15. When the National Insurance Awareness Day 2022 was observed?**

- A) 28 June
- B) 27 June
- C) 25 June
- D) 24 June

**16. Pyse Fintech has launched India's first and largest fractionally-owned solar power plant in which of the following state?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**17. In partnership with Allianz Partners which of the following insurance company has launched its health insurance product named 'Global Health Care'?**

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

**18. To distribute health insurance solutions which of the following bank has signed an agreement with Star Health and Allied Insurance?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) IDFC FIRST Bank
- D) YES Bank

**19. To offer international payment services which of the following payment platform has partnered with EasyTransfer?**

- A) BharatPe
- B) Cashfree
- C) Paytm

D) PhonePe

**20. Who among the following took charges as the Chairman of the Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd?**

- A) Tina Ambani
- B) Isha M. Ambani
- C) Anant M. Ambani
- D) Akash M. Ambani

**21. Which of the following e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was recently launched by Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications?**

- A) Post Karmayogi
- B) Dak Karmayogi
- C) E Dak Karmayogi
- D) E Karmayogi

**22. When the International Day of Parliamentarism was observed?**

- A) 1 July
- B) 30 June
- C) 29 June
- D) 28 June

**23. When the National Chartered Accountants Day was observed in India?**

- A) 30 June
- B) 29 June
- C) 28 June
- D) 01 July

**24. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma has taken oath as the Chief Justice of which of the following High Court?**

- A) Allahabad High Court
- B) Bombay High Court
- C) Delhi High Court
- D) Madras High Court

**25. A solid-fueled rocket named 'Zuljanah' was recently launched by which of the following country into space?**

- A) Turkey
- B) North Korea
- C) Iran
- D) China

**26. T-Hub 2.0, the world's largest innovation campus was recently inaugurated in which of the following city?**

- A) New Delhi, Delhi
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- D) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**27. According to the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023 which of the following city ranked 1st as the Best City for Students?**

- A) Munich, Germany
- B) Melbourne Australia
- C) London, United Kingdom
- D) Mumbai, India

**28. To launch Dining Delights, a premium dining experience programme, which of the following bank partnered with EazyDiner?**

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

**29. Which of the following former Indian cricketer was appointed as the brand ambassador of FanCode?**

- A) Krishnamachari Srikkanth
- B) Ravi Shastri
- C) Sachin Tendulkar
- D) Virender Sehwag

**30. After the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray from the chief minister post who among the following took oath as the new Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra?**

- A) Ashok Chavan
- B) Devendra Fadnavis
- C) Eknath Shinde
- D) Sushilkumar Shinde

**31. To provide travel insurance to Indian students going abroad for higher education which of the following company has partnered with Avanse Financial Services?**

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



D) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance

**32. Rating Agency CRISIL has decreased India's GDP growth to 7.3 per cent from 7.8% for FY23.**

- A) 7.3%
- B) 7.2%
- C) 7.1%
- D) 7.0%

**33. According to the official data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India has recorded an all-time high in seafood exports in the FY 2021-22, with the value of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) \$ 8.13 billion
- B) \$ 7.76 billion
- C) \$ 6.89 billion
- D) \$ 4.78 billion

**34. Who among the following was awarded with the Ayurveda Ratna Award 2022 by the UK Parliament?**

- A) Anil Kumar
- B) Sujata Kadam
- C) Tanuja Nesari
- D) Umesh Vasant Tagade

**35. Who among the following took charges as the Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of GAIL (India) Limited?**

- A) Bhuwan Chandra Tripathi
- B) Manoj Jain
- C) Ram Shanker

D) Sandeep Kumar Gupta

**36. Who among the following bags the Femina Miss India 2022 title?**

- A) Manasa Varanasi
- B) Rubal Shekhawat
- C) Shinata Chauhan
- D) Sini Shetty

**37. Which of the following Union Territory has declared Public Health Emergency?**

- A) Chandigarh
- B) Lakshdweep
- C) New Delhi
- D) Puducherry

**38. In which State PM Narendra Modi has unveiled the statue of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telangana

**39. Who among the following was elected as the new Maharashtra Assembly Speaker?**

- A) Hitendra Thakur
- B) Pramod Ratan Patil
- C) Rahul Narwekar
- D) Vinay Kore

**40. Who among the following took charges as the President of FATF?**

- A) Elisa de Anda Madrazo
- B) Kristalina Georgieva
- C) Marcus Pleyer
- D) T. Raja Kumar

**41. What state's sole national park is Valmiki National Park, which has recently been featured in the news?**

- E) Uttarakhand
- F) Tamil Nadu
- G) Bihar
- H) Uttar Pradesh

**42. What is the name of the recent tropical storm that impacted Cuba?**

- E) Elsa
- F) Bill
- G) Danny
- H) Erin

**43. 'Ayurveda dataset on Clinical Trials Registry-India CTRI Portal' was released by which ministry?**

- E) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- F) Ministry of AYUSH
- G) Ministry of Science and Technology
- H) Ministry of Electronics and IT

**44. Which nation served as the CoWIN Global Conclave's host?**

- E) USA
- F) Bhutan
- G) India
- H) Canada

**45. What has India's global market capitalization grown at an average annually over the past five years?**

- E) 2.5%
- F) 5.6%
- G) 14.7%
- H) 21%

**46. Which Union Ministry is responsible for the "Mission Vatsalya" initiative that was reported on in the media?**

- I) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- J) Ministry Of Education
- K) Ministry of MSME
- L) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**47. Which state has been given the go-ahead for a USD 300 million World Bank-funded initiative related to education?**

- I) Karnataka
- J) Andhra Pradesh
- K) Odisha
- L) Chhattisgarh

**48. Which organization is related to the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)"?**

- I) UNICEF
- J) UNESCO
- K) World Economic Forum
- L) Centre for Culture Resources and Training

**49. After Piyush Goyal, who has been named as India's next G-20 Sherpa?**

- I) Nirmala Sitharaman
- J) Rakesh Sharma
- K) Amitabh Kant
- L) Parameswaran Iyer

**50. What is the name of the single, public repository for all digital government projects in India?**

- I) Vishwa Bharat Stack
- J) Indiastack Global
- K) Global Desi Stack
- L) Local to Global Stack

**51. Which state is the location of the Harappan site Rakhigarhi, which was recently featured in the news?**

- M) Haryana
- N) Gujarat
- O) Madhya Pradesh
- P) Punjab

**52. Which nation has recorded cases of the uncommon virus known as "monkeypox"?**

- M) Japan

- N) India
- O) Australia
- P) United Kingdom

**53. Whose country's freshly elected leader is "John Lee," who recently made the news?**

- M) Taiwan
- N) Hong Kong
- O) South Korea
- P) Malaysia

**54. What is the GST applied for sale of the Indian national flag?**

- M) 5%
- N) 10%
- O) 0%
- P) 18%

**55. Which nation is Carlos Alcaraz from, who recently won the Madrid Open championship?**

- M) France
- N) Spain
- O) Switzerland
- P) Russia

**56. In which city Union Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the 3-day 'Grand Hackathon' to Promote E-commerce in the Agri Sector?**

- A) Kochi
- B) Pune
- C) Mumbai

D) Surat

**57. Who among the following has resigned as Union Minister of Minority Affairs?**

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan
- B) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) Piyush Goyal

**58. Mohammed Barkindo, Secretary General of which of the following organisation has passed away recently?**

- A) OSCE
- B) OPEC
- C) OECD
- D) ILO

**59. Who among the following was named for the inaugural Kempegowda International Award 2022?**

- A) Narayana Murthy
- B) Prakash Padukone
- C) S M Krishna
- D) All of the above

**60. Who among the following was elected as the new Prime Minister of Israel?**

- A) Benjamin Netanyahu
- B) Ehud Olmert
- C) Naftali Bennett
- D) Yair Lapid

**61. Which of the following company is set to launch India's 1st commercial-scale Green Ammonia and Green Methanol projects?**

- A) Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd.
- B) India Glycols Ltd.
- C) Pidilite Industries Ltd.
- D) Tata Chemicals Ltd.

**62. Which bank got approval from the Ministry of Defence for Overseas Procurement in Financial Service?**

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Axis Bank
- D) All of the above

**63. For the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme which of the following bank renewed the MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF)?**

- A) SBI
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

**64. Which of the following life insurance company has launched industry-first QR Code code-enabled services for its customers?**

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- B) Aviva Life Insurance
- C) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- D) Bharti AXA Life Insurance

**65. Which of the following company grabbed a multi-year contract from the National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) to accelerate digital transformation?**

- A) Cognizant
- B) HCL Technologies
- C) Tata Consultancy Services
- D) Wipro

**66. RBI has recently cancelled the license of which of the following co-operative bank due to a lack of capital?**

- A) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank
- B) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- C) Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank
- D) Shri Anand Co-operative Bank

**67. \_\_\_\_\_ became India's first company to receive Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its made-in-India Li-ion cells.**

- A) GODI India
- B) Goldstar Power
- C) HBL Power Systems
- D) Panasonic Energy India

**68. Who among the following took charges as the President designate of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?**

- A) Chandrajit Banerjee
- B) L. Atish Matur
- C) R. Dinesh

D) Sanjiv Puri

**69. Paritosh Tripathi was appointed by which of the following general insurance company as its MD and CEO?**

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- B) Edelweiss General Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance
- D) SBI General Insurance

**70. Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of the following country has passed away recently?**

- A) North Korea
- B) South Korea
- C) Japan
- D) China

**71. For the distribution of insurance products which of the following insurance company has signed an agreement with City Union Bank?**

- A) Shriram General Insurance
- B) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance
- C) Edelweiss General Insurance
- D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

**72. José Eduardo Dos Santos former president of which of the following country has passed away recently?**

- A) Angola
- B) Sudan
- C) Tanzania
- D) Uganda

**73. Which of the following Union Minister has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs?**

- A) Smriti Irani
- B) Piyush Goyal
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) Jyotiraditya Scindia

**74. Which of the following organisation has appointed Murali Iyer as its new Chief Financial Officer?**

- A) Amazon
- B) CII
- C) IKEA
- D) Walmart

**75. Which of the following country's Prime Minister Boris Johnson has stepped down?**

- A) Denmark
- B) France
- C) Italy
- D) UK

**76. A 3-member commission for the delimitation of municipal wards in Delhi, set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs, will be headed by which of the following?**

- A) Vijay Kumar Dev
- B) Randhir Sahay
- C) Pankaj Kumar Singh
- D) Narinder Nath Vohra

**77. To offer a master's degree programme in Digital Payments for NPCI's employees which institute has partnered with the NPCI?**

- A) Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies
- B) IIT Roorkee
- C) IIM Bangalore
- D) IIM Ahmedabad

**78. Which of the following bank has launched Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan?**

- A) HDFC
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) LIC
- D) SBI General Insurance

**79. To establish a new Joint Venture to manufacture helicopter engines which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Safran Helicopter Engines?**

- A) Indian Space Research Organisation
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- D) Bharat Electronics

**80. Which of the following organization has tested a first-of-its-kind waste disposal technology in International Space Station (ISS)?**

- A) ESA
- B) ISRO
- C) JAXA

D) NASA

**81. Who among the following was appointed as the new G-20 Sherpa?**

- A) Amitabh Kant
- B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Shaktikanta Das

**82. Who among the following becomes the second Indian to feature IMF's 'Wall of Former Chief Economists'?**

- A) Shaktikanta Roy
- B) Raghuram Rajan
- C) Mohit Sharma
- D) Gita Gopinath

**83. Who was the Gandhian P Gopinathan Nair who died recently in Kerala?**

- A) Freedom fighter
- B) Film Maker
- C) Author
- D) Actor

**84. Who among the following is the author of the new book titled 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success'?**

- A) Sanjiv Kumar
- B) Prarthna Batra
- C) Gita Kumari
- D) Dinesh Rajput

**85. Who among the following was appointed as deputy Election commissioner?**

- A) V K Das
- B) S K Sood
- C) R K Gupta
- D) P K Singh

**86. Which ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) "Mission Vatsalya"?**

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**87. To provide life and health insurance solutions which of the following bank partnered with Tata AIA Life Insurance?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) City Union Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

**88. To set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to facilitate research in the areas of networked robotics which of the following institute has partnered with Nokia?**

- A) NIT Tiruchirappalli
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Guwahati
- D) IISc Bengaluru

**89. Padma Awardee Peter Brook has passed away recently. When did he received Padma Shri award?**

- A) 2022
- B) 2021
- C) 2020
- D) 2019

**90. Which of the following state became 1st state to Implement New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at Pre-Primary Level?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Uttarakhand

**91. To Help Academics and Researchers Access Census Microdata which of the following institute has inaugurated a new Census Data Workstation?**

- A) IIT Roorkee
- B) IIT Kharagpur
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Delhi

**92. What is the rank of India in the Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?**

- A) 145
- B) 140
- C) 135
- D) 100

**93. Which of the following country secured top position in the Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?**

- A) Norway
- B) China
- C) Iceland
- D) Finland

**94. India's first-ever rocket facility for 3D printed rocket engines named 'Rocket Factory-1' was inaugurated by which of the following space tech start-up?**

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Bellatrix Aerospace
- C) Pixxel
- D) Skyroot Aerospace

**95. 'PIVOT' an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tool that can predict cancer-causing genes in humans was developed by which of the following institute?**

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Kharagpur
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Bombay

**96. In which of the following state PM Modi inaugurated the Deoghar Airport?**

- A) West Bengal
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Jharkhand



**97. In which of the following sports Jyothi Surekha Vennam won a bronze medal for India at the World Games 2022?**

- A) Archery
- B) Shooting
- C) Tennis
- D) Wrestling

**98. What is the name of India's first elevated urban expressway which is developing by Government of India?**

- A) Yamuna Expressway
- B) Narmada Expressway
- C) Ganga Expressway
- D) Dwarka Expressway

**99. For helping women farmers scale up their business Nasscom Foundation has joined hands with which of the following company to set up DigiVaani Call Center?**

- A) Amazon
- B) Google
- C) Microsoft
- D) Tesla

**100. Luis Echeverria Alvarez the former President of which of the following country has passed away recently?**

- A) Mexico
- B) Japan
- C) Italy

D) England

**101. To promote investments in the Asia and Pacific region which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Govt of Singapore?**

- A) WTO
- B) IMF
- C) AIIB
- D) ADB

**102. \_\_\_\_\_ became the 1st private sector bank to integrate with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department.**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) YES Bank

**103. Who among the following was appointed as the interim President of Sri Lanka?**

- A) Sirimavo Bandaranaike
- B) Ranil Wickremesinghe
- C) D. M. Jayaratne
- D) Chandrika Kumaratunga

**104. Who among the following launched the trailer for the new television series called "Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha"?**

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Anurag Thakur
- C) Harsh Vardhan
- D) PM Modi

**105. When the Nelson Mandela International Day was observed?**

- A) 15 July
- B) 16 July
- C) 17 July
- D) 18 July

**106. Which of the following state became the first and the only state in India to have its own internet services?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Kerala
- D) West Bengal

**107. Which of the following Indian bowler has secured first spot in the ICC ODI Bowler Rankings 2022?**

- A) Yuzvendra Chahal
- B) R Ashwin
- C) Mohammad Shami
- D) Jasprit Bumrah

**108. Which of the following Indian bowler became the fastest Indian bowler to take 150 ODI wickets?**

- A) Jasprit Bumrah
- B) Mohammed Shami
- C) R Ashwin
- D) Yuzvendra Chahal

**109. Who among the following has been selected to lead India in the 5-match T20I series against West Indies?**

- A) Shikhar Dhawan
- B) Rohit Sharma
- C) Rishabh Pant
- D) Hardik Pandya

**110. Who among the following was retained as BJP's leader in the Rajya Sabha?**

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Prakash Javadekar
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

**111. For Empowering Consumers and Creating Awareness which of the following mascot was launched Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)?**

- A) Bholu
- B) Shera
- C) Jagriti
- D) Veera

**112. An Apex Committee for Performance and Efficiency Audit set up by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) will be chaired by which of the following?**

- A) Ajay Kumar
- B) Mahesh Kumar Sharma
- C) Radha Sridharan
- D) S.B. Naithani

**113. To Resolve Border Dispute which of the following state has signed an agreement with Assam?**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Manipur
- C) Meghalaya
- D) West Bengal

**114. \_\_\_\_\_ was named as the first Cultural & Tourism Capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022-23.**

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Hisor, Tajikistan
- C) Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- D) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

**115. Along with PFRDA which of the following bank has launched a digital platform for opening National Pension System (NPS) accounts using mobile phones?**

- A) Indian Bank
- B) Bank of Maharashtra
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

**116. Who among the following was awarded with JC Daniel Award 2021?**

- A) Hariharan
- B) KP Kumaran
- C) Santhosh Sivan
- D) Shyama Prasad

**117. After serving for about 35 years in Visakhapatnam which of the following Indian Naval Ship (INS) submarine was decommissioned by the Indian Navy?**

- A) INS Arihant
- B) INS Kalvari
- C) INS Khanderi
- D) INS Sindhudhvaj

**118. Which of the following company will be the First E-Commerce Marketplace to Debut on Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)?**

- A) Alibaba
- B) Amazon India
- C) Flipkart
- D) Snapdeal

**119. \_\_\_\_\_ took charge as a whole-time member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).**

- A) Amit Pradhan
- B) Jayanti Prasad
- C) Ritesh Kavdia
- D) Santosh Kumar Shukla

**120. Ben Stokes Captain of the England Test team, announced his retirement from the One Day Internationals (ODIs) format.**

- A) Jos Butler
- B) Ben Stokes
- C) Joe Root

D) Jonny Bairstow

**121. Which of the following country secured first rank in the Henley Passport Index 2022?**

- A) Spain
- B) South Korea
- C) Japan
- D) North Korea

**122. What is the rank of India in the “Henley Passport Index 2022”?**

- A) 87
- B) 80
- C) 85
- D) 65

**123. Along with EaseMyTrip which of the following bank has launched a co-branded credit card?**

- A) Standard Chartered Bank
- B) HSBC Bank India
- C) DBS Bank
- D) CSB Bank

**124. To offer life insurance solutions to its customers which of the following insurance company partnered with DBS Bank India?**

- A) Aegon Life Insurance
- B) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- C) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- D) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

**125. For the reintroduction of cheetahs, India has signed a pact with which of the following country?**

- A) Egypt
- B) Gambia
- C) Namibia
- D) Nigeria

**126. For wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization which of the following country has signed an MoU with India?**

- A) Angola
- B) Namibia
- C) South Africa
- D) Zambia

**127. Which of the following country's Prime Minister Mario Draghi has resigned from his post?**

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) Italy
- D) Japan

**128. Who among the following took charges as the MD of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure & Development (NaBFID)?**

- A) Vikram Limaye
- B) Manoj Kumar
- C) Rajkiran Rai
- D) Ashish Chauhan

**129. In which of the following country the 13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue was held?**

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

**130. Which of the following is India's first indigenous human passenger pilotless drone?**

- A) Nirma
- B) Swapna
- C) Varuna
- D) Vikram

**131. \_\_\_\_\_ state has become India's first state to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Uttarakhand

**132. Draupadi Murmu served as the governor of which of the following states before being elected as the 15th President of India?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Odisha
- D) Telangana

**133. Under Har Ghar Tiranga movement PM Narendra Modi has urged citizens to hoist the**

**national flag at their homes on which of the following day?**

- A) August 11-20
- B) August 12-16
- C) August 14-15
- D) August 13-15

**134. Which of the following country is set to host the Asia Cup 2022?**

- A) Australia
- B) Oman
- C) South Africa
- D) UAE

**135. In which of the following state African Swine Fever was recently reported?**

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

**136. Who among the following are the beneficiaries of 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana'?**

- A) Below-Poverty-Line Women
- B) MSMEs
- C) School Students
- D) Senior Citizens

**137. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s report what is the growth forecast for India for 2022-23?**

- A) 8.2 %
- B) 8.0 %
- C) 7.8 %
- D) 7.2 %

**138. Where did the Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised 'Suraksha Manthan-2022'?**

- A) Bikaner
- B) Jaipur
- C) Jaisalmer
- D) Jodhpur

**139. Which of the following country has launched the second module named 'Wentian' of three modules needed to complete its new space station?**

- A) China
- B) France
- C) India
- D) Russia

**140. Who among the following bags the 2022 F1 French Grand Prix?**

- A) George Russell
- B) Lewis Hamilton
- C) Max Verstappen
- D) None of the above

**141. Which of the following state government has launched 'Family Doctor Project' on a pilot basis?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh

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

**142. Who among the following won the 41st Villa de Benasque International Open Chess Tournament?**

- A) Sandipan Chanda
- B) Gukesh D
- C) Aravindh Chithambaram
- D) Abhijeet Gupta

**143. When the National Broadcasting Day was observed?**

- A) 25 July
- B) 23 July
- C) 22 July
- D) 21 July

**144. Who among the following was recently appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait?**

- A) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
- B) Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
- C) Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- D) None of the above

**145. Which of the following author has authored the book "Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend"?**

- A) Faisal Abdula
- B) Faisal Farooqui

- C) Faisal Feroz
- D) Faisal Khan

**146. The 'Bal Raksha mobile app' was recently launched by which of the following ministry?**

- A) Ministry of AYUSH
- B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

**147. For Safe Drinking Water Project in Himachal Pradesh which of the following organisation has approved USD 96.3 Million Loan?**

- A) World Bank
- B) UNDP
- C) IMF
- D) ADB

**148. For the 36th National Games which of the following state has signed an MoU with Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

**149. To allow the Tricolour to be hoisted day and night the central government has amended which part of the Flag Code of India?**

- A) Part I
- B) Part II
- C) Part III
- D) None of the Above

**150. Due to injury who among the following athletes has pulled out of Commonwealth Games 2022?**

- A) PV Sindhu
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Mirabai Chanu
- D) Kidambi Srikanth

## ANSWERS

**1. Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised a virtual event to celebrate 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25th June 2015.

