

CURRENT AFFAIRS



**AUGUST
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 August 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

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 Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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Topic Wise Current Affairs

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



World Wide Web Day : 01 August :-

Every year on August 1, World Wide Web Day, or WWW Day, is observed. This celebration honours the invention of the internet, its history, as well as where we are now headed and all of the challenges we continue to face. Every year on World Wide Web Day, researchers and scientists highlight aspects of the internet that require our attention and should be discussed. The commemoration aims to remember Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who invented the World Wide Web in 1989 in Geneva.



Hiroshima Day : 6 August :-

Every year on August 6, Hiroshima Day is observed to promote peace politics and raise awareness of the effects of the Hiroshima bombing. On August 6, 1945, the city of Hiroshima was attacked by an atomic weapon, which instantly killed thousands of people. The United Nations dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima in 1945.

This year marks the 77th anniversary of the Japanese city's atomic bombing. It was the first city to be bombed with a nuclear weapon. This day is significant because it is dedicated to anti-war and anti-nuclear demonstrations in many countries.



National Handloom Day : 7 August :-

Every year on August 7, India celebrates the National Handloom Day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 7th as National Handloom Day in 2015. On this day, the government and other organisations recognise the handloom weaving community for their enormous contribution to the country's socioeconomic development. The day also marks India's reaffirmation of protecting its glorious handloom heritage and greater opportunities for weavers and workers to ensure livelihoods.



International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples : 09 August :-

Every year on August 9, the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples is observed. The day is observed to raise awareness about indigenous peoples around the world and to protect their rights. On December 23, 1994, the United Nations passed a resolution designating August 9 as the day. The day also recognises their contributions to environmental protection around the world. The theme for 2022 is 'The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge.'



World elephant day, 12 August :-

Every year on August 12th, people around the world observe World Elephant Day to bring attention to the suffering of elephants. The goal of the day is to raise awareness of the need for these species to be preserved and the laws and policies that may be put in place to ensure their survival. The major goals of World Elephant Day are to raise public awareness about the need to conserve elephants and to exchange information and practical suggestions for better safeguarding and managing both wild and domestic elephants.



World Biofuel Day : 10 August :-

On August 10, World Biofuel Day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of non-fossil fuels as a replacement for conventional fossil fuels. This initiative will enable cleaner non-fossil fuel consumption patterns. This day is dedicated to Sir Rudolf Diesel. He invented the diesel engine and was the first to predict that vegetable oil could replace fossil fuels. To commemorate this achievement, August 10 is designated as World Biofuel Day. The Indian government has proposed a number of initiatives to boost the biofuel sector.



Youth Day, 12 August :-

Every year on August 12, people worldwide commemorate International Youth Day. This day is observed to increase awareness of problems that young people around the world face. In order to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure that no one is left behind, action must be taken across all generations, according to the goal of International Youth Day 2022. Additionally, it will increase public awareness of some impediments to intergenerational solidarity, most notably ageism, which affects both young and elderly people and has a negative influence on society as a whole.



Independence Day Of India : 15 August :-

The Independence Day is celebrated on August 15 every year to commemorate India's freedom from the British rule in 1947. We Indians pay tribute to all the leaders who fought valiantly for our country's freedom in the past. On this day, India's Prime Minister will hoist our tricolour flag at the Red Fort in Old Delhi. He will also address the nation in a speech. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all cultural programmes and school celebrations will be cancelled this year. This day commemorates all of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters in order to liberate India from British rule.



World Organ Donation Day : 13 August :-

Every year on August 13, World Organ Donation Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to address and debunk myths about organ donation. Donating organs such as kidneys, hearts, pancreas, eyes, lungs, and other organs can help save the lives of people suffering from chronic illnesses. The first successful living donor organ transplant was performed in the United States in 1954. Doctor Joseph Murray was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1990 for his successful kidney transplant.



World Mosquito Day : 20 August :-

Every year on August 20, World Mosquito Day commemorates the discovery that mosquitos transmit

the parasite that causes malaria. Sir Ronald Ross discovered the malaria parasite in the stomach tissue of an Anopheles mosquito on this day in 1897. His research later confirmed that mosquitos are the vectors that transmit this deadly parasite from person to person. Mosquito-borne diseases kill hundreds of thousands of people each year, despite global efforts to reduce their impact on vulnerable populations.