**2. Correct Answer: B**

Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power has commissioned India's

largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a 350-acre water body.

**3. Correct Answer: B**

The government had increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the Agneepath scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022, and subsequently announced a slew of placatory steps like preference for them in central paramilitary forces.

**4. Correct Answer: D**

The public sector banking giant State Bank of India (SBI) has secured an in-principal approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an operations support subsidiary.

**5. Correct Answer: D**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business.

**6. Correct Answer: B**

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**10. Correct Answer: D**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business.

**11. Correct Answer: C**

One of the leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) of India, Mufin Finance Limited has received in-principal RBI approval for issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments.

**12. Correct Answer: A**

The World Bank has approved a \$250 million loan to support the Government of India's road safety programme for seven States under which a single accident reporting number will be set up to better manage post-crash events.

**13. Correct Answer: B**

Protean eGov Technologies Limited (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), an e-governance solutions company, and Indian digital payment platform PayNearby has announced a strategic partnership to offer PAN-related services.

**14. Correct Answer: B**

Pallonji Mistry, chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji group, passed away at his residence in Mumbai. He was 93. In 2016, Mistry was awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's top civilian awards.

**15. Correct Answer: A**

Every year National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on June 28 with the aim of creating



awareness among the public about insurance policies, the need for prudent financial planning and creating a safety net to fall back upon.

**16. Correct Answer: B**

An investment platform Pyse has launched India's first fractionally-owned solar power plant in Karnataka. The plant is set to be commissioned by the end of July.

**17. Correct Answer: D**

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has collaborated with Allianz Partners to launch its distinctive health insurance product 'Global Health Care'.

**18. Correct Answer: C**

Star Health and Allied Insurance Company has signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for distribution of its health insurance products

**19. Correct Answer: B**

Cashfree Payments has partnered with cross-border education payment services platform EasyTransfer to offer a faster, easier, and cheaper platform for Indian students to make fee payments to universities and educational institutions abroad.

**20. Correct Answer: D**

The board of directors of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. has approved the appointment of Akash M. Ambani, non-executive director, as chairman of the board.

**21. Correct Answer: B**

'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was launched by

Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and MoS Communications Devusinh Chauhan.

**22. Correct Answer: B**

The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on 30 June.

**23. Correct Answer: D**

Every year July 1 is observed as National Chartered Accountant Day. It is the day on which the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was formed in 1949.

**24. Correct Answer: C**

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma took oath as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

**25. Correct Answer: C**

Iran has launched a solid-fueled rocket named 'Zuljanah' into space.

**26. Correct Answer: B**

T-Hub, India's leading start-up catalyst has inaugurated the world's largest innovation campus in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**27. Correct Answer: C**

The capital city of the United Kingdom, London has ranked 1st as the Best City for Students as per the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023 released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

**28. Correct Answer: D**

Private lender Axis Bank in partnership with EazyDiner payment platform, has announced the launch of Dining Delights for the bank customers.

**29. Correct Answer: B**

FanCode has appointed Former team India coach and cricketer Ravi Shastri as its new brand ambassador.

**30. Correct Answer: C**

Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde took oath as Maharashtra Chief Minister after the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray from the chief minister post.

**31. Correct Answer: C**

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has tied up with education sector-focussed NBFC Avanse Financial Services to provide travel insurance to Indian students going abroad for higher education, a statement said.

**32. Correct Answer: A**

Domestic rating agency Crisil has lowered its real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.3 per cent in FY23 from 7.8 per cent estimated earlier.

**33. Correct Answer: B**

India managed to do all time high exports export worth US\$ 7.76 billion with volume of 13,69,264 MT of seafood, despite the several challenges in its major export markets caused by the Covid pandemic.

**34. Correct Answer: C**

Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Tanuja Nesari was awarded with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.

**35. Correct Answer: D**

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Director for Finance at Indian Oil Corporation, has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of India's largest gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd.

**36. Correct Answer: D**

Sini Shetty, 21, Born and brought up in Mumbai, hails from the state of Karnataka was crowned Femina Miss India 2022.

**37. Correct Answer: D**

Puducherry has declared a 'public health emergency' in Karaikal region, an outlying pocket of the Union Territory, following an outbreak of acute diarrhoeal cases.

**38. Correct Answer: A**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled statue of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh.

**39. Correct Answer: C**

BJP legislator Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker.

**40. Correct Answer: D**

T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog.

**41. Correct Answer: C**

The Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve, and Wildlife Sanctuary are situated in Bihar, close to the Nepal-India border, along the banks of the Gandak River. In the entire state of Bihar, it is the only National Park.

**42. Correct Answer: A**

Elsa, a tropical storm, has struck Cuba. More than 100,000 citizens of the nation left flood-prone locations along the storm's possible path. After then, it left Cuba and headed east toward Florida, passing by the city of Havana.

**43. Correct Answer: B**

Ayurveda dataset has now been made available on the Clinical Trials Registry-India CTRI Portal by the Union Ministry of AYUSH. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), both under the Ministry of AYUSH, have jointly established the Ayurveda Dataset of CTRI.

**44. Correct Answer: C**

The most recent CoWIN Global Conclave was held in India. The virtual conference was opened by Harsh Vardhan, minister of state for health. According to Dr. RS Sharma, CEO of the National Health Authority (NHA), around 50 countries have expressed interest in implementing CoWIN.

**45. Correct Answer: C**

India has been outperforming the global growth in market- capitalization for the last five years, at 14.7% annually against 13.25%. In the month of June, India's share of the world market capitalization rose to 2.60%, which was more than

the long-term average of 2.45%, as per media reports.

**46. Correct Answer: A**

The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry oversees the country's child protection services under the Mission Vatsalya umbrella programme. The Ministry published the scheme's rules. The Mission Vatsalya Project Approval Board (PAB), which will be presided over by the WCD Secretary, would decide whether to issue money to states after approving annual plans and financial proposals submitted by the states and UTs.

**47. Correct Answer: D**

The Central Government has given the Chhattisgarh Government an in-principal approval to move on with a USD 300 million school education project for the State. The initiative, which will be sponsored by the World Bank, has received in-principle permission from the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), which is part of the Union Finance Ministry.

**48. Correct Answer: B**

India has been chosen to serve on the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2022–2026 cycle of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). India has already participated in the ICH Committee on two separate occasions, from 2014 to 2018 and from 2006 to 2010. India will participate in two UNESCO committees: World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**49. Correct Answer: C**

Amitabh Kant, a former CEO of NITI Aayog, has been chosen to serve as India's new G-20 Sherpa in place of Piyush Goyal, the country's minister for Commerce, Industry, and Consumer Affairs. The G-20 will be led by India from December 1, 2022, until November 30, 2023. Meetings that will take place across the nation will be attended by the Sherpa.

**50. Correct Answer: B**

A virtual event on India Stack Knowledge Exchange was also planned as part of the continuing events for Digital India Week 2022. The Prime Minister introduced Indiastack.global, a single repository for all significant initiatives on India Stack. The Aadhaar system, the Digi Locker, the CoWin Platform, the Government e-Marketplace, and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission are just a few of the many e-governance technologies that the Indian government has chosen to make available to the rest of the world.

**51. Correct Answer: A**

According to the Archaeological Survey of India, a drainage system, homes with intricate layouts, and a roadway system on raised platforms have all been discovered during the most recent wave of excavations at the Rakhigarhi in Haryana's Hisar. The location is regarded as the largest Harappan-era site.

**52. Correct Answer: D**

The uncommon viral infection monkeypox has been identified in a patient in the United Kingdom (UK). Most cases of monkeypox are found in central and west Africa. Most of its infections are contagious for

two to four weeks, induce swelling in the lymph nodes, and result in skin rashes.

**53. Correct Answer: B**

A secret ballot was used by the Election committee to choose John Lee as the new chief executive of Hong Kong. Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, Lee will take office in place of outgoing Chief Executive Carrie Lam to begin a five-year tenure.

**54. Answer: C**

As per the recent notification by the Finance Ministry, sale of the Indian national flag, irrespective of whether machine made or of polyester, is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Hand-woven, hand-spun national flags made of cotton, silk, wool or Khadi were already exempt from GST.

**55. Correct Answer: B**

Carlos Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain, has won two Masters 1000 championships, including the Madrid Open. After defeating Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic in earlier rounds, Alcaraz defeated defending champion Alexander Zverev in the Madrid Open final.

**56. Correct Answer: C**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has virtually launched a three-day "Grand Hackathon" organised by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in collaboration with NABARD in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**57. Correct Answer: B**

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has resigned as Union Minister of Minority Affairs.

**58. Correct Answer: B**

Mohammed Barkindo, secretary general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has passed away. He was 63.

**59. Correct Answer: D**

Prakash Padukone, SM Krishna and Narayana Murthy has been selected for the inaugural Kempegowda International Award.

**60. Correct Answer: D**

Leader of Yesh Atid Party, Yair Lapid has been elected as the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.

**61. Correct Answer: A**

NTPC RE (NTPC REL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd. (GACL) to mutually explore the opportunities for setting up India's first commercial-scale green ammonia and green methanol project.

**62. Correct Answer: D**

In line with the further opening of allocation of Government business to Private Sector Banks by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Defence has assigned three Private Sector Banks (HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank and Axis Bank) to provide the Letter of Credit and Direct Bank Transfer business for overseas procurement by the Ministry.

**63. Correct Answer: A**

State Bank of India (SBI) has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme. Under this scheme, it will offer

various benefits and features to all serving and retired Air Force personnel and their families.

**64. Correct Answer: C**

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, has launched Quick Response (QR) code-enabled services for its customers. The service will allow customers to make premium payments online, view or download policy-related documents, switch funds as per their choice and do much more.

**65. Correct Answer: A**

Cognizant Technology Solutions has been selected as a technology provider by public sector insurer National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL) to accelerate and help manage its digital transformation.

**66. Correct Answer: D**

RBI has announced that it has cancelled the license of Shri Anand Co-operative Bank, Chinchwad, Pune as the lender does not have adequate capital and cannot pay its present depositors in full.

**67. Correct Answer: A**

GODI India has announced that it has become the first company in the country to receive Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its 21700 cylindrical NMC811 lithium-ion cells.

**68. Correct Answer: C**

R Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been elected President Designate of the Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII) for 2022-23, at its National Council meeting held in Delhi.

**69. Correct Answer: D**

Private non-life insurer SBI General Insurance has announced that it has appointed Paritosh Tripathi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 5.

**70. Correct Answer: C**

The 67-year-old, the Japan's longest-serving prime minister Shinzo Abe was killed after being shot while delivering a speech in the city of Nara, near Kyoto.

**71. Correct Answer: A**

The City Union Bank and Shriram General Insurance has signed an agreement for the distribution of Shriram General Insurance products through the bank's network of 727 branches across the country.

**72. Correct Answer: A**

José Eduardo dos Santos President of Angola for nearly 40 years has passed away recently. He was 79.

**73. Correct Answer: A**

Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has been assigned the charge of Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio.

**74. Correct Answer: C**

Swedish furniture retailer Ikea has appointed Murali Iyer as its new chief financial officer for its India business as current CFO Preet Dhupar moves into a global role within the wider business.

**75. Correct Answer: D**

Boris Johnson's turbulent tenure as UK Prime Minister came to an end after a historic party revolt over a series of ethics scandals forced him to step down.

**76. Correct Answer: A**

The panel will have three members -- Vijay Kumar Dev, State Election Commissioner, Delhi, who will be its chairman, Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

**77. Correct Answer: A**

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has collaborated with Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS) to co-create a Master's in Management Studies (MMS) programme in digital payments for its employees.

**78. Correct Answer: D**

SBI General Insurance has launched the Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that provides protection against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks.

**79. Correct Answer: B**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Helicopter Engines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a new joint venture intended to develop helicopter engines.

**80. Correct Answer: D**

The International Space Station has successfully ejected over 170 pounds of garbage (78 kgs) from station. NASA's Johnson Space Center developed a special bag that can hold all of the space station's garbage.

**81. Correct Answer: A**

Former NITI Aayog chief Amitabh Kant has been appointed G-20 Sherpa for the crucial year of presidency. He succeeds commerce minister Piyush Goel.

**82. Correct Answer: D**

India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**83. Correct Answer: A**

P Gopinathan Nair was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma award. He had participated in the freedom struggle.

**84. Correct Answer: B**

Young YouTuber Prarthna Batra's debut book 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' was launched by sporting icon Sakshi Malik.

**85. Correct Answer: C**

Senior bureaucrat R K Gupta has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. He comes in place of T Sreekanth.

**86. Correct Answer: A**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally-sponsored scheme "Mission Vatsalya" erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme, since 2009-10 for the welfare and rehabilitation of children.

**87. Correct Answer: B**

Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd and City Union Bank (CUB) have announced an alliance to offer life and health insurance solutions to the bank's consumers.

**88. Correct Answer: D**

Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia has partnered with Indian Institute of Science to set-up Nokia Center of Excellence in networked robotics at IISc Bengaluru.

**89. Correct Answer: B**

Peter Brook, a film director based in France since 1970s, was awarded Padma Shri in 2021 for his valuable contributions towards art.

**90. Correct Answer: D**

Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to initiate process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurating 'Bal Vatikas' at anganwadi kendras across the state to strengthen the pre-primary education system.

**91. Correct Answer: D**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has inaugurated a new census workstation at the Economics Lab of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

**92. Correct Answer: C**

The Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), and it ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries. In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.

**93. Correct Answer: C**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 in which Iceland has topped the list becoming the most gender equal country for the twelfth time in a row.

**94. Correct Answer: A**

Space tech startup Agnikul Cosmos has inaugurated India's first-ever facility named 'Rocket Factory-1' to manufacture 3D-printed rocket engines in Chennai.

**95. Correct Answer: A**

The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tool, 'PIVOT', that can predict cancer-causing genes in an individual.

**96. Correct Answer: D**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Deoghar airport and laid the foundation for 'Maha Vikas' project worth Rs 16,800 crore in Jharkhand.

**97. Correct Answer: A**

The Indian compound mixed team archery duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won a bronze medal by getting the better of their rivals from Mexico by one point at the World Games 2022 in Birmingham.

**98. Correct Answer: D**

Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has announced that the Dwarka Expressway, which will be India's first elevated urban expressway, will be operational by 2023.

**99. Correct Answer: B**

Nasscom Foundation along with Google has set up a call center named "DigiVaani Call Center" in collaboration with a not-for-profit body ISAP to help women farmers scale up their business.

**100. Correct Answer: A**

Luis Echeverria Alvarez, the former president of Mexico who served from 1970 to 1976, died at his home in Cuernavaca, the capital city of Morelos state located in south central Mexico at the age of 100.

**101. Correct Answer: D**

Singapore and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to promote greater investment and innovation in the Asia Pacific, including in areas such as liveable cities and fintech, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

**102. Correct Answer: C**

Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed technical integration with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department and has become the first private bank to fully integrate with the portal.

**103. Correct Answer: B**

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Sri Lanka's interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who



resigned after mass protests over the country's economic collapse.

**104. Correct Answer: B**

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has launched the trailer of a new serial 'Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha' in New Delhi. This serial is going to be telecast on Doordarshan from 14th August 2022.

**105. Correct Answer: D**

Nelson Mandela's birthday, the first democratically elected President of South Africa, is celebrated around the world on 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day.

**106. Correct Answer: C**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has announced that Kerala has now become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service.

**107. Correct Answer: D**

Jasprit Bumrah has regained number one ranking in ICC ODI Bowler Rankings 2022, while Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma retained their 3rd and 4th ranking respectively in ICC ODI Batting Rankings 2022

**108. Correct Answer: B**

Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to take 150 wickets in ODI cricket during the first India vs England ODI at the Kennington Oval. Shami took 80 matches to reach the mark.

**109. Correct Answer: B**

The All-India Senior Selection Committee of the BCCI has named the squad for the upcoming five-match T20I series against West Indies. Rohit Sharma will be leading the side while Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah are not in the squad.

**110. Correct Answer: C**

The BJP has retained Union minister Piyush Goyal as its leader in the Rajya Sabha, paving the way for him to continue as the Leader of the House following his election to Parliament for a third term.

**111. Correct Answer: C**

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has launched "Jagriti", a mascot for empowering consumers and generating awareness of their rights. Jagriti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights & addressing solutions to the problems faced by the consumers.

**112. Correct Answer: A**

The committee, headed by the defence secretary Ajay Kumar, will advise Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on measures for overall improvement in strengthening of internal oversight and risk management framework in various aspects of functioning of the ministry.

**113. Correct Answer: A**

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu has signed an agreement also known as 'Namsai Declaration' to end the decades-old border dispute between the two states. The two leaders agreed to

restrict the number of contested villages to 86 instead of 123.

**114. Correct Answer: D**

The oldest living city in the world Varanasi, has been declared the first Cultural and Tourism Capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022-23.

**115. Correct Answer: C**

Bank of India, along with pension fund regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), has launched a digital platform that will allow customers to open NPS accounts using mobile phones.

**116. Correct Answer: B**

Veteran filmmaker KP Kumaran has been chosen for the J C Daniel Award, Kerala's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema for the year 2021.

**117. Correct Answer: D**

The Indian Navy decommissioned INS Sindhudhvaj after serving for a glorious period of 35 years. The discharge ceremony was held at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

**118. Correct Answer: D**

Snapdeal is set to become the first e-commerce marketplace to debut on the government-led Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

**119. Correct Answer: B**

Shri Jayanti Prasad, a 1986 batch Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer, took charge as Whole-time

Member of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi.

**120. Correct Answer: B**

England all-rounder and Test captain Ben Stokes has announced his retirement from the One Day Internationals format. Stokes was a key part of England's 2019 Cricket World Cup winning team.

**121. Correct Answer: C**

Japan has secured the first rank among 199 countries on the "Henley Passport Index 2022", released by Henley & Partners.

**122. Correct Answer: A**

India has secured the 87th rank among 199 countries in the "Henley Passport Index 2022", released by Henley & Partners.

**123. Correct Answer: A**

Standard Chartered Bank has announced the launch of a co-branded credit card with EaseMyTrip, the second largest online travel tech platform in India.

**124. Correct Answer: B**

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and DBS Bank India have announced a strategic partnership to offer life insurance solutions to the bank's customers.

**125. Correct Answer: C**

India and Namibia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to reintroduce cheetahs in the country after nearly seven decades.

**126. Correct Answer: B**

India and Namibia have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization, for establishing the cheetah into the historical range in India.

**127. Correct Answer: C**

A year-and-a-half after he was appointed as Italy's unelected head of a unity government, Mario Draghi has resigned as prime minister.

**128. Correct Answer: C**

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended former Union Bank of India managing director Rajkiran Rai as the head of government-owned development finance institution (DFI).

**129. Correct Answer: C**

The 13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue was held in Berlin, Germany. The two-day informal ministerial meet was chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27).

**130. Correct Answer: C**

India's first indigenous human passenger pilot-less drone 'Varuna' was launched in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**131. Correct Answer: B**

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).

**132. Correct Answer: B**

15th president of India Droupadi Murmu had served as the 9th Governor of Jharkhand between 2015 and 2021.

**133. Correct Answer: D**

PM Narendra Modi has urged citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes between 13th and 15th August.

**134. Correct Answer: D**

Asia Cup 2022 was supposed to be held in Sri Lanka but due to the ongoing economic crisis, the event has been shifted to UAE.

**135. Correct Answer: B**

African swine fever has been reported from two farms at Mananthavady in Kerala's Wayanad district, officials said.

**136. Correct Answer: D**

The PMVVY or the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana is an LIC-led scheme which will provide fixed monthly pension to senior citizens for a period of 10 years.

**137. Correct Answer: D**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has trimmed India's economic growth forecast for current fiscal year to 7.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent as pandemic and war impact is weighing down alongside inflationary pressures.

**138. Correct Answer: D**

The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised the “Suraksha Manthan 2022”, on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at Jodhpur (Rajasthan).

**139. Correct Answer: A**

In the latest step in its ambitious space programme, China has launched the second module named ‘Wentian’ of three modules needed to complete its new space station.

**140. Correct Answer: C**

Max Verstappen of Red Bull extended his lead in the 2022 Formula 1 World Championship after scoring his seventh win of the season in the French Grand Prix.

**141. Correct Answer: A**

Andhra Pradesh state government has decided to implement the “Family Doctor Project” on a pilot basis in Padmanabham mandal of Visakhapatnam from August 2022.

**142. Correct Answer: C**

Indian grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram bags the 41st Villa de Benasque International Open chess tournament in Benasque, Spain.

**143. Correct Answer: B**

National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 across the country every year.