Sadbhavna Diwas: 20 August :-

Sadbhavna Diwas is celebrated every year on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. 20 August 2022, marks the 78th birth anniversary of India's Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day is celebrated as 'Sadbhavana Diwas,' or Harmony Day, with the goal of encouraging national integration, peace, affection, and communal harmony among Indians of all faiths. Rajiv Gandhi envisioned a developed nation through many national and international projects that he pioneered.

WORLD SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY



World Senior Citizen's Day : 21 August :-

World Senior Citizens' Day is observed annually on August 21 to recognise the contributions of elders to society and its people. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as elder abuse and age deterioration. On this special day, every senior citizen problem is discussed, their experiences are shared, and solutions are offered. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared the first World Senior Citizens' Day on December 14, 1990. However, the first celebration of this day took place on October 1, 1991.



National Sports Day : 29 August :-

Every year on August 29, India observes National Sports Day. The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, an Indian hockey legend. Major Dhyan Chand was a legend in Indian and international hockey. He was instrumental in India completing their first hat-trick of Olympic gold medals, with victories at the 1928, 1932, and 1936 Summer Olympics. Multiple awards are presented on this day, including the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dhyan Chand Award, and Dronacharya Award.

2: Agreements



To Establish Center Of Excellence For MSME, NSIC And LG Electronics Sign An Agreement :-

The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has signed an agreement with LG Electronics India Pvt Ltd and the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India to establish the MSME Centre for Excellence. LG Electronics and the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) will establish a "Centre of Excellence" at NSIC - Technical Services Centre to train underprivileged youth in consumer electronics and appliances. This will provide youth with new opportunities in the field of electronics.



Indian And Malaysian Bodies Signs Deal To Support Palm Oil Business :-

The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) and the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen their collaboration in promoting palm oil use. The MoU is expected to broaden cooperation in mutually beneficial areas, such as promoting the development and use of Malaysian palm oil and MSPO-certified palm oil. It would promote the interests of producers, processors, users, and consumers through product and market development assistance, as well as joint activities, according to a statement.



IISc Bengaluru And Indian Navy Ink MoU For Joint Aviation Research :-

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and the Indian Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on aviation research and development and to increase the Navy's self-reliance. "The MoU provides a formal basis for the Indian Navy to interact with relevant faculty members at IISc and will promote joint research programmes in areas of mutual interest," according to a statement from the IISc. This MoU will cover areas of collaboration in aerospace/aeronautical engineering, such as design and education technology.



Amazon India Signed An Agreement With Indian Railways To Boost Delivery :-

Amazon India has teamed up with Indian Railways to improve its delivery services across the country. Through this partnership, the e-commerce company claims it will be able to transport packages to more than 110 inter-city routes, ensuring one to two-day delivery for its customers. Amazon India stated that it began working with the Indian Railways in 2019 and has since increased its transportation lanes fivefold. Notably, Amazon India is the first online delivery company to collaborate with the Indian Railways to develop an express rail transportation product.



K-DISC Inks MoU With LinkedIn To Promote Employability :-

LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) as part of the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) initiative's Connect Career to Campus (CCC) campaign. According to the Kerala government, the partnership

aims to improve the employability skills of Kerala's youth and aggravate relevant jobs for them by utilising LinkedIn talent insights and learning tools.



Goa Police And Blockchain Network Sire Agree To Work To Build Smart Policing :-

Goa Police has announced a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sire, a fifth generation blockchain network company, to go digital at its crime branch office in Ribandar. Nidhin Valsan, Indian Police Service (IPS), Superintendent of Police (SP) Crime, on behalf of Goa Police, and Pratik Gauri, founder and CEO, Sire, signed the MoU. The MoU aims to establish a public-private partnership between Sire and Goa Police in order to implement a smart policing solution that will improve transparency and efficiency in policing.



IMD-UNDP And Japan Collaborate For Climate Action In 10 States And UTs :-

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Japanese government, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in ten Indian states and union territories. During 2022-23, the project will be implemented in Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. Japan has extended a climate grant of \$5.16 million to UNDP India for the project.