**144. Correct Answer: C**

Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has been appointed as the prime minister of Kuwait.

**145. Correct Answer: B**

Faisal Farooqui authored a new book on the legendary actor Dilip Kumar titled “Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend”.

**146. Correct Answer: A**

Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the Bal Raksha mobile app which aims at creating awareness of paediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents.

**147. Correct Answer: D**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$96.3 million loan to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in Himachal Pradesh.

**148. Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat State Government and the Gujarat Olympic Association (GOA) for the joint conduct of the 36th National Games.

**149. Correct Answer: B**

Clause (xi) of Para 2.2 of Part II of the Flag Code of India 2002 has been revised to allow the national flag of India to be flown during the day and night. Earlier, the tricolour could only be hoisted between sunrise and sunset.

**150. Correct Answer: B**

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra made the big decision to pull out of Commonwealth Games 2022, which began in Birmingham on July 28 due to injury.

# SECTION 3



# Detailed Analysis of Important Events



## Economics

### Mayurbhanj's superfood 'Ant Chutney'



The Kai Chutney made from Red Ants by the tribals of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha are seeking a Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

#### Ant Chutney

- In spite of this, weaver ants are well-liked by the populace, primarily among the tribes,
- This cuisine is known to strengthen the immune system and ward off infections since it is high in proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B-12, iron, magnesium, potassium, salt, copper, fibre, and 18 amino acids.
- The GI tag, when used under the food category, will aid in the development of a defined hygiene protocol for the preparation of Kai chutney for general use.
- Labels indicating geographic origin help local items stand out and be more valuable, and they also promote neighbourhood businesses.

#### How is the Chutney prepared?

- *Oecophylla smaragdina*, or weaver ants, are a common sight all year long in Mayurbhanj.
- They use host tree leaves to build their nests.
- Tribal people sell the chutney in rural marketplaces after combining and crushing salt, ginger, garlic, and chiles.

#### What is Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)?



India's services firms saw growth in new business and output accelerate to a 11-year high in June, as per the survey-based S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers Index (PMI).

#### What is the news?

- The index rose to 59.2 last month, from 58.9 in May, signalling a strengthening in demand across the services sector, which had borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- A measure of business activity in both the manufacturing and service sectors is the PMI.
- It is a survey-based measurement that inquires about changes in respondents' perceptions of various important business variables from the previous month.
- A composite index is created after it is individually calculated for the manufacturing and services sectors.
- IHS Markit compiles the PMI using data from surveys given to purchasing managers in a panel of about 400 manufacturers.

### How is the PMI derived?

- From a series of qualitative inquiries, the PMI is derived.
- When asked if important metrics like output, new orders, company expectations, and employment were stronger than the previous month, executives from a sizable sample of hundreds of companies are asked to score these metrics.

### How does one read the PMI?

- A number over 50 indicates more commercial activity. Any number under 50 indicates contraction.
- The expansion or contraction is inversely correlated with the distance from this midpoint. The PMI can also be compared to data from the prior month to determine the rate of expansion.
- The economy is growing more quickly if the number is higher than it was the prior month.

- It is growing more slowly if it is lower than it was the prior month.

### What are its implications for the economy?

- The PMI is often made public at the beginning of the month, far in advance of the availability of the majority of the official data on manufacturing, industrial output, and GDP growth.
- As a result, it is regarded as a reliable leading predictor of economic activity.
- The factory expansion tracked by the PMI is regarded by economists as a reliable indication of industrial output, for which official numbers are given later.
- The index is also utilised by many central banks when deciding on interest rates.

## Govt. extends RoSCTL Scheme for Garment Exports

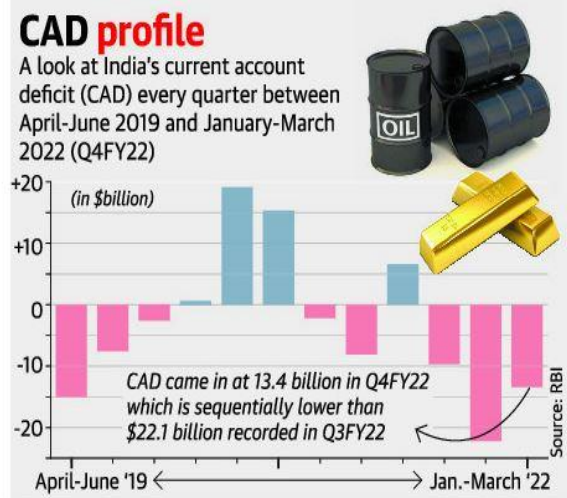


The RoSCTL scheme will continue for export of garments/apparels, and made-ups till March 31, 2024, according to a press release from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

### What is RoSCTL Scheme?

- Refund of State and Central Taxes and Levies is referred to as RoSCTL (RoSCTL).

- It is an export incentive granted in the form of sellable and transferable duty credit scrips (certificates) based on the export's value.
- It takes the place of the Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) programme, a financial incentive programme where Customs deposited the rebate straight into the bank account of the exporter.
- This programme was perceived as India's response to the growing external pressure on the export subsidies offered by the Indian government.



### Why was this scheme introduced?

- Particularly the US has been quite loud in calling for the end of export incentive programmes like the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- They had violated the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, according to the ruling.

### Why was this scheme extended to textile sector?

- The government has approved the continuance of the programme in order to increase exports and create jobs in the textile industry.
- The programme attempts to lower their expensive logistics and other costs so they can compete on a global scale.

### Increase in Current Account Deficit (CAD)

The Finance Ministry has asserted that the current account deficit (CAD) could, however, deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits.

### What is Current Account Deficit (CAD)?

- The balance of payments, which is the accounting of exchanges or transactions between entities in a nation and the rest of the world, includes a current account as a crucial element.
- Included in this are a country's net commerce in goods and services, net earnings from international investments, such as interest and dividends, and net transfer payments, including remittances and foreign aid.
- While the trade balance refers to the net balance of exports and imports of products or merchandise trade, a CAD occurs when the value of imported goods and services exceeds the value of exports.

### Components of Current Account



Current Account Deficit (CAD) = Trade Deficit + Net Income + Net Transfers

## (1) Trade Deficit

- Trade Deficit = Imports – Exports
- When a nation imports more products and services than it exports, it is said to have a trade imbalance.
- A negative balance of trade in which a nation's imports exceed its exports is known as a "trade deficit."
- An outflow of domestic cash to foreign markets is the definition of a trade deficit.

## (2) Net Income

- The country has a net income imbalance when the money from foreign investments is more than what the citizens have saved.
- The economy of a nation can expand thanks to this foreign investment. However, if overseas investors fear they won't see a return in a timely manner, they will stop investment.
- The following factors are used to calculate net income:
  1. Payments made to foreigners in the form of dividends of domestic stocks.
  2. Interest payments on bonds.
  3. Wages paid to foreigners working in the country.

## (3) Net Transfers

- In Net Transfers, foreign residents send back money to their home countries. It

also includes government grants to foreigners.

- It Includes Remittances, Gifts, Donation etc

## How Current Account Transaction does takes place?

- While understanding the Current Account Deficit in detail, it is important to understand what the current account transactions are.
- Current account transactions are transactions that require foreign currency.
- Following transactions with from which component these transactions belong to :
  1. **Component 1** : Payments connection with Foreign trade – Import & Export
  2. **Component 2** : Interest on loans to other countries and Net income from investments in other countries
  3. **Component 3** : Remittances for living expenses of parents, spouse and children residing abroad, and Expenses in connection with Foreign travel, Education and Medical care of parents, spouse and children

## What has been the recent trend?

- CAD decreased from 2.6 percent of GDP in Q3 FY 2021-22 (\$22.2 billion) to 1.5 percent of GDP in Q4 FY 2021-22, or \$13.4 billion.
- From \$59.75 million in Q3 FY2021-22, the value of goods imported and exported decreased to \$54.48 million in Q4 FY2021-22.
- On the other hand, thanks to the strong performance of the computer and business

services, net service receipts increased both sequentially and yearly.

- Indians sending money home also increased.

## What are the reasons for the current account deficit?

- The import bill has been under pressure due to rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain interruptions, and surging global crude oil and commodities costs.
- The pressure on the trade imbalance has increased as a result of price increases for edible oils, fertilisers, coal, and natural gas.
- However, as the world's demand has increased, so have merchandise exports.

## How will a large CAD affect the economy?

- A high CAD will increase the demand for foreign currency, which will cause the domestic currency to weaken.
- By luring capital inflows and operating a surplus in capital accounts through higher foreign direct investments, nations balance their current account deficits (CAD) (FDI).
- However, deteriorating CAD will put pressure on capital account inflow.
- However, if an increase in the import cost is brought on by imports for technical advancement, it will benefit long-term growth.

## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)



Andhra Pradesh has decided to rejoin the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from the ongoing kharif season.

## Why in news?

- Six states, including Andhra Pradesh, have halted the scheme's implementation over the past four years.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Telangana are the remaining five.

## What is PMFBY?

- Launched in February 2016, the PMFBY. The Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of managing it.
- It offers a thorough insurance coverage against crop failure, assisting in stabilising the farmers' income.
- General insurance companies are in charge of carrying it out.

## Its functioning

- From seeding to post-harvest, PMFBY covers all non-preventable natural risks for farmers.
- For kharif crops, farmers are only need to pay a maximum of 2% of the total premium of the insured amount, 1.5% for rabi food and oilseed crops, and 5% for commercial and horticultural crops.

- The Union and state governments split the balance premium 50/50, and in the case of northeastern states, 90/10.

## Farmers covered

- All farmers who have an insurable interest in the crop and are growing one of the notified crops in a notified region during the season are eligible.
- Prior to Kharif 2020, the following groups of farmers were required to enrol in the programme:
  1. Farmers in the notified area who possess a Crop Loan account/KCC account (called as Loanee Farmers) to whom credit limit is sanctioned/renewed for the notified crop during the crop season. and
  2. Such other farmers whom the Government may decide to include from time to time.

## Risks covered under the scheme

- For yield losses resulting from non-preventable hazards including natural fire and lightning, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, and tornado, comprehensive risk insurance is offered.
- Drought, dry spells, pests/diseases, flood, inundation, and landslide risks will also be covered.
- For crops that are kept in "cut & spread" form to dry in the field after harvest, post-harvest losses coverage will be offered for a maximum of 14 days after harvest.
- For some specific issues, such as loss or damage brought on by the occurrence of localised risks like landslides, hailstorms, and

inundations affecting solitary farms in the warned region, would also be covered.

## Why many states has opted out?

The opting-out states had mentioned several reasons:

- The programme ought to be voluntary.
- States should be given the choice to select the risks covered, and the programme should be available to all countries.
- The state should be given the choice to use its own E-crop database, which is an application the state government uses to gather data on crops.
- Many state governments favoured zero premiums for farmers, which meant that the federal and state governments should cover all costs.
- The State Government was disqualified because it failed to pay the State Share of the premium subsidy by the deadlines required under the seasonality discipline.
- West Bengal's refusal to implement the PMFBY is entirely "political," as the state wishes to do so without using Pradhan Mantri's name.

## How was the scheme structured, and what has changed since?

- The Center amended the programme in February 2020 to make it optional for all farmers. Initially, the programme was mandatory for loanee farmers.

- States and UTs are now free to provide additional subsidies on top of the regular subsidies funded by their budgets.
- The Center decided in February 2020 to cap its premium subsidy at 30% for irrigated areas and 25% for unirrigated areas (from the existing unlimited). There was no upper limit in the past.
- The system broadly covers food crops (cereals, millets, and pulses), oilseeds, and yearly commercial / annual horticultural crops.

## GST Slab Changes



Customers will have to pay a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packed, labelled food items such as atta, paneer and curd, besides hospital rooms with rents above ₹5,000.

### What is GST?

- GST, which went into effect in India on July 1, 2017, is a comprehensive indirect tax for the whole nation.
- It is assessed at the time of supply and varies according on the place of consumption.
- For instance, the revenue from GST collection is attributed to the state of

consumption (state B) and not the state of production if a good is created in state A but used in state B. (state A).

- GST, a consumption-based tax, caused states with significant manufacturing industries to lose money.

### What are GST Slabs?

- Over 1300 items and over 500 services are included in India's 4 main GST slabs.
- There are five general tax rates: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28 %; in addition, a cess is imposed on select "sin" commodities in addition to the 28 % tax.
- The GST Council reviews the products included in each slab rate on a regular basis to make adjustments for changes in market conditions and business needs.
- The revised structure makes sure that necessities are subject to lower tax categories and that luxury goods and services are subject to higher GST rates.
- Demerit goods, including alcoholic beverages, cars, and tobacco products, are taxed at a rate of 28 percent plus an additional GST compensation cess.

### Why rationalize GST slabs?

- From a company' perspective, there are simply too many tax rate slabs, which are further exacerbated by anomalies in the duty structure throughout their supply chains, where some inputs are taxed at a higher rate than the finished good.
- These rates are excessive and are not necessarily a Good and Simple Tax.

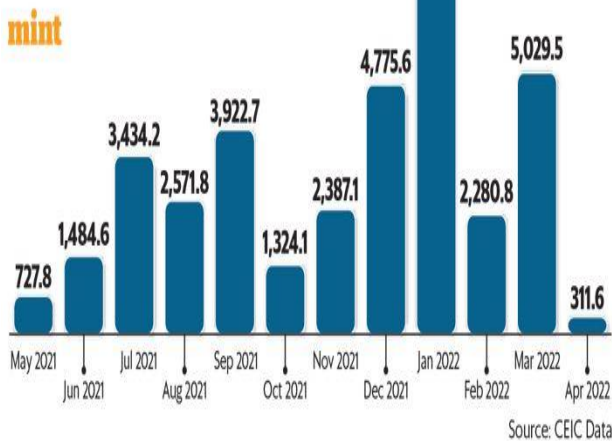
- The effective GST rate has decreased from the initial revenue-neutral rate of 15.5 percent to 11.6 percent after the implementation of the GST regime in July 2017.
- If the GST rates of 12 and 18 percent are combined into a tax rate that is less than 18 percent, revenue may be lost.

## What are External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)?

### Rise and shine

India's external commercial borrowing will have to rise to help boost the country's forex reserve.

External commercial borrowing  
(in \$ million)



The Reserve Bank of India has relaxed norms for companies raising external commercial borrowings (ECBs), as part of a set of measures to stem the slide in the rupee.

### What are ECBs taken by Indian companies?

- ECBs are commercial loans that qualified resident entities can obtain from a

recognised non-resident entity outside of India.

- ECBs can take the form of loans, bonds convertible into foreign currency, bonds exchangeable for foreign currency, buyer's credit, supplier's credit, and more.
- Either the automated method, in which cases are reviewed by the Authorized Category Dealer, or the approval route, in which borrowers are required to submit their requests to the RBI through their authorised dealers, are options for raising ECBs.
- Borrowers are required to abide by rules including minimum maturities, maximum all-in costs, end uses, etc.

### What is the relaxation offered by the RBI?

- RBI earlier had raised borrowing limit under the automatic route from \$750 million or its equivalent per financial year to \$1.5 bn up till up to 31 December, 2022.

### Why such move?

- Increasing the availability of foreign exchange reserves was the goal.
- This will thereafter stop the swift depreciation of the rupee that has been occurring over the past few months.

### What clarity do foreign lenders want from RBI?

- Lenders are interested in learning whether domestic or foreign agencies must rate the investment grade.

- The number of possible borrowers would be constrained if it were only by international agencies.
- This is due to the possibility that companies with high domestic ratings may not have met the criteria for investment grade when rated by external organisations.

## Why do Indian firms go for ECBs?

- Low cost: Companies can borrow money from other countries at lower interest rates thanks to ECBs.
- They are also a way to borrow a lot of money for a really long time with long-term payback terms.
- Overcoming exchange rate fluctuations: Additionally, borrowing in foreign currencies allows businesses to pay for the import of machinery and other expenses, negating the effects of changing exchange rates.
- Long-term profitability: ECBs can help companies become more profitable by diversifying the investor base and making lower-cost financing available.
- Better credit ratings: ECB interest rates also depend on how well-rated a country is on the global market.

## What are the risks for firms raising ECBs?

- While businesses are drawn to ECBs because of their lower interest rates, the borrower's level of comfort relies on how stable the currency rate is.
- In comparison to what was calculated when the ECB facility was requested, the rupee's

depreciation will increase the burden of debt servicing.

- Therefore, in order to cover the exchange rate risk, the companies may have to pay hedging charges (an sum equivalent to the total costs, fees, and expenses).

## India's Defence Exports have grown up 7x: PM



Our defence exports have increased seven times in the last eight years, informed the Prime Minister. We had achieved defence exports worth ₹13,000 crore and of this 70% was from the private sector.

## Why in news?

- The Indian Defence sector, the second largest armed force is at the cusp of revolution.

## India's Defence Exports

- India has made a variety of military equipment available for purchase, including artillery weapons, tanks, radars, helicopters, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), warships, and patrol vessels.

- The country's defence exports surged by a startling 700 percent between 2016–17 and 2018–19, from 1,521 to 10,745 crore.

### **Steps taken by the Centre to boost defence production**

- Relaxation of licencing: Since 2014, measures have been announced to increase exports, including streamlined licencing for the defence industry, loosened export restrictions, and the issuance of certificates of no objection.
- Lines of Credit: The Ministry of External Affairs has enabled Lines of Credit for countries to acquire defence products. Specific incentives were provided under the foreign trade policy.
- A draught of the Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy 2020 was also released by the Defence Ministry, which is a policy advance.
- Indigenization lists: On the home front, the government released two "positive indigenization lists" containing 209 items that cannot be imported in an effort to promote indigenous manufacture.
- Budgetary allocation: In addition, a portion of the defence budget's capital expenditures has been set aside for purchases from domestic manufacturers.
- Defence Industrial Corridors: The government has also announced the creation of two specialised corridors in the states of Tennessee and Uttar Pradesh to serve as hubs for the production of defence

goods that make use of already-existing resources like infrastructure and labour.

- Long-term goal: By 2025, the government wants to have a \$25 billion economy, \$5 billion of which will come from the export of goods and services related to aerospace and defence.
- The government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" or Self-Reliant India strategy has designated the defence and aerospace sector as a focal area.

### **Issues retarding defence exports**

- Over-reliance on the public sector: India is home to four businesses that rank in the top 100 global arms producers, including the Indian Ordnance Factory, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Delays in policy: Over 200 defence purchases totaling Rs 4 trillion have been approved by the government in the last few years, but most of them are still in the very early stages of processing.
- Critical Technologies are lacking The inability to manufacture significant subsystems and components, poor design capability in key technologies, and insufficient R&D expenditure are obstacles to domestic manufacturing.
- Long gestation: Establishing a manufacturing base requires a lot of money and technology, and it takes time. By then, products become obsolete due to emerging innovations.

- Unease in conducting business: The growth of domestic defence manufacture is hampered by burdensome compliance requirements, strict labour restrictions, and a shortage of skills.
- different jurisdictions: India's ability to manufacture defence products is hampered by the Ministry of Industrial Promotion and Ministry of Defense's conflicting responsibilities.
- Low quality: In a select few instances, the higher indigenization is mostly related to the low-end technology.
- FDI Policy: The prior 49 percent FDI cap was insufficient to convince international manufacturing companies to establish bases in India.
- R&D Lacunae: Giving lip service to technology investment by making insignificant allocations is a good indicator of how seriously we take research and development.
- Lack of expertise: Our institutions are lacking in engineering and research capacity. It brings up the necessity of a greater industry-academic interface once more.

## Way forward

- Reducing reliance on imports: According to a 2019 SIPRI analysis, India was the world's second-biggest arms importer from 2014 to 2018, relinquishing the long-held title of the greatest importer to Saudi Arabia.
- Security Imperative: Indigenization in the armed forces is essential for maintaining national security. It preserves the

technological know-how and promotes the innovation and spin-off technologies that frequently result from it.

- Economic boost: Defense indigenoussness can aid in the development of a sizable sector that includes both large and small producers.
- Employment creation: The production of defence goods will result in the development of satellite industries, which in turn will open up employment prospects.

## What is Transition Tax Credit?



Taxpayers who had missed out on getting the benefit of transitional tax credits during India's switchover to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime five years ago, will now get a fresh window to avail them.

## What is Transitional Tax Credit?

- A tax credit is a part of a business's tax payment that can be used to reduce a future tax liability.
- Businesses had to transfer the credit that had been on their books when India switched to the GST regime in 2017.
- Therefore, under GST, the closing balance under the previous tax system would change to the opening credit balance.



- A one-time transition of credit was permitted in India as it transitioned from the previous indirect tax system to the GST.
- In other words, businesses could deduct a portion of the taxes they had already paid under the previous tax system from their potential GST obligations.
- Numerous businesses asserted that they had merely forgotten to submit their transitional credit claims.

## Why in news?

- The revenue authorities are mandated to make such credits possible by the Supreme Court.
- Hundreds of GST assesseees who had previously been unable to take advantage of such credits are likely to gain from the shift.
- They will have a two-month opportunity in September and October to make their claim.

## What is the Controversy over GST levies on Food?



From July 18, a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been levied on several food items and grains that are sold in a pre-packed, labelled form even if they are not branded.