Yes Bank Announces Partnership With SellerApp To Promote ONDC :-

Yes Bank announced a partnership with SellerApp, a seller-centric intelligence platform, to encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) and help them expand their digital commerce footprint. "We are pleased to create access for our enterprise customers to be part of the strategic ONDC network. This association will enable us to positively impact the business momentum of our SME, MSME and other enterprise customers across India and Bharat," Prashant Kumar, MD & CEO, Yes Bank said.



Odisha Government Signed An MoU With NIOT For Protecting It's Coastline :-

The Odisha government has signed an agreement with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to protect its coasts. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Water Resources Department Engineer in Chief B K Mishra and Dr. G A Ramdass, Director, NIOT, Chennai. The National Institute of Ocean Technology, which is part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is the country's premier institute for ocean engineering and coastline protection. Odisha has a 480-kilometer-long coastline that is vulnerable to natural disasters.



TCS Partnered With Five Star Bank To Offer Hyper-Personalised Customer Experience :-

Tata Consultancy Services has joined Five Star Bank's digital transformation journey, assisting it in determining lending risk and delivering hyper-personalized customer experiences through the TCS Customer Intelligence & Insights (CI&I) analytics platform. Five Star Bank is a leader in consumer and commercial lending in Central and Western New York. The bank was looking for a solution that would provide contextual customer insights to help them meet customer expectations more effectively.



IREDA And MAHAPREIT Sign An MoU To Provide Loans For Green Energy Projects :-

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT). According to the MoU, IREDA will provide MAHAPREIT with financing facilities for Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local governments, and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks. Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, and Shri Bipin Shrimali, CMD, MAHAPREIT signed the MoU.



NPCI International Signs MoU With PayXpert :-

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU confirming a partnership with payment solutions provider PayXpert to internationalise the acceptance of its payment solutions in the United Kingdom. This collaboration will make Indian payment solutions available in the UK on all PayXpert's android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments, beginning with UPI-based QR code payments and eventually including the option for RuPay card payments.



Godrej Agrovet Signed Agreements With Assam, Manipur, And Tripura For Palm Oil :-

Godrej Agrovet, a diversified agri-business firm, has announced the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the governments of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura for the development and promotion of oil palm cultivation under a central scheme. Godrej Agrovet is India's largest oil palm processor, working directly with farmers throughout the crop cycle. Godrej Agrovet stated that as part of the memorandums of understanding (MoUs), it will be allotted land across the three states for the promotion and development of sustainable palm oil plantations in the region.

SIDBI And Tata Power's TPRMG Collaborated To Support Green Entrepreneurs :-

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG), a Tata Power subsidiary, to launch 1,000 green energy

businesses across the country. According to a press release from SIDBI, the initiative aims to promote sustainable entrepreneurship models and empower rural entrepreneurs. The 'Sustainable is Attainable' programme of Tata Power and SIDBI's 'Empowering MSMEs' campaign are the driving forces behind this collaboration, they said.



3: Appointments



Akshaya Moondra Appointed As CEO Of Vodafone Idea :-

Vodafone Idea has appointed Akshaya Moondra as its chief executive officer (CEO) for a three-year term beginning August 19. The appointment follows the expiration of current CEO Ravinder Takkar's three-year term on August 18. Takkar, however, will remain a non-executive and non-independent director of the company after his term as MD & CEO ends, the company said in a statement. Moondra has over thirty years of international experience and over 14 years of telecom experience in India.



Nakul Jain Appointed As CEO Of Paytm Payments Services :-

Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, has appointed Standard Chartered Bank executive Nakul Jain as CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd. (PPSL). Jain previously worked at Standard Chartered Bank as the managing director of private banking, priority banking, deposits, and branch banking. Praveen Sharma, the CEO of Paytm Payments Services, has also been promoted to lead the company's commerce vertical. Paytm Payments is the company that runs Paytm's payment gateway and payment aggregator businesses.



India's Indermit Gill Named As World Bank's Chief Economist :-

Indermit Gill, an Indian national, has been appointed as the World Bank's chief economist and senior vice-president for development economics. After Kaushik

Basu, Indermit Gill is the second Indian to hold the coveted position of World Bank Chief Economist. Basu served between 2012 and 2016. Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath, both of Indian origin, have served as chief economists at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank's sister organisation. Gill brings with him two decades of operational working experience at the World Bank.