## What is the news?

- So far, these items, which include curd, lassi, buttermilk, puffed rice, wheat, pulses, oats, maize and flour, were exempted from the GST net.
- The fresh tax levies have attracted an outcry from traders as well as consumers.

## What is GST?

- GST, which went into effect in India on July 1, 2017, is a comprehensive indirect tax for the whole nation.
- It is assessed at the time of supply and varies according on the place of consumption.
- For instance, the revenue from GST collection is attributed to the state of consumption (state B) and not the state of production if a good is created in state A but used in state B. (state A).
- GST, a consumption-based tax, caused states with significant manufacturing industries to lose money.

## What are GST Slabs?

- Over 1300 items and over 500 services are included in India's 4 main GST slabs.
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- The GST Council reviews the products included in each slab rate on a regular basis to make adjustments for changes in market conditions and business needs.

- The revised structure makes sure that necessities are subject to lower tax categories and that luxury goods and services are subject to higher GST rates.
- Demerit goods, including alcoholic beverages, cars, and tobacco products, are taxed at a rate of 28 percent plus an additional GST compensation cess.

### How did the rate hikes come about?

- The GST Council authorised the 5% tax on unbranded packaged food items.
- Bank checks, maps, atlases, hotel rooms costing up to \$1,000 per night, and hospital room leases exceeding \$5,000 per day are a few additional things that have lost their tax-exempt status.
- Over 25 kg of pre-packaged goods would not be subject to GST.

### Why such move?

- This action was a part of a larger series of GST structure adjustments that eliminated tax exclusions and reduced tax rates.
- The GST, which at the time of its introduction five years ago, was predicated on levying a "revenue-neutral" rate of 15.5 percent, had been debated by the Centre and the States as a means of raising revenues.
- When sold loose, all impacted foods, including wheat, legumes, rice, curd, and lassi, will be free from GST.

### What has the government said on the issue?

- FM has criticised misconceptions regarding the GST imposed on food items and refuted

claims that the Center acted alone in enforcing them.

- According to her, the 5 percent fee was necessary to stop tax leakages and was approved by all States, not just "one member" of the GST Council.
- When the GST was implemented, branded cereals, pulses, and flour were subject to a GST rate of 5%.
- Later, this was changed to only tax goods that were sold under registered brands or brands for which the providers had not waived an enforceable right.
- Due to "rampant misuse" by reputable manufacturers and brand owners as a result of this tax exemption, revenues gradually decreased.

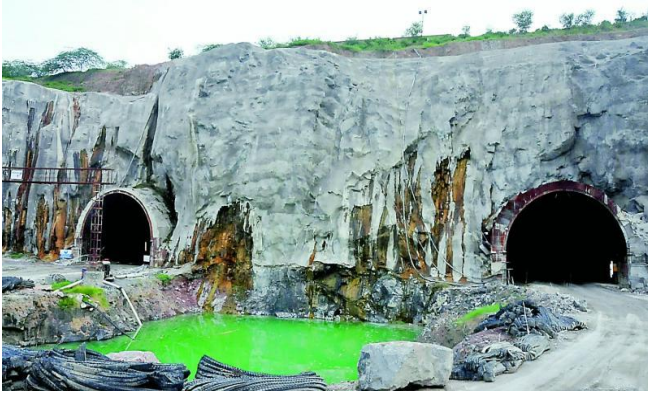
### Supreme Court orders status quo on Kaleshwaram Project expansion



The Supreme Court has ordered status quo on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) after it was told the Telangana government was increasing

the capacity of the project without any environmental clearances.

## Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)



- The Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, in Telangana, KLIP is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River.
- The confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari rivers is the site of the largest multi-stage lift irrigation project in the world as of right now.
- The Wardha, Painganga, and Wainganga rivers, along with other smaller tributaries, meet at the Pranahita River to form the subcontinent's seventh-largest drainage basin.
- Since its main route passes through thick woods and other ecologically delicate areas like wildlife sanctuaries, it is still untapped.

## Grandeur of the project

- The Colorado lift system in America and the Great Manmade River in Egypt are now the two largest lift projects in the world.
- These plans have horsepower capacity and took more than three decades to complete.

- In terms of capacity, the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project, an Indian lift scheme, has now surpassed all other projects worldwide.

## Key facts associated

- KLIP, which is being built across the Godavari River, will raise the water by half a kilometre.
- It is intended to meet the drinking water demands of 70% of the state, irrigate 45 lakh acres for two crops in a year, and serve industrial needs.
- The Rs 80,500 crore project, which was said to be the largest of its kind to be finished in the shortest amount of time, had its foundation stone placed in 2016.
- The government intends to pump two billion cubic feet (TMC) per day of Godavari water from the Medigadda barrage.
- The 1,832 km water supply route, 1,531 km gravity canal, 203 km tunnel routes, 20 lifts, 19 pump buildings, and 19 reservoirs with a storage capacity of 141 TMCs are all included in the project, which is dubbed an engineering marvel.
- In the first phase, 2 TMC of water must be pumped every day using about 4,992 MW of power. From the following year, 7,152 MW will be needed to lift 3 TMC.

## How important is KLIP to Telangana?

- Farmers in Telangana will be able to harvest numerous crops with a year-round supply of water thanks to the initiative, whereas in the past they were reliant on the rains, which frequently led to crop failures.

- Due to improved irrigation systems and a prolonged monsoon, Telangana farmers have already delivered big rabi crops of paddy and maize this year.
- KLIS includes a number of areas where there has historically been a lack of rainfall and where the groundwater is fluoridated.
- In addition to irrigation, one of the project's primary components is the provision of drinking water to a number of towns, villages, and the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
- In order to provide drinking water to every household in villages, Mission Bhagiratha uses a significant amount of water from the KLIS and a smaller amount from projects on the River Krishna.
- The state's freshwater fishing sector is flourishing.

## Issues with the Project

- The Telangana government subsequently altered the project's design to improve its capacity, the NGT has noted.
- Large swaths of forest area and other property were taken over and vast infrastructure was developed, having a negative effect on the environment, in order to increase its capacity to pump 3 TMC water from 2 TMC.
- More storage space is undoubtedly needed for increased water extraction, which also has an impact on the Godavari River's hydrology and riverine environment.

- The relevant statutory authorities must look into such matters.

## India's first Global Bullion Exchange unveiled



Prime Minister has launched India's first International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Gandhinagar.

### What is Bullion?

- Bullion is the term for high purity physical forms of gold and silver that are frequently stored as bars, ingots, or coins.
- It is frequently kept by central banks as reserves or held by institutional investors, and it is occasionally regarded as legal money.

### When was the IIBX announced?

- The Finance Minister announced the opening of India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) at International Financial Services Center (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar during her speech on the 2020 budget.
- For the trading of precious metals, such as gold and silver, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion

Exchange) Regulations, 2020, were announced in December 2020.

- The bullion exchange, clearing corporation, depository, and vaults are also covered by these regulations.

## What is the IIBX?

- In the 1990s, India for the first time liberalised the importation of gold through designated banks and agencies.
- The ability to directly import gold through IIBX has now been granted to qualifying qualified jewellers in India.
- Jewelers will need to do this by signing up as a trading member or a customer of an existing trade member.
- The exchange has also put in place the infrastructure needed to keep actual gold and silver.
- To position India as a major regional hub for bullion flows, the exchange, which will trade in physical gold and silver, aspires to be built along the lines of the Shanghai Gold Exchange and Borsa Istanbul.

## How will it work?

- The idea of setting this up is to make it possible for commodities to be traded on an exchange.
- Since this is an international exchange, US dollars may also be used in transactions.
- India has established itself as one of Asia's major trading centres.

- International players will be glad to employ our vaulting services due to IIBX's affordable pricing.
- In addition, because this is a free trade zone, no duties will be paid.

## What was the practice up until now?

- Gold is currently imported into India on a consignment basis into various cities by certain banks and organisations sanctioned by the RBI, where it is then provided to traders and jewellers.
- For handling, storage, and other services, the banks and other organisations charge the gold exporter a fee. When selling the gold to domestic customers, they also charge a premium.
- Up until the end user, the buyer transfers this fee along the value chain.

## What change did IIBX bring?

- With the IIBX becoming operational today, qualified domestic buyers can, through a branch in Gift City, purchase the bars and coins.
- This purchase can be done from an international supplier who is a member of the IIBX.

## What is the advantage of an exchange?

- Bullion is made accessible across special economic zones (SEZs) in vaults that have been authorised by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) through the dis-intermediation of

transactions through an anonymously traded exchange platform.

- This indicates that the expansion of IIBX extends beyond GIFT City to other national jewellery manufacturing clusters.
- A qualified jeweller who has been granted permission to import gold through IIBX, or a jeweller who works with an IIBX member, may browse the stock that is currently available and place an order.
- This will encourage jewellers to manage their inventories just-in-time.
- Additionally, it will increase pricing and order sequencing transparency, eliminating any potential for undue supplier, importing, or logistics agency bias.

- So far, 64 big jewellers have come onboard and more applications are in the pipelines.
- Some of the big names include Malabar Gold Pvt Ltd, Titan Company Ltd, Bangalore Refinery Pvt Ltd, RBZ Jewellers Pvt Ltd, Zaveri and Company Pvt Ltd.

**What are the new RBI guidelines for importing gold?**

- Banks may now allow qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for import of gold through IIBX in compliance to the extant Foreign Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act.
- According to the RBI, all payments by qualified jewellers for imports of gold through IIBX shall be made through the exchange mechanism as approved by IFSCA.

**Which jewellers have come on board?**

**Environment & Diversity**

**Species in news: Chenkurinji**



This newscard is an excerpt from the original article published in The Hindu.

**Chenkurinji**

- One species that is exclusive to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is chenkurinji (*Gluta travancorica*).
- The tree, which is a member of the Anacardiaceae family, was once widely distributed in the hills on the southern side of the Aryankavu Pass in Kerala's Kollam district.
- The Chenkurinji (*Gluta travancorica*), a species unique to the Agasthyamala

Biosphere Reserve, is where the name Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary comes from.

## Why in news?

- It is extremely vulnerable to climate change, and the species' current health is fairly poor with poor regeneration capacity.
- Although there appear to be enough of the tree, the majority are not productive, leading to a downward trend in its population.
- Old trees with weak flowering and fruiting rates make up the majority of the trees.
- Despite the fact that blossoming typically takes place in January, the species has recently revealed a tendency to delay the process due to climate change.

## Significance of Chenkurinji

- It is reported to have medicinal properties and is used to lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.

## Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986



The Union Environment Ministry proposes to soften the provisions of the EP Act (EPA) by replacing a clause that provides for imprisoning violators with one that only requires them to pay a fine.

## Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986

- The EP Act was passed in accordance with Article 253 of the Constitution, which gives the Center the authority to pass legislation to implement foreign accords that the nation has signed.
- The Act's goal is to put the decisions of the UN Conference on the Human Environment into practise.
- They deal with safeguarding and enhancing the human environment as well as mitigating risks to people, other living things, plants, and property.
- The Bhopal Gas Tragedy served as the backdrop for its 1986 staging.
- The Act last underwent revision in 1991.

## Why this Act?

- The Act, which functions as a "umbrella" piece of legislation, has given India's environmental control system a foundation.
- In addition to outlawing certain activities in coastal regions and eco-sensitive areas, it encompasses all significant industrial and infrastructure activity.
- The Act also outlines how various federal and state agencies established by other environmental laws, such the Water Act and the Air Act, will coordinate their efforts.

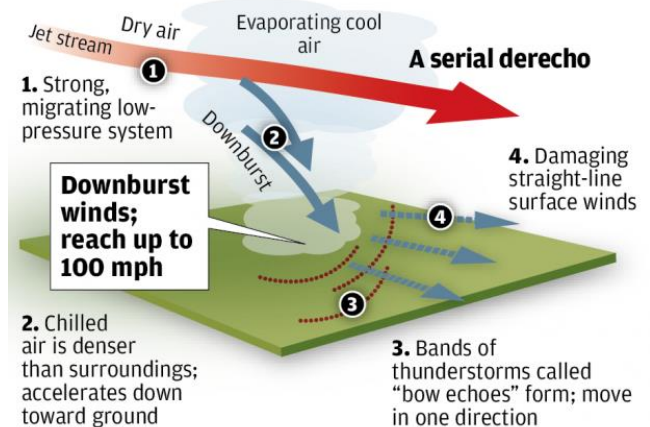
## Key provisions

- Procedures for establishing standards for the emission or discharge of environmental pollutants are outlined in the Environment (Protection) Rules.

- Controlling the generation, collection, treatment, import, storage, and handling of hazardous waste is the goal of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989.
- The Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Rules establish an authority to inspect once a year and define the terminology used in this context.
- The Cells Rules, adopted in 1989, were created to safeguard the environment, the natural world, and human health in relation to the use of microbes and gene technology.

## Coming straight at you

A derecho is a widespread and fast moving line of severe straight-line winds and bands of violent thunderstorms.



SOURCE: National Weather Service, NOAA

MCT

- A derecho is a broad, persistent, straight-line windstorm that is accompanied by a band of showers or thunderstorms that are moving quickly.
- The phrase "la derecha," which means "straight" in Spanish, is where the name originates.
- Straight-line storms are thunderstorms without rotating winds, unlike tornadoes.
- A derecho, a warm-weather phenomena, usually strikes in June and July but can happen at any time of year starting in May.
- In contrast to other storm systems like tornadoes or hurricanes, they are uncommon.

## Why does the sky turn green during the derecho?

- Because of the interaction between light and the enormous amount of water that severe thunderstorms contain, the sky appears "green."

## Derecho: A storm that turned the sky green in the US



States of Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois in the US were hit by a storm system called a Derecho which turned the skies green.

## What is a Derecho?



- Due to the large raindrops and hail scattering everything but the blue wavelengths, only blue light can pass through the storm cloud.
- The red-yellow of the afternoon or evening sun then interacts with this blue to create green.

## Are there different types of derechos?

They fall into three categories – progressive, serial and hybrid.

1. A brief line of thunderstorms that may cover hundreds of miles in a relatively limited route are linked to progressive derecho. It is a summertime occurrence.
2. On the other hand, a serial derecho features a long and wide squall line that covers a considerable area. Typically, it takes place in the spring or fall.
3. Progressive and serial derechos both have characteristics of hybrid derechos.

## Where do derechos usually occur?

- In the eastern and central sections of the country, they are most common.
- Derechos have been observed in other parts of the world as well.
- The country of Russia had its first derecho in 2010.
- Additionally, they recently stormed through Bulgaria and Poland. They also swept through Germany and Finland.

## What are Cloudbursts?



At least eight people have died after a cloudburst occurred at the Amarnath Cave Shrine near Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

## What is a Cloudburst?

- Cloudbursts are localised, intense downpour occurrences that last only a short while.
- The IMD describes it as a weather phenomena that occurs when unexpected precipitation exceeds 100 mm/h over a 20 to 30 square km geographic area.

## What causes Cloudburst?

- The climatic parameters causing the cloudburst over the Kedarnath region were examined in a paper that was released last year.
- They analysed the relative humidity, wind direction, wind speed, temperature, rainfall, cloud water content, cloud percentage, cloud particle radius, cloud mixing ratio, total cloud cover, and atmospheric pressure before, during, and after the cloudburst.
- The findings indicated that the maximum relative humidity and cloud cover occurred during the cloudburst, which was accompanied by low temperatures and calm winds.

- It is anticipated that as a result of this circumstance, a significant number of clouds may rapidly condense and produce a cloudburst.

## Impact of climate change

- According to numerous research, climate change will cause cloudbursts to occur more frequently and more intensely in many places throughout the world.
- As temperatures rise, the sky can contain more and more moisture, which eventually falls as a brief but heavy downpour.
- As a result, there are urban floods in cities and flash floods in mountainous areas.
- Additionally, there is data that suggests short-duration rainfall events may increase in intensity and frequency globally.

## Political tussle over Podu Cultivation and Forest Lands in Telangana



Activists have taken up the issue of Podu cultivation of adivasis and tribals in forest areas in Telangana.

### What one means by Podu?

- In the Podu style of farming, which has been practised by Indian tribes for centuries, various tracts of jungle forest are yearly

burned down to make way for agricultural land.

- It is a type of relocating agriculture that employs slash-and-burn techniques. The Telugu language is where the word is from.
- It is similar to the bewar technique of Madhya Pradesh and the jhum method used traditionally on the hill slopes of Andhra Pradesh.

### What is the 'Podu' Land Issue?

- In an effort to stop deforestation, the Telangana government decided in 2021 to relocate landless, non-tribal farmers who were involved in shifting agriculture inside forests to periphery areas.
- It guaranteed that every precaution would be taken to prevent the encroachment of forest land.
- Large portions of the forest are shown to be gradually degraded by podu.

### What TS has to offer as alternative to Podu?

- The government aims to relocate cultivators from the interior of forests to the periphery in order to stop this deforestation by giving them land for farming.
- This campaign against unlawful encroachers would not have an impact on tribal farmers who have been growing traditionally for decades.
- Tribals have received land ownership titles, and more than 3 lakh acres have been distributed to tribal farmers across the state.

## And what about non-tribal farmers?

- These farmers can request land outside of the forests from the state government.
- Aside from receiving land ownership certificates, power and water supply, and Rythu Bandhu privileges, those who are relocated out of the forests will also receive.

## DBT under the Scheme

- There is no cap on the total number of acres that can be held; each farmer receives Rs 5,000 per acre per crop season.
- Therefore, a farmer with two acres of land would earn Rs 20,000 annually from the government, whereas a farmer with ten acres would receive Rs one lakh annually.
- The grant assists businesses in paying for input costs including labour, seeds, fertiliser, and insecticides.

## What are Tetrapods?



In Mumbai, the unusual vibrations (like earthquakes), coinciding with high-tide times, were the result of the relocation of tetrapods as part of the ongoing Coastal Road Project (MCRP).

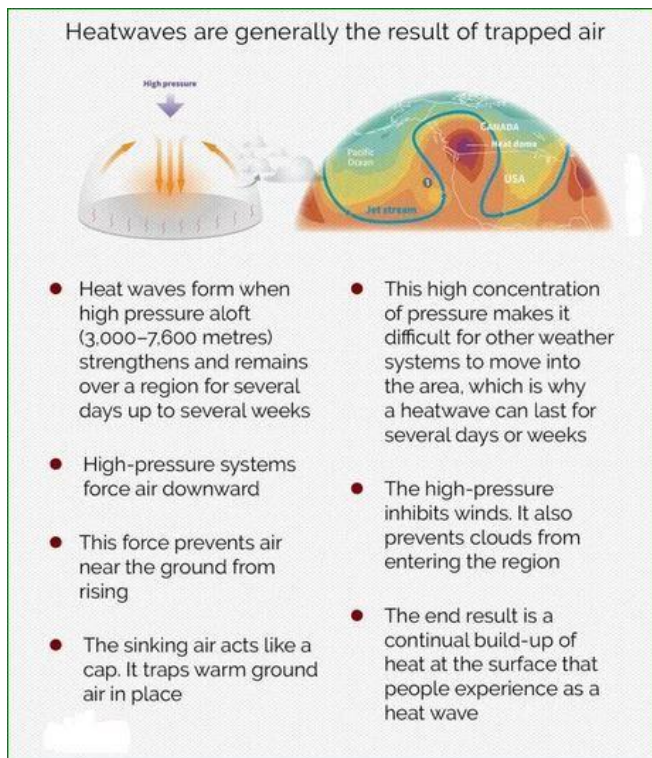
## What are tetrapods?

- Four-legged is the Greek word tetra pod.
- Concrete buildings with four legs are positioned along coastlines to stop erosion and water damage.
- In order to defend the coastline from the sea, tetrapods were initially employed in France in the late 1940s.
- Normally, they are arranged in a porous, interlocking barrier that reduces the impact of waves and currents.
- These are substantial buildings that may weigh up to 10 tonnes, and the linked tetrapods serve as a barrier that holds steady against the rocks even when the seas are raging.
- In the late 1990s, tetrapods, each weighing about 2 tonnes, were positioned along Marine Drive to break and dissipate waves and preserve the South Mumbai shoreline that had been reclaimed.

## How do we know that the removal of the tetrapods was responsible?

- For the purpose of analysing the phenomenon's effects, the BMC has placed vibration monitoring equipment at the location.
- The company has agreed to reinstall the structures even though it hasn't formally acknowledged that the removal of the tetrapods was what caused the vibrations.
- Over the following two to three days at low tide, they would be repositioned.

## Heat Waves across the Europe



The UK posted its highest temperature ever recorded — crossing 40°C. Parts of France, Spain and Portugal recorded temperatures between 42 and 46 degrees.

### Why in news?

- This year's severe destruction was brought on by a "heat apocalypse" that left dozens of towns and regions in Europe reeling.
- In southwest France, 19,000 hectares of woodland were burnt by wildfires brought on by a combination of intense heat and dry weather.

### What is a Heatwave and when is it declared?

- Between March and June, India experiences heatwaves.

- When the highest (daytime) temperature for a site in the plains exceeds 40 degrees Celsius, IMD announces a heatwave event.
- The threshold temperature is 30 degrees Celsius over the hills.