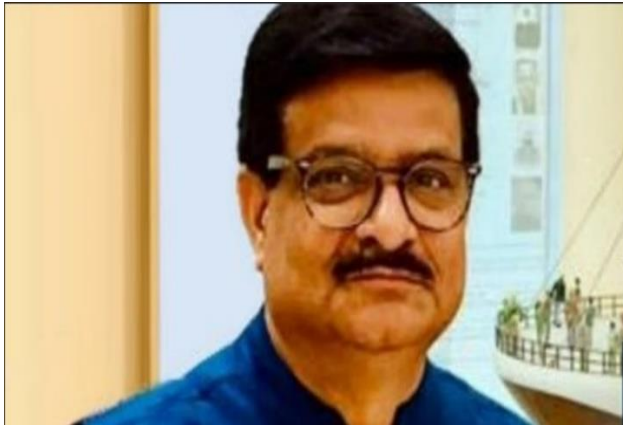
Pranay Kumar Verma Named As New High Commissioner Of India To Bangladesh :-

Pranay Kumar Verma, a seasoned diplomat and IFS officer from the 1994 batch, has been named India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He is currently the Ambassador of India to Vietnam. He is expected to start soon in place of current High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, who is expected to become India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Pranay Kumar Verma has served as a diplomat in Hong Kong, San Francisco, Beijing, Kathmandu, and Washington, DC.



Sanjay Arora Named As The New Delhi Police Commissioner :-

Sanjay Arora has been named the new Commissioner of Police in Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs appointed him. Sanjay Arora is a Tamil Nadu cadre IPS officer from the 1988 batch. The MHA also approved the inter-cadre deputation of Arora, a Tamil Nadu Cadre IPS officer, into the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) cadre. Arora was given the ceremonial guard of honour and then escorted to the police commissioner's office on the 17th floor of the headquarters.



Satyendra Prakash Assume Charges As New Principal DG Of Press Information Bureau :-

Satyendra Prakash has been named principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Prior to this, he was the principal DG of the Central Bureau of Communication. Satyendra Prakash has a diverse background in public communication, media management, administration, policy formulation, and programme implementation. He has represented the Government of India in a number of national and international forums, including UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP. Furthermore, Prakash has been involved in a number of major Government of India public campaigns.



Jagdeep Dhankhar Elected as the 14th Vice-President of India :-

Jagdeep Dhankhar, the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), has been elected as India's 14th Vice President. He got 528 votes. Margaret Alva, the opposition's choice, was defeated with 182 votes. Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh, who was the presiding officer of the 16th Vice Presidential election, said that of the 780 MPs eligible to cast votes, 725 MPs cast their vote. 15 votes were found to be invalid, while 710 votes were found to be valid. The country's next Vice President will take the oath of office on August 11, one day after the term of the current Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu, expires.



Suresh N Patel Sworn In As Central Vigilance Commissioner :-

Former Andhra Bank CEO and current vigilance commissioner Suresh N Patel has been appointed as the

new chief of the Central Vigilance Commission by the government. Former Intelligence Bureau director Arvind Kumar and ex-IAS officer Praveen Kumar Srivastava have been appointed as vigilance commissioners. The position of central vigilance commissioner (CVC) had been vacant for a year, with Patel serving as acting CVC since June of this year. President Droupadi Murmu swore in Patel as the head of the anti-corruption watchdog.



Senior-Most Judge Of Supreme Court U U Lalit Is Set To Become Next CJI :-

President Droupadi Murmu issued a notice for the Justice UU Lalit's appointment as the next Chief Justice of India. He will take over for Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana, whose term expires on August 26. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, who has been appointed as India's 49th Chief Justice, will assume office on August 27, 2022. CJI NV Ramana had recommended UU Lalit as his successor to the Union Law Ministry. Justice UU Lalit will leave the bench after only 74 days on November 8.