### How are they formed?

- Heatwaves develop when high pressure (3,000–7,600 metres) in the atmosphere becomes stronger and stays over a location for many days to several weeks.
- As the jet stream "follows the sun," this happens frequently in the summer (in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres).
- The high pressure area is located in the upper layers of the atmosphere on the equator side of the jet stream.
- Weather patterns typically vary more slowly in the summer than they do in the winter. This upper level high pressure consequently moves slowly as well.
- High pressure causes the air to descend (subside) toward the surface where it warms and dries adiabatically, reducing convection and cloud formation.
- Cloud cover lessening increases the amount of shortwave radiation reaching the surface.
- Because of the surface low pressure, surface winds from lower latitudes carry warm air, accelerating the warming.
- Heat waves could also result from surface winds that are blowing from the warm heart of the continent towards the shore.

Following criteria are used to declare a heatwave:

To declare heatwave, the below criteria should be met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days and it will be declared on the second day.

#### a) Based on Departure from Normal

- **Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
- **Severe Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is >6.4°C

#### b) Based on Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)

- **Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$
- **Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}$

#### How long can a heatwave spell last?

- A heatwave spell generally lasts for a **minimum of four days**.
- On some occasions, it can **extend up to seven or ten days**.

#### Impact of Heat Waves

- **Heat Strokes:** Extremely hot or humid weather increases the risk of heat exhaustion or a heat stroke.
- **Health crisis:** The effects of excessive heat include an increase in hospital admissions and ER visits, an increase in fatalities from cardiovascular and other diseases, problems with mental health, poor pregnancy and delivery outcomes, etc.

- Worker productivity is negatively impacted by extreme heat, particularly for the more than 1 billion workers who are often exposed to it.
- **Wildfire risk:** The heat domes serve as fuel for wildfires, which ravage large areas of land each year in nations like the US.
- **Prevents Cloud Formation:** The situation also hinders the formation of clouds, enabling more solar radiation to reach the earth.
- **Effect on Plants:** The buildup of heat in the atmosphere can also cause harm to crops, dry up vegetation, and lead to
- **Increased Energy Demands:** The intense heat wave also causes an increase in energy demand, particularly for electricity, which raises prices.
- **Power-Related Problems:** Heat waves frequently result in high fatality catastrophes.
- **Failure of the infrastructure:** Preventing heat-related calamities depends on the electrical grid's resilience, which can be compromised if electricity demand from air conditioning use exceeds supply.

#### What is behind the extreme heat waves in Europe?

**Ans.** Climate change, but exactly how

- Nearly all scientists agree that human activity-related climate change is to blame for the heat waves.
- Studies in the UK have indicated that a one degree increase in temperature increases the likelihood that a country may experience temperatures exceeding 40°C by ten times.

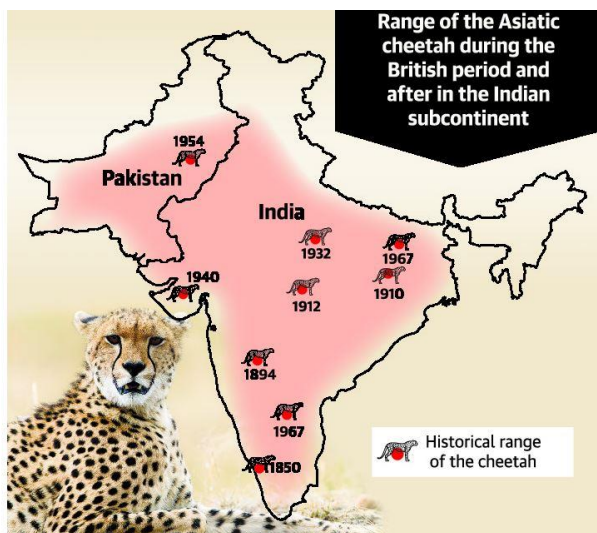
Global temperatures have already increased by more than 1°C.

- The increasing average world temperature, which this year caused variations above average in Antarctica of up to 15 degrees and at the North Pole of more than 3 degrees.

### Major factor: Changes in old wind patterns

- In the case of the US, variations in the jet stream, a confined band of westerly air currents that circulates several km above the earth's surface, are thought to be the cause of the record temperatures.
- A jet stream that was once powerful enough to deliver colder air from the northern Atlantic has deteriorated and divided into two in recent years.
- Heat waves have become stronger and more frequent across several areas of the American continent as a result of this.

### Cheetahs likely to arrive in Kuno before August 15



India came one step closer to bringing back the world's fastest animal, the Cheetah to the country with an agreement signed in New Delhi with Namibia.

### Asiatic Cheetah

- The cheetah, the fastest terrestrial mammal in the world, was officially deemed extinct in India in 1952.
- According to the IUCN Red List, the Asiatic cheetah is a "critically endangered" species that is thought to only exist in Iran.
- After the Supreme Court removed restrictions on its reintroduction, it was anticipated that it would be reintroduced into the nation.

### Distribution of cheetahs in India

- Historically, India was home to a sizable population of Asiatic cheetahs.
- There are reliable accounts of their existence everywhere from Bengal in the east to Tirunelveli district in southern Tamil Nadu, as well as from Punjab in the north to Gujarat and Rajasthan in the west.
- A band starting in Gujarat and running through Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha has the majority of the data.
- A number of reports have also come in from southern Maharashtra, reaching into sections of Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- The cheetah's geographic range was extensive and covered the whole

subcontinent. They appeared in a considerable number.

- The cheetah preferred the more open habitats, such as scrub forests, dry grasslands, savannahs, and other arid and semi-arid open habitats, although having a varied range of habitats.

### What caused the extinction of cheetahs in India?

- The major reasons for the extinction of the Asiatic cheetah in India:
  1. Reduced fecundity and high infant mortality in the wild
  2. Inability to breed in captivity
  3. Sport hunting and
  4. Bounty killings
- During his half-century rule from 1556 to 1605, the Mughal Emperor Akbar is said to have housed 1,000 cheetahs in his menagerie and amassed as many as 9,000 cats.
- Even if their prey base and habitat persisted until much later, the number of cheetahs was rapidly declining by the end of the 18th century.
- Although it is known that the last cheetahs were shot in India in 1947, the cat has been seen up to about 1967, according to reliable reports.

### Conservation objectives for their re-introduction

- It is impossible to infer that the choice to introduce the African cheetah in India is founded on science given the existing facts.

- A politically motivated conservation objective appears to be being legitimised by science.
- Additionally, this discredits academic rigour, socioeconomic limitations, a Supreme Court ruling, and environmental concerns.
- The topic demands an informed discussion.

### Issues in re-introduction

- When it comes to the amount of prey, experts are unsure whether African cheetahs would find the sanctuary to have a favourable climate.
- Cheetahs require their habitat in order to maintain a genetically healthy population.

### Kali Bein and its cultural significance



Punjab CM has been admitted to hospital, days after he had drunk a glass of water directly from the Kali Bein, a holy rivulet in Sultanpur Lodhi.

### What is the Kali Bein?

- The 165-km rivulet originates in Hoshiarpur, travels through four districts, and ends at Kapurthala where the Beas and Sutlej rivers converge.

- Around 80 villages and a half-dozen small and large towns can be found along its banks.
- The rivulet's waters used to be darkened by garbage and industrial waste flowing into a drain, giving it the name Kali Bein (black rivulet).
- Before a cleaning job began, the water was covered with thick grass and weeds.

### Why did Punjab CM drink water from it?

- The cleanup operation had begun on July 16, 2000, and it was the 22nd anniversary of that date.
- After making impressive progress in the early years, the project has been slow for years.
- However, compared to before 2000, the Kali Bein was significantly cleaner when Mann drank water directly from it.

### Cultural significance

- Because the first Guru, Nanak Dev, is reputed to have attained enlightenment here, the Kali Bein is of tremendous significance to Sikh faith and history.
- He would take a dip in the Kali Bein when Guru Nanak Dev was visiting Sultanpur Lodhi with his sister Bebe Nanki.
- One day, he is alleged to have vanished under the river, only to reappear three days later.
- The "Mool Mantra" of the Sikh faith was the first thing he recited.

### How did the cleaning project start?

- Without assistance from the government, it was founded by environmentalist Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal and a small group of supporters.
- They cleared the area of weeds, cleaned the water, and educated the locals.
- When then-President A P J Abdul Kalam visited the site in 2006 and commended them for their achievement, it was clear that their six years of arduous work had paid off.
- The project to stop the discharge of untreated water into the rivulet was subsequently announced to be undertaken by the Punjabi government at the time.

### What is its national significance?

- The project was formerly held up as an example for other river cleaning initiatives.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga was said to be based on the "Kali Bein Model."
- After visiting the Kali Bein in 2015, Uma Bharti—who was at the time the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Projects, and Ganga Rejuvenation—called it a Guru Sthan for the Ganga project.

### India adds five more Ramsar Sites





India has added five more Ramsar sites, or wetlands of international importance, bringing the number of such sites in the country to 54.

### Newly added Ramsar Sites

1. **Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove** in Tamil Nadu,
2. **Sakhya Sagar** in Madhya Pradesh
3. **Pala Wetlands** in Mizoram

### What are Wetlands?

- A wetland is a unique environment that experiences seasonal or permanent flooding and supports oxygen-free processes.
- The distinctive flora of aquatic plants, adapted to the special hydric soil, is the main property that sets wetlands apart from other landforms or bodies of water.

### Significance of Wetlands

- Numerous crucial resources and ecosystem services are offered by wetlands, including food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion management, and climate regulation.
- They do in reality serve as a significant source of water, and a variety of wetlands that help soak up rainfall and replenish groundwater are where we get the majority of our freshwater.
- They offer numerous societal advantages, such as opportunities for recreation, education, and research, as well as food and habitat for threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife, improved water quality, flood storage, and shoreline erosion management.

### India and Ramsar Wetlands

- The Ramsar wetlands of India are dispersed across 18 States and cover 11,000 square kilometres, or roughly 10% of the nation's total wetland area.
- No other South Asian nation has as many sites, albeit this is mostly due to India's diverse tropical climate and wide geographic range.
- The UK (175) and Mexico (142), which are smaller than India, have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia, with 1,48,000 sq. km. covered by the Convention, has the biggest protected area.
- According to the ISRO's National Wetland Inventory and Assessment, India's wetlands

cover an area of roughly 1,52,600 square kilometres.

### What makes Ramsar designation significant?

- Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily invite extra international funds.
- Acquiring this label helps with a locale's tourism potential and its international visibility.

### Criteria for Ramsar site designation

To be Ramsar site a place must meet at least one of the criteria as defined by the Ramsar Convention of 1961, such:

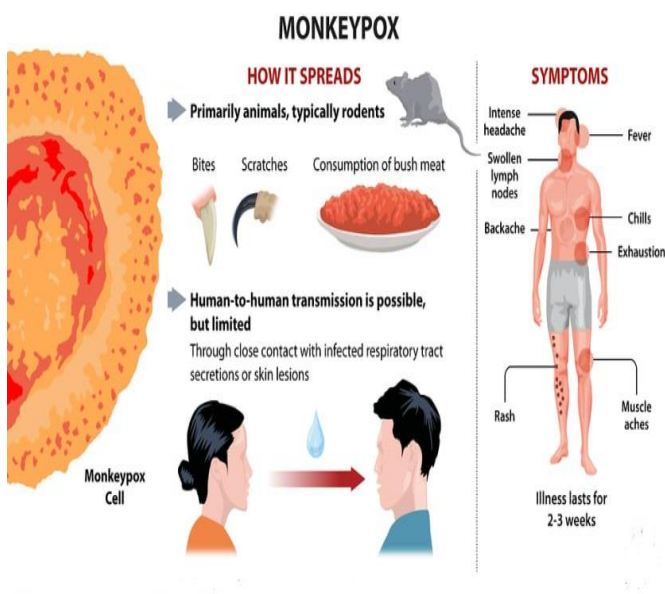
1. Supporting threatened ecological communities or species that are fragile,

endangered, or critically endangered; or, If it routinely hosts 20,000 or more waterbirds; or

2. is a significant fish food source,
  3. Fish stocks are dependent on spawning grounds, nurseries, and/or migration routes.
  4. Fresh, brackish, or salt water, whether still or moving, including portions of the ocean whose depth at low tide is little greater than six metres
- excludes rice fields, man-made water bodies, and tanks created particularly to hold drinking water, such as river channels and paddy fields.

## Governance

### Kerala reports India's first Monkeypox Case



The first known lab-confirmed case of monkeypox in India has been reported in a 35-year-old man in Kerala.

### What is Monkeypox?

- The variola virus, which causes smallpox, and the vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine, are also members of the genus orthopoxvirus, which also includes the virus that causes monkeypox.
- Although they are not as severe, it produces symptoms that are comparable to smallpox.
- The smallpox virus was eradicated through vaccination in 1980, but monkeypox still exists in a large number of Central and West

African nations and has occasionally been detected overseas.

- The Congo Basin clade, also referred to as the Central African clade, and the West African clade are two separate clades, according to the WHO.

## Its origin

- A zoonosis, or illness that spreads from sick animals to people, is monkeypox.
- Squirrels, dormice, rats taken from Gambian forests, and various types of monkeys have been found to be infected with the monkeypox virus.
- The WHO claims that instances tend to occur close to tropical rainforests where the virus-bearing animals live.

## Symptoms and treatment

- Fever, headache, backache, muscle aches, and tiredness are the first symptoms of monkeypox.
- In contrast to smallpox, it also results in lymphadenopathy, a swelling of the lymph nodes.
- The WHO emphasises the need to distinguish between monkeypox and other diseases such as chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, scabies, syphilis, and medication-related allergies.
- Monkeypox typically has an incubation period of 7 to 14 days, but it can also be as long as 21 days.
- As of yet, there is no effective, safe cure for monkeypox.

## IIT-Bombay to help treat Mumbai's Sewage with new tech



To prevent sludge and sewage from stormwater drains from flowing into the sea, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned in-situ treatment of sewage from the drains with the help of N-Treat Technology developed by IIT-B.

### What is N-Treat technology?

- N-Treat is a seven-stage waste treatment procedure that makes use of screens, gates, silt traps, filtration curtains made of coconut fibres, and sodium hypochlorite for disinfection.
- The thorough project report for N-Treat states that it is a natural and environmentally friendly method of treating sewage.
- Its setup, which does not require additional room, occurs within the nullahs channels through the in-situ or on-site technique of treatment.

## What does the process involve?

### (1) Screening

- In the first step, floating objects like plastic cups, paper plates, polythene bags, sanitary towels, or wood are screened to keep them out.
- Three coarse screens will be installed, with the first having a 60 mm spacing to remove large floating materials, the second having a 40 mm spacing, and the third having a 20 mm spacing.

### (2) Slit trap

- The second stage has proposed construction of a silt trap, which creates an inclination and 'parking spot' on the bed of the nullah for sedimentation.

### (3) Bio zones

- Installation of "bio zones"—curtains made of coconut fiber—during the next three stages will serve as filters and encourage the development of biofilm, which will aid in the breakdown of organic materials.
- It has been suggested to create a floating wetland with aquatic plants growing on floating mats.

### (4) Florafrafts

- In addition to a floating bed on the surface, IIT-B has suggested suspending florafrafts, or floating rafts, upwards.
- Their dangling roots would offer a significant surface area for passive filtering as well as microbial consortia growth.

- Because plants in floating wetlands get their nutrients directly from the water column for growth and development, fewer organic and inorganic contaminants are produced.
- Sodium hypochlorite disinfection, which kills microorganisms in the water, is the last step in the treatment of sewage.

### How will it be used by BMC?

- 'BMC approached IIT-B to submit a Detailed Project Report for the project,' a senior municipal official said.
- The N-Treat method that was recommended to the civic body is economical because it doesn't require manual pumping, uses less electricity, and doesn't demand a lot of labor-intensive maintenance.
- Daily removal of floating debris, removal of silt deposits from the silt traps every four months, and necessary trimming of plants are all included.
- Daily disposal of the daily gathered floating garbage will take place at the closest municipal waste collection facility.

### Only 4 States adopt Model Tenancy Law



More than a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy

Act (MTA), only four States had revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the MTA.

## What is the Model Tenancy Act?

- With a clear definition of their responsibilities, tenants and landlords can better understand one another, thereby reducing the trust gap that occurs between them.
- In July 2019, the housing and urban affairs ministry released the draught version of the tenancy law.

## Major provisions of MTA

### (1) Rent Court and Rent Tribunal:

- The Act mandates the creation of separate Rent Courts and Rent Tribunals in each state and UT to hear appeals for issues relating to rented housing in order to ensure the swift resolution of disputes.
- Only the rent court will have the authority to consider applications relating to conflicts between landowner and tenant and matters connected thereto, and no civil court will have that authority.
- The Rent Court and Rent Tribunals are required to rule on complaints and appeals within 60 days.

### (2) Tenancy Agreements:

- Additionally, it aims to establish a tenancy agreement registration body that is independent in each state and union territory.
- According to the Act, unless otherwise specified in the leasing agreement, the

landlord is liable for tasks such structural repairs, with the exception of those required due to damage the tenant caused, etc.

- The renter will be liable for such things as drain cleaning, switch and socket repairs, kitchen fixture repairs, window and door glass replacement, garden and open space maintenance, among other things.

## For residential and commercial properties

- The Act will be applicable to properties leased for residential, business, or educational use only; industrial use is not covered. Also excluded are housing facilities like hotels, inns, etc.
- The application of this model law is prospective and unaffected by current tenancies.
- It aims to include both urban and rural areas.
- According to the Act, tenants are required to pay a security deposit that, in the case of residential properties, cannot exceed two months' rent and, in the case of non-residential properties, cannot exceed six months' rent.

## How will states implement it?

- As per the MoU signed under PMAY-U, the states and union territories would legislate or amend the existing rental laws on the lines of the MTA.

## Why was a need felt to bring this on?

### (1) For a rental economy

- There was no reliable system in place to settle disputes between tenants and

landlords without a comprehensive rental policy and the correct execution of the rental contracts.

- It might be difficult for landlords to evict renters who abuse the property.
- Such property owners frequently decide not to rent out these residences in order to avoid such issues.

## (2) Unattractive rental yield

- Even in larger cities in India, the rental yield for residential property is rather modest. It comprises between 1.5 and 3 percent of the capital values.
- People have been discouraged from purchasing second or third residences that may be rented out as a result of this.
- They frequently also favour leaving their homes empty in case they go back to India.
- NRIs steer clear of renting out their homes out of concern for squatters and the hassles associated with eviction.

## How will MTA help?

### (1) Unlocking homes

- It will unlock vacant houses for rental purposes
- It will enable the creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing the issue of homelessness.

### (2) Helping migrants

- Rental housing is a preferred option for students and migrants.

- It will balance the rights of both landlords and tenants.

### (3) Effective negotiations

- Under MTA, there is no monetary cap, allowing parties to negotiate and execute the agreement on terms that they both agree with.
- According to the housing ministry, landlords will feel more confident renting out their empty properties.
- The Act also aims to address the legal basis for rent increases by tenants.

### (4) Control over encroachments

- It has proposed limiting the advance security deposits to two months' rent and has also suggested heavy penalties for tenants who decide to overstay.
- Those who do may have to shell out double the rent for two months and even four months.

### (5) Rights of tenants

- In the event of a dispute, the landowner is not permitted to turn off the water and power, and they are required to give the renters 24 hours' notice before making repairs.
- The tenants must be given three months' notice if the landlords decide to raise the rent.
- These provisions would go a long way toward defending a tenant's rights by limiting the rent increases that tenants have previously been subjected to.

## Challenges ahead

While the proposals of the Act have been widely welcomed, their implementation may not be very simple.

### (1) Not binding nature

- The Act is not binding on the states as land and urban development remain state subjects.
- Like in the case of RERA, the fear is that states may choose not to follow guidelines, diluting the essence of the Model Act.

### (2) Issues over paltry rents

- Additionally, the Model Act is prospective in nature and has no bearing on any current tenancies.
- Political pressures may limit the removal of rent control laws.
- Cities like Mumbai, where tenants have inhabited homes in posh neighbourhoods for outrageously low rentals, may find this to be a challenging procedure.

## Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)



The Union Cabinet has approved a project for providing 4G mobile services in thousands of villages across the country under the USOF.

### What do you mean by Universal Service?

- In the present day, universal service means that every home has access to a phone and reasonable phone service.
- It entails giving all users, everywhere, access to a predefined basic service of specified quality at a reasonable cost for telecommunications services.
- Rowland Hill, a British educator and tax reformer, introduced the idea in 1837. It comprised uniform rates throughout the UK and prepayment by sender via postage stamps.

### What is USOF?

- The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act 2003, which was passed in April 2002, created the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- It intends to offer financial assistance for the delivery of telecom services in rural and remote areas of the nation that are not commercially viable.
- The administrator, who is chosen by the federal government, leads this connected office of the Department of Telecom.

### Scope of the USOF

- The USOF was first founded with the main goal of giving individuals in rural and isolated locations access to "basic" telecom services at inexpensive and reasonable pricing.

- The scope was subsequently broadened.
- Now, it seeks to offer financial assistance for the development of infrastructure in rural and distant areas as well as for the provision of subsidies to enable access to all telecom services, including mobile services and broadband connectivity.

### Funding of the USOF

- The resources for the implementation of USO are raised by way of collecting a Universal Service Levy (USL), which is 5

percent of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of Telecom Service Providers.

### Nature of the fund

- A non-lapsable Fund is the USOF.
- Credit is given to the Consolidated Fund of India for the Levy amount.
- In accordance with proper parliamentary appropriation, the fund is made accessible to USOF.

## History

### 100 years of Rampa or Manyam Rebellion



Hundred years ago, in August 1922 the “Rampa Rebellion” or “Manyam Rebellion” took place in the forests of the Godavari Agency in the Madras Presidency.

### Rampa Rebellion

- Alluri Sitarama Raju led a tribal revolt in Godavari Agency known as the Rampa Rebellion of 1922, often referred to as the Manyam Rebellion.
- It started in August 1922 and continued until Raju was apprehended and killed in May 1924.
- The Koyas in the area experienced extreme misery as a result of forced labour, embargoes on gathering small amounts of forest products, and prohibitions on tribal agricultural techniques.
- Sitarama Raju was not a member of the tribal group, but he was aware of the limitations imposed on it by the British colonial government.

### Background of the revolt



- Around 28,000 people lived in the roughly 1,800 square kilometre Rampa administrative territory, the majority of them were indigenous.
- They have historically been able to meet their food needs, in particular, through the employment of the podu system, which involved burning some jungle forest every year to make room for farming.
- The Godavari Agency was a region known for the incidence of malaria and blackwater disease, and the British Raj authorities had wished to increase the economic viability of the land there.
- When the state acquired control of the forests, primarily for commercial interests such as produce for building rails and ships, the indigenous agricultural practises were severely hampered.
- The needs of the tribal people were ignored in order to accomplish this.

### Why did people revolt?

- The tribal people of the wooded hills had long believed that the judicial system favoured merchants and muttadar (estate landlords), who were now facing famine.
- The earlier Rampa Rebellion of 1879 was also a result of this.
- They now objected to the Raj laws and continuous acts that hurt their financial situation and forced them to locate alternative sources of income.
- They protested attempts at using them as slave labour at the time to build a road in the area.

### Role of Raju

- Raju was a charismatic sanyasin who many tribal people considered to be endowed with magical powers and to have a quasi-messianic position.

- He viewed the downfall of colonial power as being a millenarian event, and he used the indigenous people's unhappiness to fuel his anti-colonial enthusiasm.

### Course of revolt

- Along with 500 other tribal members, Alluri Sitarama Raju stormed the police stations in Chintapalli, Krishnadevipeta, and Rajavommangi.
- With 26 police carbine weapons and 2,500 rounds of ammunition, they fled the scene.
- According to legend, Alluri would warn the British commanders of an impending attack and challenge them to stop him using the better tools they had at their disposal.
- Finally, he was apprehended, shot dead while being tied to a tree.

### Sannati and Kanaganahalli Buddhist Sites



Excavated antiquities lying in an open area for the last 20 years at the Kanaganahalli ASI site near Sannati. ARUN KULKARNI, ARUN KULKARNI

Left almost unattended to for 20 years after excavation, the ancient Buddhist site on the bank of Bhima river near

Kanaganahalli (forming part of Sannati site) in Kalaburagi district, has finally got some attention.

## About Sannati

- In the Chittapur Taluka of Kalaburagi, Sannati is a small village on the banks of the River Bhima (Gulbarga).
- After the roof of the Kali temple in the Chandralamba temple complex collapsed in 1986, it gained notoriety.
- The Ashokan edicts, which were inscribed in Prakrit and Brahmi script and are historically significant, were discovered during the temple's collapse, drawing scholars from all over India.
- The Stupa is thought to be one of the biggest structures of its era.
- The Mauryan Emperor's stone picture, which bears the inscription "Raya Asoko" in Brahmi, is said to be the only example of his likeness still in existence.

## Significance of Sannati

- The majestic Maha Stupa, which had been alluded to in the inscriptions as Adholoka Maha-Chaitya (The Great Stupa of the Netherworlds), was discovered as a result of more disclosures.
- More notably, archaeologists also uncovered a sculpture-portrait of Ashoka seated on his throne with his queens.
- The Sannati Ranamandal (war zone), according to historians, was a 210-acre fortified territory, only a small portion of which has so far been unearthed.

## In news: National Emblem of India



A day after the National Emblem cast on top of the under-construction Parliament unveiled, controversy has erupted over its aggressive posture.

## National Emblem of India

- The State Emblem of India was officially established on January 26, 1950, and features a portrayal of the Lion Capital of Ashoka over the phrase Satyameva Jayate.
- The lion capital of Ashoka, a sculpture created in 280 BCE during the era of the Maurya Empire, served as the inspiration for the insignia.
- Sandstone from Chunar was used to create it initially.
- The sculpture is a four-lioned three-dimensional symbol.

## Features of the emblem

- Four Asiatic lions, representing strength, courage, confidence, and pride, are erected on a circular foundation in the actual capital of Sarnath.
- There are two animals at the bottom—a bull and a horse—and a Dharma chakra in the middle.
- The abacus is girded with a frieze of sculptures depicting The Lion of the North, The Horse of the

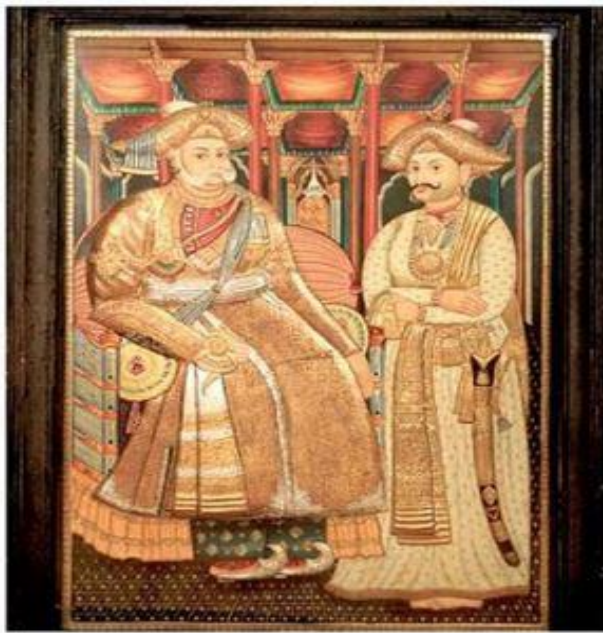
West, The Bull of the South, and The Elephant of the East in high relief. The sculptures are spaced apart by intervening wheels and are placed over a lotus in full bloom to represent the source of life and artistic inspiration.

- The Wheel of the Law is the crown of the polished capital, which was carved from a single block of sandstone.

### Historical significance

- One of the Buddha's names is 'Shakya Simha', meaning 'Lion of the Shakyas'.
- The Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath was known as the 'Simhanada' (Lion roar) of the Buddha.

### Who were Raja Serfoji and Sivaji?



A 19th-century painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji, which was stolen from Saraswathi Mahal, Thanjavur, a few years ago has been traced to the Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts, in the US.

### Who was Raja Serfoji?

- The Thanjavur kings had been destitute of absolute power for a very long time.
- Serfoji, who the British elevated to the throne in preference to his stepbrother Amar Singh, passed away in 1832.
- Sivaji, his lone child, ruled until 1855.
- He didn't have a male heir, though.
- Thanjavur was lost as a result of Lord Dalhousie's infamous "Doctrine of Lapse" and was included into the provinces of British-ruled India.
- Some historians believe that the picture, which depicts Raja Serfoji and his young son, was created between 1822 and 1827 and is now housed in the Saraswathi Mahal.

### Anushilan Samiti

अनुशीलन समिति

Union Education and Skill Development Minister has urged NCERT and the Education fraternity to include enough information about Anushilan Samiti, especially in the upcoming National Curriculum Framework

### Anushilan Samiti

- Anushilan Samiti was an Indian health club that anti-British revolutionaries utilised as a covert organisation.
- Aurobindo Ghose, Satish Chandra Pramatha Mitra, and Sarala Devi created it.

- In the early half of the 20th century, it encouraged the use of revolutionary violence to overthrow the British in India.
- In Bengal, in 1902, a combination of neighbourhood gyms and youth organisations came together to form the organisation.
- It had two significant, albeit independent, branches in East and West Bengal: the Jugantar group and Dhaka Anushilan Samiti, which was based in Dhaka (centred in Calcutta).
- It contested British rule in India by practising militant nationalism, which included bombings, killings, and other acts of political violence.

## Revolutionary activities

- The Samiti cooperated with various revolutionary groups both inside and outside of India.
- It was led by Aurobindo Ghosh and his brother Barindra Ghosh, nationalists who were motivated by ideologies like Italian nationalism and Kakuzo Okakura's pan-Asianism.
- In addition to early attempts to assassinate British Raj officials, the Samiti was involved in a number of notable events of revolutionary attacks against British interests and administration in India.
- The Viceroy of India's assassination attempt in 1912 and the seditious conspiracy during World War I, both led by Rash Behari Bose and Jatindranath Mukherjee, respectively, came next.

## Defiance from militant nationalism

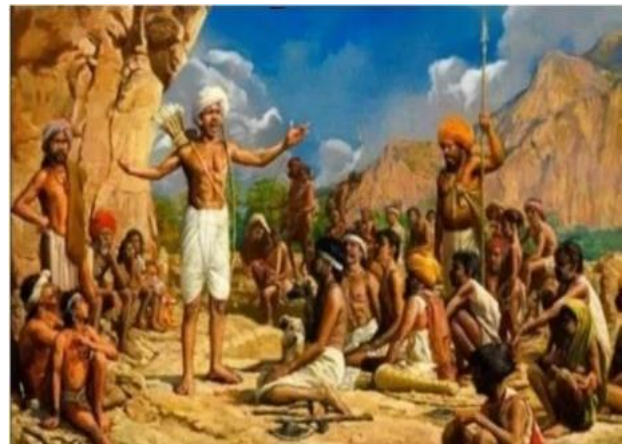
- The Indian National Congress and the Gandhian nonviolent movement had an impact on the organization's decision to abandon its aggressive philosophies in the 1920s.

- The Hindustan Republican Association was established in north India by a segment of the group, particularly those connected to Sachindranath Sanyal.
- The British Government charged that several Bengali Congress leaders, particularly Subhash Chandra Bose, had connections to the group at the time.
- When the Samiti participated in the Kakori conspiracy, the Chittagong armoury raid, and other operations against the government in British-occupied India, its violent and radical doctrine came back into fashion in the 1930s.

## Other personalities associated with Anushilan Samiti

- Anushilan Samiti was linked to legends like Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, and Bagha Jatin.
- A graduate of the Samity, Dr. Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

## Tribal Revolts President Murmu invoked in her inaugural speech



Addressing the nation after being sworn in, President Murmu invoked four tribal revolutions that she said had strengthened tribal contribution to the freedom struggle.

## [1] Santhal revolution

- On June 30, 1855, more than 10,000 Santhals were incited to revolt against the East India Company by their leaders Kanho Murmu, Chand Murmu, Bhairab Murmu, and Sidho Murmu because of the persecution of revenue officials, zamindars, and dishonest moneylenders.
- Santhal Hul, a pivotal moment in tribal history, happened in the village of Bhognadih in modern-day Jharkhand.
- Soon after beginning an open uprising, Santhals began using force to oppose East India Company rules being imposed.
- But in 1832, the East India Company established the Damin-i-koh region in the Rajmahal hills' forested belt and invited the Santhals to move there, sowing the seeds of the protracted uprising.
- Over time, Santhals came to be the victim of exploitative tactics supported by the British.
- Both sides engaged in fighting once the uprising began in 1855 until it was put down in 1856.
- With the aid of war elephants and contemporary weapons, the British decisively beat the Santhals; Sidho and Kanho perished in the process.

## [2] Paika rebellion

- The 1817 Paika Rebellion in Khurda, Odisha, is frequently regarded to as the "original" first war of Indian Independence.
- The Paikas, a class of armed retainers customarily hired by the monarchs of Odisha, rose up against the British colonial authorities that year, primarily because they had been deprived of their land holdings.

- The British had deposed and deported the Khurda ruler in 1803, and they had subsequently begun implementing new revenue agreements, all leading up to the uprising.
- This disruption meant that for Paikas, who were into providing military duties in exchange for inherited rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles, they would lose both their estates and social position.
- Around 400 Kondhs left the Ghumusar region to rebel against the British, which set off the uprising.
- The most senior military officer of the exiled Khurda king, Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai, commanded an army of Paikas to join the Kondh insurrection.
- The Paikas looted the British salt agent's ship that was docked on the Chilika, set fire to government buildings in Banapur, killed police officers, and set the treasury on fire.
- After that, they went to Khurda and assassinated a number of British officers there.
- The Paikas engaged in numerous violent fights over the course of the next months, but the colonial army eventually put an end to the uprising.
- When the British couldn't find Bakshi Jagabandhu in the forests, he eventually surrendered under stipulated circumstances in 1825.

## [3] Kol revolt

- In 1831, the tribal Kols from the Chhota Nagpur region rose up in rebellion against the British.
- The same thing happened in this case: new land rules helped non-tribal settlers gradually take over tribal land and property.

- Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, and Madara Mahato, among others, organised an insurrection in response to the simmering resentment over the economic exploitation of the native residents.
- Other tribes including the Hos, Mundas, and Oraons joined the Kols.
- The colonial army eventually defeated the tribals with modern weapons after they engaged them in combat with traditional weapons.
- The majority of the targets of the rebellion, which lasted for almost two years before being put down and spread to places like Ranchi,

Hazaribagh, Palamau, and Manbhum, were colonial officials and private money-lenders.

#### [4] Bhil uprising

- In 1818, after the British invaded the Bhil territory in the Khandesh region of Maharashtra, the tribal people resisted out of fear of exploitation under the new government.
- Sewaram, their leader, spearheaded the uprising, which the British forces ruthlessly put down.
- In 1825, this insurrection broke out once more when the Bhils tried to profit from British defeats in the first Anglo-Burmese war.

## International Relations

### What is the Nord Stream 1 Gas Link?



The Nord Stream 1, Germany's main source of gas from Russia, was recently shut down for scheduled maintenance work.

### Why in news?

- There are growing concerns in European countries that Russia would shut down its gas supplies in retaliation against the current sanctions against Moscow.

### What is Nord Stream 1?

- It is a network of offshore natural gas pipelines that connects Germany and Russia beneath the Baltic Sea.
- A 1,224 km underwater gas pipeline called Nord Stream 1 connects Lubmin, Germany, to Vyborg, Russia, via the Baltic Sea.
- Nord Stream 2 refers to two additional pipelines being built from Ust-Luga to Lubmin.
- The pipeline, which is mostly used by the Russian energy behemoth Gazprom, is where its gas reaches Germany.

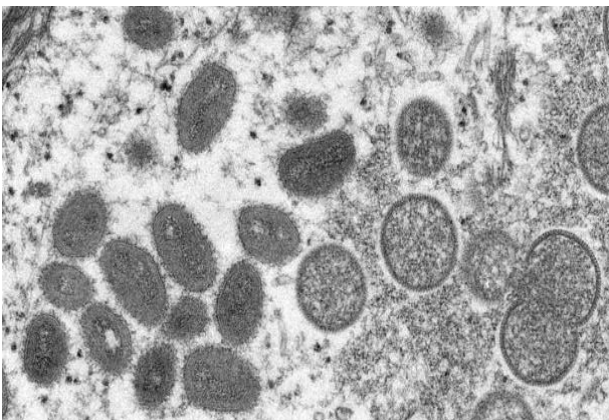
## Worry for Europe

- Concerns about possible future constraints on European gas supplies have grown.
- In order to survive the chilly winters, European nations rely on Russian energy.
- However, they now think that Russia might use their dependence into a weapon in retaliation to their sanctions as a result of the crisis in Ukraine.

## What are Europe's alternative sources of energy?

- European nations are increasingly looking to the US, from whom they buy liquified natural gas (LNG), which is transported by ships, as a substitute for their current energy sources.
- There are also efforts to obtain non-Russian pipeline gas from Norway and Azerbaijan since ship-delivered gas ends up being significantly more expensive.
- While several EU nations were turning back to coal to address the energy problem, they had earlier sought to phase out fossil fuels and prioritise renewable energy sources.

## Monkeypox is 'Public Health Emergency'



The World Health Organization's Director-General has declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) July 23, 2022.

### What is PHEIC?

An extraordinary event that is determined, as provided in these Regulations: to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and to potentially require a coordinated international response, is referred to as a public health emergency under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

### What criteria does the WHO follow to declare PHEIC?

- When certain "severe public health events" that could harm global public health occur, PHEIC is declared.
- The Director-General of the WHO is in charge of designating an incident as an emergency, and doing so necessitates the formation of a committee of members.

### Implications of a PHEIC being declared

The PHEIC is the highest level of alert the global health body can issue.

- There are some implications of declaring a PHEIC for the host country.
- Only polio and SARS-CoV-2 were ongoing PHEIC prior to monkeypox.
- Declaring a PHEIC may lead to restrictions on travel and trade.

## Polity

### Nominated Members in Rajya Sabha



Olympic sprinter PT Usha and music composer Ilaiyaraaja among others have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha in the category of eminent persons nominated by the President.

### Nominated Members in RS

- The President of India nominates twelve individuals for a six-year tenure on the RS.
- This is in recognition of their contributions to social services, literature, the arts, and the sciences.
- According to the Fourth Schedule and Articles 4(1) and 80(2) of the Indian Constitution, the President has been granted this right.

### Normal composition

- At the moment, there are 245 members total, of which 233 are state and UT representatives and 12 are presidential nominees.
- The Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved, and a third of its members leave office every two years.

### Constitutional provisions for nominated members

- The President of India may nominate 12 people to the Rajya Sabha in accordance with the

requirements of Art. 80(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution.

- According to section 80(3), candidates for membership must have specific expertise or relevant experience in the following fields: literature, science, art, and social service.

### Powers and privileges of such members

- All of the rights, advantages, and immunity afforded to elected Members of Parliament are also available to nominated members.
- They participate in House proceedings just like any other member.
- However, nominees are not permitted to cast ballots in India's presidential election.
- However, they are able to cast ballots in the vice presidential election.
- A nominated member has six months to join a political party in accordance with Article 99 of the Constitution.

### KHADC to invite talks on Instrument of Accession



The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) in Meghalaya has called for a meeting of traditional heads



to revisit the Instrument of Accession that made the Khasi domain a part of the Indian Union.

## About KHADC

- KHADC is an independent district council located in the Indian state of Meghalaya.
- One of Meghalaya's three independent district councils and one of India's twenty-five autonomous regions.
- The Khasis, Garos, and Jaintias are three matrilineal communities that predominate in Meghalaya.
- The Federation of Khasi States is made up of the 25 Himas or States that the Khasi hills span.

## Why in news?

- The Instrument of Accession and Annexed Agreement signed with the Dominion of India between December 15, 1947 and March 19, 1948 was agreed upon by some KHADC members as needing to be studied.
- On August 17, 1948, the pact was signed by Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the governor general of India.

## What is Instrument of Accession?

- It was first made into a legal document by the Government of India Act, 1935.
- It was utilised in 1947 to allow each princely state's monarch to join either India or Pakistan's newly constituted territories as a result of the Partition.
- The accession of nations to the Dominion of India (or Pakistan) was permitted by the instruments of accession signed by the rulers on three grounds: defence, external affairs, and communications.

## Election Symbol Disputes and ECI



A political party in Maharashtra has approached the Election Commission of India (ECI), requesting it to hear its side before deciding claims to the party's bow-arrow symbol.

## What is the news?

- In the insurrection that ultimately led to the Maharashtra government's overthrow, a party suffered a significant loss of members.
- Based on the backing of more than two-thirds of the party's lawmakers in the Maharashtra Assembly, the dissident has asserted that he is the lone founding member of the party.

## Options for ECI

- The ECI in all likelihood can freeze the symbol so that neither of the two sides is able to use it until a final decision is made.
- EC hearings are long and detailed, and may take at least six months.

## EC's powers in Election Symbol Dispute

- In Paragraph 15 of the Symbols Order of 1968, the issue of a political party split outside of the legislature is addressed.
- It indicates that the ECI may conduct a majority test while taking into account all relevant facts and circumstances.

- The ECI's decision shall be binding upon all such competing sections or groupings that have developed since the break.
- Disputes involving recognised national and state parties are covered under this.
- The EC typically encourages the fighting factions to resolve their disputes internally or to approach the court for splits in registered but unrecognised parties.

### How did the EC deal with such matters before the Symbols Order came into effect?

- Under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, the EC issued notifications and executive orders prior to 1968.
- The CPI split in 1964 was the most well-known party breakup before 1968.
- In December 1964, a breakaway faction spoke with the ECI and requested that it recognise them as the CPI (Marxist). They offered a list of West Bengal, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh MPs and MLAs who supported them.
- After determining that the votes obtained by the MPs and MLAs supporting the breakaway group totaled up to more than 4% in the three states, the ECI recognised the faction as CPI(M).

### What was the first case decided under Para 15 of the 1968 Order?

- It was the first split in the Indian National Congress in 1969.
- Indira Gandhi's tensions with a rival group within the party came to a head with the death of President Dr Zakir Hussain on May 3, 1969.

### Is there a way other than the test of majority to resolve a dispute over election symbols?

- A resounding majority of party delegates/office bearers, MPs, and MLAs have backed one of the factions in nearly all cases where the EC has made a decision so far.
- The EC resorted to testing the majority exclusively among elected MPs and MLAs whenever it was unable to determine the size of competing groups based on support within the party organisation (because of disagreements over the list of office bearers).

### What happens to the group that doesn't get the parent party's symbol?

- The new parties were not accepted as state or national parties by the EC in 1997.
- Having MPs and MLAs alone didn't seem to be sufficient because the elected officials ran and triumphed in elections on the platforms of their parent (undivided) parties.
- The EC implemented a new rule that required any party splinter groups that did not receive the party symbol to register as their own independent party.
- Only after performing well in local or central elections following registration could it assert its national or state party credentials.

### What is a Private Member's Bill?



Opposition members protested against the introduction of a private member's Bill on the repeal of The Places of

Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, in the Rajya Sabha.

## Private Member's Bill

- Different from a government bill, a private member's bill is led by a member of parliament who is not a minister. A private member of parliament is an MP who is not a minister.
- A private member's bill may be introduced by a single MP to alert the government to potential problems that call for legislative action.

## Difference between private and government Bills

- Although both private members and ministers participate in the legislative process, the bills they present are known as government bills rather than private member's bills.
- Government-supported bills represent the government's legislative priorities.
- A Private Bill's admissibility is decided by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, respectively.
- The Member must give the House Secretariat at least one month's notice before the Bill can be nominated for introduction so that it can be checked for accordance with the Constitution and legislative procedures.
- A private member's bill may only be introduced and discussed on Fridays, as opposed to any day for a government measure.

## Has a private member's bill ever become a law?

- Since 1970, Parliament has never passed a private member's bill.
- 14 similar Bills have been approved by Parliament to date, including six in 1956.
- Only about 4% of the more than 300 private member's bills introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha

were considered; the other 96% were abandoned without any discussion.

- By ballot, the bills that will be discussed are chosen.

## Money Bill verdict holds the key: SC



The court has left it open for a seven-judge Bench to decide whether the amendments to the PMLA could have been made to the PMLA through the Money Bill route.

## What was the case about Money Bill?

- The case of Roger Mathew v. South Indian Bank Ltd. was referred to a larger bench in November 2019 by a five-judge panel headed by the then-CJI Ranjan Gogoi.
- It questioned if passing such amendments as a money bill would violate Article 110 of the Constitution.
- The validity of the PMLA amendments, which were enacted through Finance Acts/Money Bills, was contested by the petitioners.

## Correlation Money Bill

- A Money Bill is assumed to only contain provisions that deal with any or all of the topics listed in sections (a) through (g) of Article 110(1), which primarily relate to taxation and the allocation of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India.

- In other words, a Money Bill is solely valid for the topics that are listed and cannot cover any other subject.

### What is a Money Bill?

- A money bill is defined by Article 110 of the Constitution, as a draft law that contains only provisions that deal with all or any of the matters listed therein.
- These comprise a set of seven features, broadly including items such as-
  1. Imposition, repeal, waiver, modification, or restriction of any tax
  2. Regulation of the payment of money into or withdrawal of money from any such fund, including the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) and the Contingency Fund of India.
  3. Allocation of funds from the CFI
  4. Making a declaration of any expense charged to the CFI or raising any such expense
  5. Money received on behalf of the CFI, the public account of India, its custody or release, or the audit of the Union's or a state's accounts
  6. any issue related to one of the aforementioned issues.

### Who controls such bills?

- Such a draught law cannot be categorised as a money bill if it includes additional features that are not merely incidental to the things that are specifically mentioned.
- Further clarification is provided in Article 110, which states that the Lok Sabha Speaker's determination of whether a bill is a money bill or not will be deemed final.

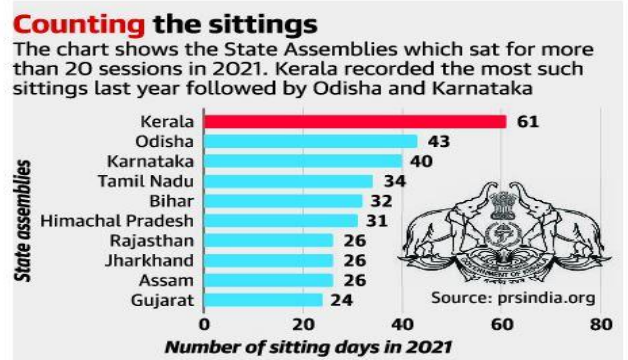
### Difference between money and finance bill

- All financial bills are money bills, but not all money bills are financial bills.
- A Money Bill would be, for instance, the Finance Bill, which only has provisions pertaining to tax proposals.
- A bill that addresses various topics while including some tax or spending-related elements is referred to as a financial bill.
- Once more, there are substantial differences in the two measures' respective methods of passage.

### Issues with notifying a bill as Money Bill

- A Money Bill cannot be rejected or amended in the Rajya Sabha, where the majority party may not be the reigning one.
- A Financial Bill, however, needs to be approved by both Houses of Parliament.
- The Speaker certifies a Bill as a Money Bill, and the Speaker's decision is final. The Speaker is, however, a member of the ruling party.
- Additionally, according to the Constitution, no court may challenge parliamentary proceedings or officers in charge of running the chamber's business (like the Speaker).

### Kerala tops in holding Assembly sittings in 2021



Kerala, which slipped to the eighth slot in holding Assembly sittings during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, returned to the top spot in 2021, with its House sitting for 61 days, the highest in the country.

## State Assemblies for 2021 Report

- The report on the functioning of State Assemblies for 2021 is published by the PRS Legislative Research (PRS), a New Delhi-based think tank.

## How did other states fare?

- Karnataka came in second with 40 sitting days, followed by Tamil Nadu with 34, and Odisha with 43.
- The average number of State legislature sessions would have been far less than the current figure of 21 days if not for the top three States.
- 17 of the 28 State Assemblies and the assembly of one Union Territory convened for fewer than 20 days.
- Of these, only five convened for fewer than ten days: Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Delhi.
- 17, 16, and 11 were the numbers for Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab, respectively.

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

## Why is this ranking significant?

- The guidelines for how legislatures should operate were set forth by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000–2002), which was presided over by former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah.
- The Houses of State (/Union Territory) legislatures should convene at least 50 days a year for those with fewer than 70 members, such as Puducherry, and at least 90 days for those with more members, such as Tamil Nadu.
- The Presiding Officers' Conference, which took place in Gandhinagar in January 2016, recommended that State legislatures meet for at least 60 days per year.
- The PRS notes that 23 State Assemblies met for an average of 25 days between 2016 and 2021.
- Regarding the ordinance route, which the Supreme Court has ruled should only be utilised in rare cases, 21 of the 28 States published ordinances last year.

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

### What is PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)?

The ISRO has launched three Singaporean satellites in precise orbit through the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module or 'POEM'.

### What is POEM?

- The POEM is a platform that will aid in conducting in-orbit experiments utilising the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, the workhorse rocket of ISRO (PSLV).
- The fourth and final stage (PS4) of the four-stage PSLV rocket, which was used to propel the satellite into orbit, ends up as space debris while the first three expended stages of the rocket fall back into the ocean.

- The spent final stage will serve as a "stabilised platform" for experiments during PSLV-C53, nevertheless.
- Two payloads from Indian space startups Digantara and Dhruva Space are among the six payloads POEM is carrying.



## Features of POEM

- For attitude stabilisation, often known as controlling any aerospace vehicle's orientation within allowed bounds, POEM offers a specific Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system.
- The NGC will serve as the platform's brain in order to precisely stabilise it.
- POEM will be powered by a Li-Ion battery and solar panels installed around the PS4 tank.
- It will use four sun sensors, a magnetometer, gyros, and NavIC to navigate.
- It is equipped with specialised control thrusters that store Helium gas. It has a telecom feature and is enabled.

## Has ISRO repurposed and used PS4 rocket junk earlier?

- In 2019, the Indian space agency made the first public demonstration of PSLV-potential C44's as an orbital platform.
- It placed the satellites Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 in their intended orbits.
- In order to use it as an orbital platform for space-based experiments, the fourth stage of that mission was maintained alive.
- While the fourth stage of that mission included Li-Ion batteries, this mission also has solar panels.
- The PSLV rocket's fourth stage has recently been repurposed and upgraded to include orbital platform stabilisation.

## Festivals in news: Puri Rath Yatra



Lakhs of devotees thronged the coastal town of Puri town to witness the annual Rath Yatra with three decorated chariots of sibling deities Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra towed in front of the 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple.

## About Jagannath Rath Yatra

- Every year, the east coast of India's temple town of Puri, Orissa, hosts Ratha Jatra, the Festival of Lord Jagannatha's Chariots.
- Deities Jagannath (Vishnu's avatar), BalaBhadra (his brother), Subhadra (his sister), and Sudarshana Chakra (his sword) ride in a ratha, a wooden deula-shaped chariot, in a public procession.
- Thousands of devotees pull the massive, colourfully adorned chariots along the two-mile-long bada danda, the great avenue leading to the Gundicha shrine.
- Each year, more than a million Hindu pilgrims participate in the parade.

## DRDO tests Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out the maiden test flight of a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), an autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

### About the Indigenous Drone

- A tiny turbofan engine powers the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- It is being developed as part of the programme for unmanned combat aerial vehicles.
- It is created and developed by Bengaluru's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a top DRDO research facility.
- The Russian TRDD-50MT engine was intended for cruise missiles initially.
- To fulfil the demand, an indigenously produced tiny turbo fan engine is being created.

### Various initiatives by DRDO

- To meet the needs of the armed forces, DRDO is currently developing UAVs of various classes.
- By reaching an altitude of 25,000 feet and an endurance of 10 hours, Rustom-2, the indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV in development, had accomplished a significant feat.
- It is now being developed to reach a 30,000-foot height and have an endurance of 18 hours.
- Another concept being considered is an unmanned combat aircraft.

### Significance of the development

- The aircraft demonstrated a flawless flight while operating in fully autonomous mode, including takeoff, waypoint navigation, and a soft touchdown.
- This flight represents a significant advancement in the validation of key technology for the creation of future autonomous aircraft.
- This is a critical step toward technological independence in strategic defence.

## Researchers found gene regulating Nitrogen absorption in Plant

### Controlling nitrate absorption in plants

A novel pathway has been found, which can use gene editing to achieve this objective



**Approach:** The researchers used rice and tobacco plants to study the mechanism. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Plants mainly absorb nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrates and ammonium
- An important macronutrient, nitrogen is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids

■ There is a need to regulate and optimise nitrogen intake in plants, so that the excess is not dumped in soil and water

■ The hormone auxin is responsible for well-developed roots across all plants, influencing nitrate absorption

#### ALTERNATE PATHWAY

■ The regulatory micro-RNA switch - miR444 - is known to turn off at least five genes

called MADS box transcription factor genes

■ A target gene of miR444 called MADS27, has a three-pronged effect: regulating nitrate absorption and root development, and stress tolerance

■ Tinkering with MADS27 may help regulate nitrate absorption and engineer abiotic stress tolerance

Researchers led by those from the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru (NCBS-TIFR), have found a new pathway that regulates nitrate absorption in plants.

### Nitrogen in plant nutrition

- One of the most crucial macronutrients for plant development is nitrogen.
- It is a component of nucleic acids, amino acids, and chlorophyll, among other things.
- It comes primarily from the soil, where the roots primarily absorb it as nitrates and ammonium.
- Additionally, nitrates influence the expression of genes across the entire genome, which in turn affects the structure of the root system, the timing of flowering, the growth of leaves, etc.
- Thus, despite the fact that the roots expend a lot of energy absorbing nitrogen and converting it into usable nitrates, the nitrates that are absorbed also govern plant growth in addition to serving as macronutrients.

### What is MADS27?

- The micro-RNA miR444 activates the gene MADS27, which controls nitrate absorption, root growth, and stress tolerance. This provides a means of managing these aspects of the plant.
- Both the monocot rice plant and the dicot tobacco plant were used in the research to examine this mechanism.

### Regulatory switches

- In addition to this pathway, monocot plants like rice have a number of known gene regulatory switches that control nitrate absorption and root development, such as the micro-RNA miR444.
- 'miR444' is a monocot-specific microRNA.
- When this is not formed, its target, MADS27, is produced in greater amounts, which enhances the hormone auxin's biosynthesis and transport, which is essential for root development and branching.
- It is known that this regulatory miR444 switch disables at least five MADS box transcription factor genes.
- The MADS box transcription factors are unique in that they behave as independent switch boxes.
- They attach to their favourite particular DNA sequences and turn the adjacent genes "on."

### Why is the discovery important?

- Nitrates are necessary for the growth of plants as well as the production of grains.
- The excess of nitrates in fertilisers, for example, can result in nitrate spills into the soil, which causes nitrate buildup in the soil and water.
- In addition to increasing greenhouse gas emissions, this accumulation contributes to soil and water pollution.



- Furthermore, a strong root system is necessary for the best nitrate absorption because the entire process occurs in the roots.
- On a basic level, it is understood that all plants have strong roots because of the hormone auxin.
- A variety of genes have been linked to enhanced nitrate transport and assimilation in plants, as well as auxin production.

## Significance of MADS27

- The plant is impacted by the MADS27 transcription factor in three different ways.
- First, it controls nitrate absorption by turning on the relevant proteins.
- Second, by controlling the transport and production of auxin hormones, it promotes better root development.
- The key stress player proteins are kept "on," which aids in the abiotic stress tolerance, and this last point surprised the researchers slightly.

## What is the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)?

The world's most powerful particle collider, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), will begin smashing protons into each other at unprecedented levels of energy beginning July 5.

## What is the LHC?

- The Large Hadron Collider is a massive, intricate device designed to investigate particles, the tiniest known constituents of everything.
- On the Swiss-French border, it is a 27-km-long track loop that is 100 metres underground.
- When in operation, it shoots two proton beams in opposite directions almost as quickly as light inside a ring of superconducting electromagnets.

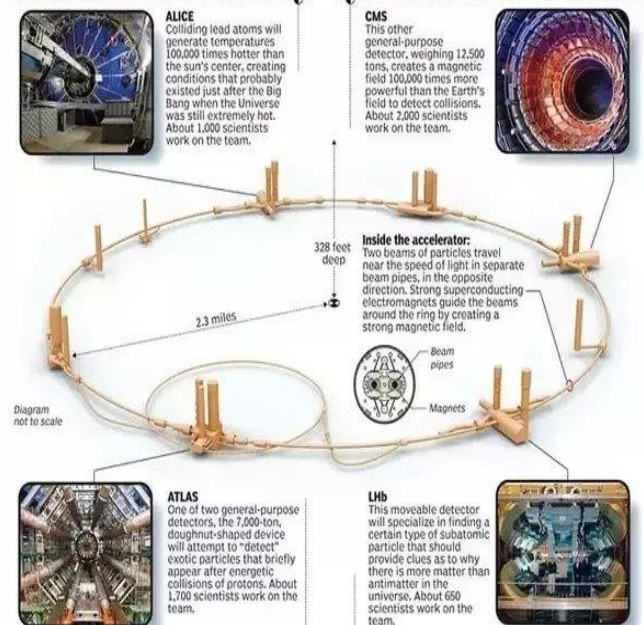
- The second run (Run 2) of the LHC started in 2015 and ended in 2018. Five times as much data was collected in the second season of data collection than in Run 1.
- Compared to Run 1, there will be 20 times as many collisions in the third run.

## World's largest science project

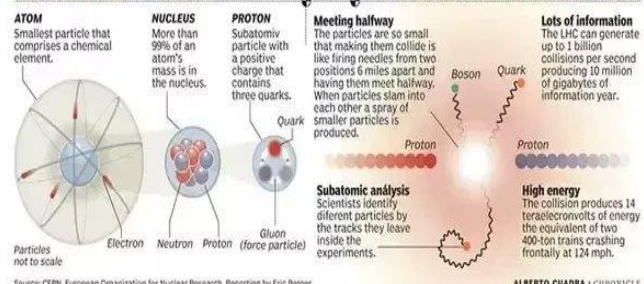
The Large Hadron Collider is an underground 17-mile ring of superconducting magnets in Switzerland where scientists will accelerate tiny bits of matter to create energetic collisions. Amid these collisions the scientists hope to find the answers to unresolved questions in particle physics.



### LHC MAIN EXPERIMENTS



### WHAT'S IN A LUMP OF MATTER



## How does it work?

- The protons are maintained in a narrow beam and are guided by the magnetic field produced by the superconducting electromagnets as they pass through beam pipes and eventually collide.
- Another kind of magnet is employed to "squeeze" the particles closer together just before collision to boost the likelihood of collisions.
- The difficulty of getting the particles collide is comparable to precisely shooting two needles 10 km apart until they meet halfway.

- The proton beams will be narrowed for the final time to less than 10 microns, or about 70 microns, in order to increase the collision rate.
- The biggest all-purpose particle detector experiment at the LHC is ATLAS.
- The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment, which shares the same objectives as ATLAS but employs a different magnet-system design, is one of the most significant worldwide scientific partnerships in history.

### Extreme conditions involved

- It is necessary to keep the LHC's strong electromagnets cold since they may carry nearly as much electricity as a lightning strike.
- The LHC maintains its vital components at minus 271.3 degrees Celsius, which is colder than interstellar space, via a distribution system of liquid helium.
- The enormous machine is difficult to warm up or cool down given these needs.

### What is the latest upgrade?

- This April, the collider was restarted after three years of maintenance and modifications.
- In its third phase, the LHC will run continuously for four years at previously unheard-of energies of 13 tera electron volts.

**Note:** A TeV is 100 billion, or 10-to-the-power-of-12, electron volts. An electron volt is the energy given to an electron by accelerating it through 1 volt of electric potential difference.

### Targets this year

- The current goal is to produce 1.6 billion proton-proton collisions each second.

### Previous runs & 'God Particle' discovery

- In 2012, during the first run of the LHC, researchers at CERN announced to the world their discovery of the Higgs boson, also known as the "God Particle."
- The discovery put an end to the protracted search for the "force-carrying" subatomic particle and supported the Higgs mechanism, a theory proposed in the middle of the 1960s.
- This resulted in Peter Higgs and his associate François Englert winning the 2013 Nobel Prize in physics.
- It is thought that the Higgs boson and the associated energy field were extremely important in the creation.

### What is Fields Medal, the 'Mathematics Nobel'?



Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named as one of four recipients of the prestigious Fields Medal, which is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.

## What is Fields Medal?

- The International Mathematical Union (IMU), a global non-governmental and nonprofit scientific organisation, bestows the Fields Medal.
- In recognition of "excellent mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement," it is given every four years to one or more mathematicians under the age of 40.
- The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), which was originally scheduled to take place in Russia this year but was shifted to Helsinki, is where the winners are revealed.

## Belongings of the award

- The award comes with a tangible medal made of 14K gold that is 63.5 mm in diameter, weighs 169 g, and costs about 5,500 Canadian dollars per piece.
- There is also a 15,000 Canadian dollar cash prize.
- The head of Archimedes facing right and various Latin quotations are etched on the medal's obverse.

## History of the Medal

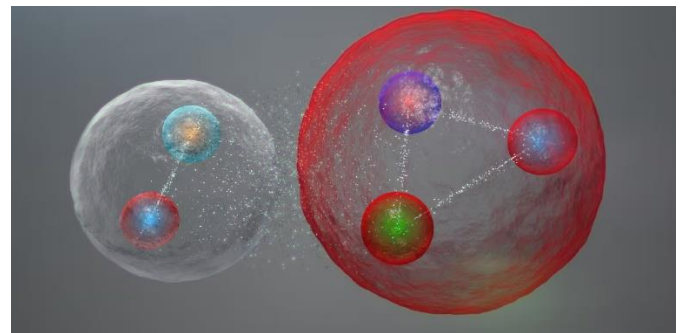
- The ICM in Toronto in 1924 reportedly passed a resolution stating that two gold medals will be given out each conference to recognise exceptional mathematical achievement.
- After serving as the Congress' secretary in 1924, Canadian mathematician Prof. J. C. Fields donated money to start the medals that bear his name.

- It was decided in 1966 that each Congress could award up to four medals due to the significant growth of mathematical research.

## Indian-origin winners

- Two mathematicians with Indian ancestry are among the more than 60 who have received the Fields Medal since 1936.
- The last time the award was announced, Akshay Venkatesh of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton won.
- 2014 saw the awarding of Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University's mathematics department.

## Three new 'exotic' sub-atomic particles discovered



The Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) experiment has observed three never-before-seen particles.

## What is the discovery?

- The "beauty quark," also known as the "b quark," is a type of particle that CERN was exploring in order to learn more about the minute variations between matter and antimatter.
- A new variety of "pentaquark" and the first-ever pair of "tetraquarks" were discovered, adding to the growing list of novel hadrons.

- This finding will enable physicists to comprehend how quarks combine to form these composite particles.

## What are Quarks?

- The six "flavours" of quarks, which are elementary particles, are charm, odd, up, down, top, and bottom.
- They typically combine to form hadrons, such as the protons and neutrons that make up atomic nuclei, in groups of two and three.
- However, they can also combine to form the four-quark and five-quark tetraquark and pentaquark particles, respectively.
- As with normal hadrons, these exotic hadrons were predicted by theorists some 60 years ago, but it has only been in the last 20 years that LHCb and other experiments have confirmed their existence.

## What about tetraquarks and pentaquarks?

- Tetraquarks and pentaquarks are the most exotic hadrons found in the last twenty years.
- The remaining two or three quarks are up, down, or odd quarks or their antiquarks. They contain a charm quark and a charm antiquark.

## James Webb Space Telescope

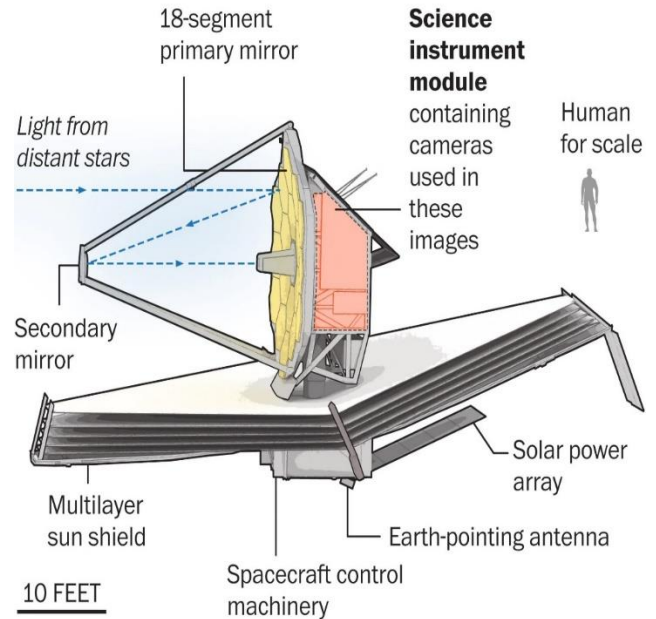
NASA has unveiled images from the James Webb Space Telescope, the largest and most powerful orbital observatory ever launched.

### Its significance

- Some have called JSWT the "telescope that ate astronomy."
- It is said to look back in time to the Dark Ages of the universe.

## A cold, clear eye on the heavens

The James Webb Space Telescope observes in the infrared portion of the spectrum, which requires the mirrors, cameras and other instruments to remain at extremely cold temperatures – not far above absolute zero. As a result, the telescope requires a massive sun shield to protect against solar radiation.



Sources: NASA; Space Telescope Science Institute

## What is the image about?



An image of the Southern Ring Nebula from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Reuters/NASA NASA

- The most comprehensive look of the early cosmos ever seen on camera was revealed in a

deep field image of the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 that NASA recently released.

- Fresh pictures of Stephan's Quintet, a different galaxy cluster that was first found in 1877, were also included in the collection.

## James Webb Space Telescope

- The Hubble Space Telescope will be replaced by the combined NASA-ESA-CSA space telescope, JWST, as NASA's primary astrophysics mission.
- It is the most potent telescope ever constructed for space.
- It will allow for a wide range of astronomical and cosmological investigations, including the observation of some of the most remote objects and events in the universe. This will aid in our understanding of phenomena like the creation of the first galaxies and the detailed atmospheric characterization of potentially habitable exoplanets.

## What does the 'Dark Ages' of the universe mean?



- The Big Bang, an event that occurred 13.8 billion years ago and left the cosmos in a very hot and dense state, is believed to have been the cause of the universe's beginning.
- After the Big Bang, the cosmos started expanding and cooling right away.

- The universe was 100 trillion miles across and had an amazing average temperature of 18 billion degrees Fahrenheit one second after the Big Bang (10 billion C).
- The cosmos was 10 million light-years large and had cooled to 5,500 F about 400,000 years after the Big Bang (3,000 C).
- Space was continuously filled with a smooth soup of radiation, hydrogen, and helium throughout this epoch.
- There was no organisation. The soup thinned and everything faded to darkness as the expanding universe grew larger and colder.

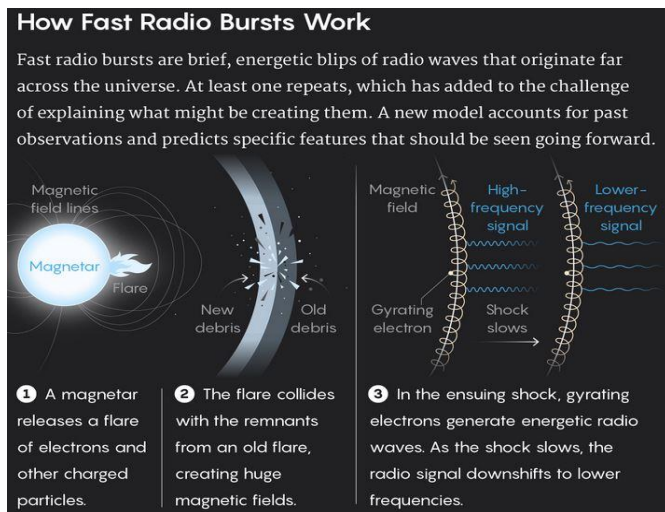
This was the start of what astronomers call the Dark Ages of the universe.

### How will JWST study this?

Ans. Looking for the first light

- Gravity created the first stars and galaxies, which finally started to release the first light, ending the Dark Ages.
- While first light detection is exceedingly difficult, astronomers hope to learn more about this interesting and significant period of the universe.
- The initial objects were incredibly small compared to today's big, luminous galaxies, and as a result of the universe's ongoing expansion, they are now tens of billions of light years away from Earth.
- The first stars were also surrounded by gas that was leftover from their formation; this gas served as a fog, absorbing the majority of light.
- Radiation took several hundred million years to burn the fog away. When it reaches Earth, this early light is very weak.

## What are Fast Radio Bursts (FRB)?



A strange radio signal (called Fast Radio Bursts) has been detected in a galaxy several billion light-years from Earth, a recent study claimed.

### What is an FRB?

- Since the first FRB was spotted in 2007, researchers have been trying to determine where they came from.
- FRBs are essentially brilliant radio wave bursts (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields).
- Since its durations are on the millisecond scale, it is challenging to identify them and pinpoint their location in the sky.

### Who discovered it?

- Several satellites, including NASA's Wind mission, picked up on the X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts.
- The radio burst was also picked up by STARE2, a NASA-funded study that searches for transient astronomical radio emissions.

### Why are they significant?

- The waves have caused ripples around the world for one reason: they arrive in a pattern. This was first detected in 2018 by the Canadian observatory.
- Theories that they might be from an alien culture were born as a result of this.
- At first, it was thought that they were caused by the collision of black holes or neutron stars.
- However, the notion of colliding objects was disproved by the discovery of repeated FRBs.

## Russia to leave International Space Station (ISS)



Russia will pull out of the International Space Station (ISS) after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost.

### Why in news?

- Russia will end a symbolic two-decade orbital partnership between Moscow and the west.

### International Space Station (ISS)

- In 1998, the U.S., Russia, Japan, Canada, and Europe joined together to launch the International Space Station (ISS).

- The concept of a space station first appeared in Ronald Reagan's State of the Union speech in 1984.
- The space station, which is currently in low-Earth orbit, was built over a long period of time.
- It has acted as a laboratory suspended in space since it was created, aiding numerous scientific and technical advancements.
- The ISS was designed with a 15-year lifespan in mind.

### Why was ISS launched?

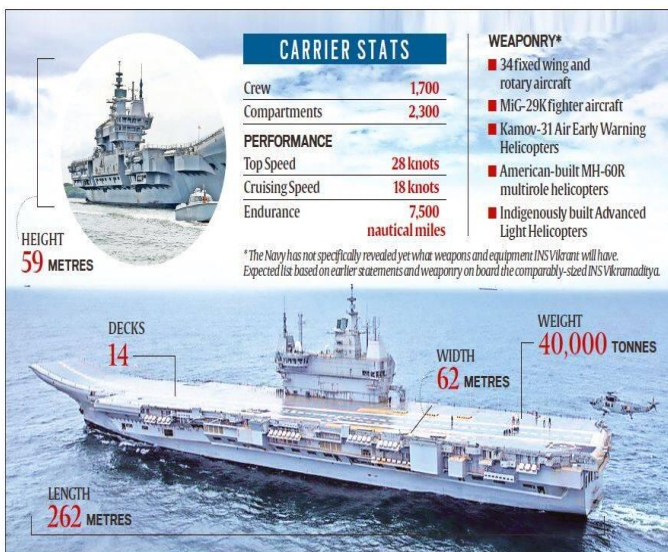
- A space station enables enormous advances in study in the fields of science, communications, metals, and life-saving medications that could only be produced in space.
- For the past 21 years, the ISS has continually maintained a human presence, giving astronauts access to cutting-edge technologies for scientific study.

### What is Russia's role in maintaining the ISS?

- Scientists from five international space agencies, including NASA of the United States, Roscosmos of Russia, JAXA of Japan, Canadian Space Agency, and the European Space Agency, collaborate to build the International Space Station (ISS).
- Each agency contributes to the upkeep of the ISS and has a part to play in it.
- It is not a task that can be supported by one country, both financially and physically.
- Russia's contribution to the collaboration is the module in charge of adjusting the ISS's orbital route.
- Additionally, they transport astronauts to and from the ISS.
- The Russian spacecraft was the only means of getting to and from the International Space Station before SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft entered the picture.

## Security Issues

### INS Vikrant inducted into Indian Navy



The Indian Navy took delivery of IAC-1 the 'Vikrant', the nation's first indigenously built aircraft carrier from its manufacturer, Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

### Vikrant

- The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) built the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1), for the Indian Navy.
- This is India's first ever aircraft carrier.
- In honour of India's first aircraft carrier, Vikrant, it is called "Vikrant" (R11).
- Sanskrit for "courageous," the name Vikrant.

- The design of the ship was started in 1999, and in February 2009, the keel was laid.
- On December 29, 2011, the carrier was floated out of its dry dock, and on August 12, 2013, it was launched.

## Why is it important for India to have an aircraft carrier?

- One of any country's most effective naval assets is an aircraft carrier, which increases a Navy's ability to conduct air dominance operations far from home shores.
- According to many analysts, an aircraft carrier is a requirement for a navy to qualify as a "blue water" fleet, or one that can reflect a country's strength and influence across the high seas.
- As the capital ship of a carrier strike or battle group, an aircraft carrier often takes the lead.
- The aircraft carrier is typically accompanied in the group by destroyers, missile cruisers, frigates, submarines, and supply ships because it is a prized and occasionally vulnerable target.

## And why is it a big deal that this warship has been Made in India?

- Only five or six countries are now capable of producing an aircraft carrier, and India has now entered this exclusive group.
- According to experts and Navy officials, India has proven it has the capability and independence to construct one of the most sophisticated and complex battleships in the world.
- India has previously owned aircraft carriers, however those were either British or Russian construction.
- As of right now, the Navy's sole aircraft carrier, the 'INS Vikramaditya,' was once known as the Soviet-Russian cruiser 'Admiral Gorshkov.' It was commissioned in 2013.

- The HMS Hercules and HMS Hermes, two British-built carriers, were initially known as India's first two carriers, the "INS Vikrant" and the "INS Viraat."
- Both of these warships entered the Navy in 1961 and 1987, respectively.

## Level of indignity

- Over 76% of the materials and equipment aboard IAC-1 are indigenous, according to the Navy.
- In addition to a variety of finished goods such rigid hull boats, galley equipment, air-conditioning and refrigeration plants, and steering gear, this also comprises 23,000 tonnes of steel, 2,500 kilometres of electric cables, 150 kilometres of pipes, and 2,000 valves.
- The Navy has previously stated that about 50 Indian manufacturers were actively involved in the project and that IAC-1 directly employed about 2,000 Indians each day.
- Over 40,000 more people had indirect jobs.
- According to the Navy, over 80–85 percent of the project's estimated \$23,000 billion cost has been invested in the Indian economy.

## Why will this new warship be named 'INS Vikrant'?

- The carrier was created by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) of the Indian Navy and constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited under the codename IAC-1 (CSL).
- When it is officially launched, it will be known as "INS Vikrant," the name of India's cherished first aircraft carrier.
- Before it was decommissioned in 1997, it served as a major source of pride for the country for many years.



- The first "Vikrant," a 19,500-ton battleship of the Majestic class that India purchased from the UK in 1961, distinguished itself during the conflict with Pakistan.

## What weapons and equipment will the new 'Vikrant' have?

- The brand-new battleship is comparable to India's current carrier, the 44,500-ton "INS Vikramaditya," which has a maximum carrying capacity of 34 aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters.
- IAC-1, which would fly Russian-built MiG-29K fighter jets and Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, will be "the most potent sea-based asset," the Navy had earlier declared.
- The newly introduced "Vikrant" will also fly the Lockheed Martin MH-60R Seahawk multirole

helicopter, an American aerospace and defence corporation.

- Additionally, it will transport the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), which was made by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in Bengaluru.

## Now that India has shown the capability, will it build more carriers?

- The Navy has been requesting permission to construct a third aircraft carrier for the nation since 2015, and if granted, it will become India's second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-2).
- This projected carrier, dubbed "INS Vishal," is envisioned as a massive 65,000-ton ship that will be far larger than both IAC-1 and "INS Vikramaditya."

## Trivia

### Anayoottu Ritual of Kerala



Anayoottu, an annual ritual at the Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur was recently held.

### Why in news?

- This annual ceremony at the temple has a backstory.
- Along with other national cultural expressions, Kerala's elephant pooram was chosen to be displayed at the 1982 Asian Games opening ceremony in Delhi.
- Elephants were sent from all around the nation to New Delhi.

### What is Anayoottu?

- The Gaja Pooja and Elephant Feeding Festival, or Anayoottu, takes place within the grounds of the Vadakkunnathan Temple in the Kerala city of Thrissur.
- According to the Malayalam calendar, the event occurs on the first day of the month of

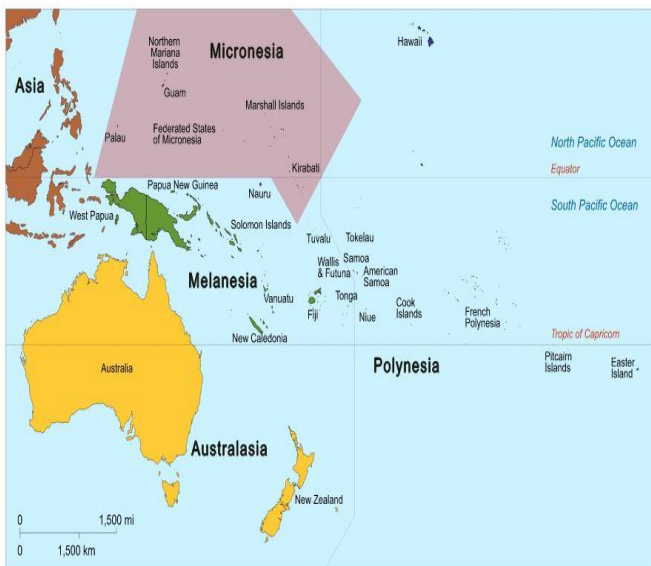
Karkkidakam, which corresponds to the month of July.

- Several plain elephants are placed in the middle of a throng of people to receive worship and food.
- To feed the elephants, throngs of people swarm the temple.

### Mythology behind

- The god of riches and desire fulfilment, Lord Ganesha, is said to be appeased by presenting poojas and delectable food to the elephants.
- The Aanayottoo ceremony has been held annually at the Vadakkunnathan temple, which is one of the oldest Shiva temples in southern India.

### Micronesia: the remote Pacific Islands



The Federated States of Micronesia is one of the latest places on Earth to experience an outbreak of Covid-19, after two and a half years of successfully protecting itself from the virus.

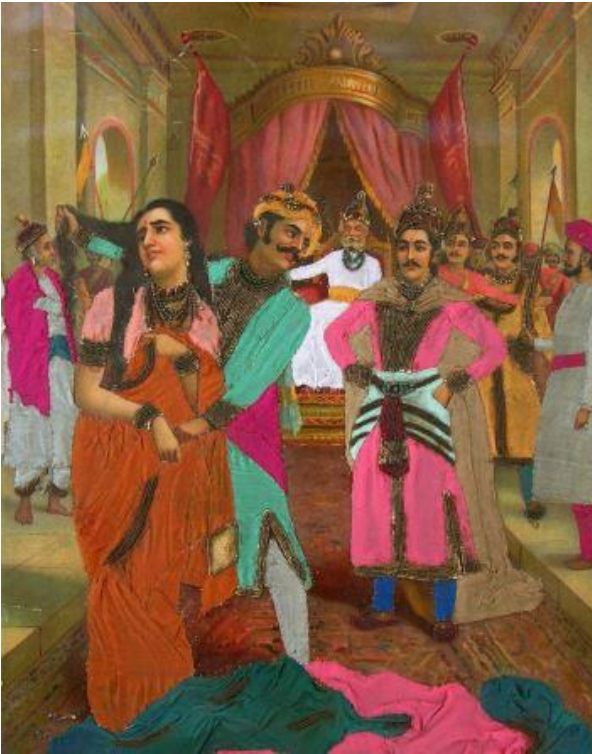
### Where is Micronesia?

- FSM is situated in the Micronesia subregion of Oceania's Western Pacific.
- It is made up of the Caroline Islands' Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Pohnpei (where the capital Palikir is situated).
- It is a dispersed archipelago of little islands that is split between Micronesia and the Republic of Palau and is also referred to as the Carolines.
- With a total land area of 702 square kilometres, the FSM is made up of 607 islands and islets.

### Its geography

- Despite being relatively small, the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is the 14th largest in the world because to the islands, which cover an estimated 2,900 square kilometres of sea.
- EEZs give nations exclusive control over maritime resources up to 370 kilometres off their coasts.
- Other small island countries and territories in the Micronesia region, such as Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Kiribati, and the Mariana Islands, share sea boundaries with the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Its larger neighbouring countries are the Philippines in the west, Hawaii in the east, Papua New Guinea and Australia in the south, and Japan in the north. These countries are all divided by enormous stretches of the Pacific Ocean.

### Who was Raja Ravi Varma?



Ahead of the 175th birth anniversary fete of the legendary artist Raja Ravi Varma, erstwhile royal family of Kilimanoor has urged the Union government to posthumously confer the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, on him.

## Raja Ravi Varma

- Raja Ravi Varma was born in April 1848 to a family that had strong ties to the Travancore royal line in Kilimanoor, Kerala.
- He is internationally recognised for his realistic depictions of Indian gods and goddesses and is frequently considered to as the founder of modern Indian painting.
- Although he primarily painted for the royal family, he is also credited with popularising art through his prints and oleographs.
- He began to paint animals and commonplace sceneries on the walls at an early age using

colours made from local plants including leaves, flowers, and soil.

- This was noted by Raja Raja Varma, his uncle, who supported his potential.
- He studied watercolour painting under the tutelage of the then-ruler of Travancore, Ayilyam Thirunal, Ramaswamy Naidu, and then received instruction in oil painting from the Dutch painter Theodore Jensen.



## How he become an artist of the royals?

- In the late 19th century, Varma gained popularity among the aristocracy and received several portrait commissions.
- It may be argued that the sheer volume of demands for his paintings at one point caused the Kilimanoor Palace in Kerala to open a post office as a result of his popularity.
- For both business and inspiration, he made extended trips throughout India.

## Fame as a notable painter

- He has ordered 14 Puranic paintings for the Durbar Hall of the new Lakshmi Vilas Palace in

Baroda, following a portrait of Maharaja Sayajirao of Baroda.

- Varma used scenes from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana to depict Indian culture.
- Numerous other kings, like the Maharaja of Mysore and the Maharaja of Udaipur, also supported him.
- The artist received recognition for a show of his paintings in Vienna in 1873 as his fame skyrocketed.
- Also in 1893, in Chicago, he received three gold medals from the World's Columbian Exposition.

### Nature of his artforms

- His well-known artwork also significantly incorporates elements of Indian mythology.
- In fact, he is frequently recognised with shaping the representations of Indian deities through his relevant and more realistic depictions, which were frequently painted using models who were people.
- The images feature Lord Vishnu with his consorts, Maya and Lakshmi, as well as Lakshmi as the goddess of wealth, Saraswati as the goddess of knowledge, and Saraswati as the goddess of wisdom.

### How he took Indian art to the masses?

- Raja Ravi Varma wanted to make his art accessible to the general public, thus in 1894 he established a lithographic press in Bombay.
- According to reports, Sir T. Madhava Rao, a former Dewan of Travancore and later of Baroda, gave Varma the idea in a letter by pointing out that since he couldn't keep up with the high demand for his work, it would be ideal for him to send some of his best pieces to Europe and have oleographs made of them.
- Varma, on the other hand, opted to start his own printing press.
- According to legend, The Birth of Shakuntala was the first image produced at Varma's press. This was followed by countless legendary characters and saints, including Adi Shankaracharya.

### Major works

- He is thought to have produced almost 7,000 paintings before passing away at the age of 58.
- However, only one painting, an incomplete portrait of a "Parsi lady," which was his final creation, is currently present in "Chithrashala," the artist's studio at Kilimanoor Palace.
- 'Lady in the Moonlight,' 'Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair,' 'Malabar Lady with Violin,' 'Lady with Swarbat,' and 'Maharashtrian Lady with Fruits' are a few of his well-known compositions.



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