Fintech Platform BharatPe Named Nalin Negi As New CFO :-

BharatPe, a fintech platform, has announced the appointment of former SBI Card CFO Nalin Negi as its new chief financial officer as it prepares for its initial public offering (IPO). In his new role, Negi will report to Suhail Sameer, CEO of BharatPe, and will collaborate closely with the company's board of directors, according to a statement from the company. "His experience of listing SBI Card will be instrumental for us as we aim to go public in FY25," said Sameer. The new appointment comes after Bhavik Koladiya, co-founder of BharatPe, left the company to pursue other opportunities.



IFS Officer Shweta Singh Appointed As Director Of PMO :-

According to a Personnel Ministry order, the Union government has appointed Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Shweta Singh as a director in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "Appointment of Ms. Shweta Singh, IFS (2008) as Director in the Prime Minister's Office for a period of three years from the date of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier" said the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) order also stated that Shweta Singh's appointment would be approved for three years from the date of her joining.



Oil India Named Ranjith Rath As New Chairman & MD :-

Ranjit Rath has been appointed as the new chairman and managing director of Oil India Ltd, India's second-largest state-owned oil and gas producer. Rath is a geoscientist who attended IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, and Utkal University, according to the company. Rath, 50, was previously the chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) and was chosen by the government headhunter in March for the top job at Oil India Ltd. He takes over for Sushil Chandra Mishra, who retired on June 30.



Indian Chess Legend Viswanathan Anand Becomes FIDE Deputy President :-

Viswanathan Anand, an Indian chess legend, has been elected deputy president of FIDE, the sport's world governing body, while incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich has been re-elected for a second term. After an illustrious career in which he won numerous titles and honours, Chennai-based Anand has recently reduced his tournament play and shifted his focus to coaching. After winning the world junior title, he became India's first Grandmaster and has since led the country at the global level in chess. He also won five world titles, the most recent of which was the world rapid title in 2017.



IAS Piyush Goyal Named NATGRID CEO By The Union Government :-

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the appointment of Piyush Goyal, a senior Nagaland cadre IAS officer, as CEO of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). Goyal is currently working in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as an additional secretary (AS). Meanwhile, Goyal, a 1994 batch IAS officer, will be replaced by Chandraker Bharti, a 1996 batch UT cadre IAS officer. He holds the rank of joint secretary in the defence ministry.



4 Independent Directors Reappointed By Gol To RBI's Central Board:-

The government announced the reappointment of four independent directors to the RBI board for a four-year term. The central government has re-nominated Shri Satish Kashinath Marathe and Shri Swaminathan Gurumurthy as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India for another four years. Meanwhile, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi were re-nominated by the Centre as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India for a four-year term following the completion of their current tenure.



Rajkiran Rai Named As New MD Of NaBFID :-

Rajkiran Rai G has been appointed as the managing director (MD) of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) by the Centre and the board of directors for the next five years. Following the recommendation of Rai's name for the top

job at the government-backed development finance institution (DFI) by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and central government agencies approved the recommended candidate. According to the appointment details, Rai took over as DFI's MD on August 8 and will remain in the position until May 18, 2027.



Bajaj Electricals Elevates Anuj Poddar As MD & CEO :-

Anuj Poddar, executive director at Bajaj Electricals, has been promoted to managing director and chief executive officer. The company has also separated the positions of chairman and managing director, and its patron Shekhar Bajaj will continue as executive chairman, according to a statement from Bajaj Electricals. Bajaj Electricals Chairman Shekhar Bajaj stated that the company has been on a significant transformation journey over the last few years, involving many changes on both the business and organisational fronts.



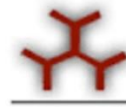
Bill Gates Foundation Named Ashish Dhawan To Its Board Of Trustees :-

Ashish Dhawan, an Indian philanthropist, has been appointed to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's board of trustees. In a recent press release, the foundation announced the appointment of two new members to its board of trustees. In addition to being the CEO of the Convergence Foundation, Ashish, 53, is the chairperson of Ashoka University and the Central Square Foundation, both non-profit organisations dedicated to improving the quality of education for children in India. Dr Helene D Gayle, President of Spelman College in the United States, has been appointed alongside him.



Sameer V. Kamat named as the new chairman of DRDO :-

Sameer V. Kamat, Director General of DRDO's Naval Systems and Materials Division, was named as the organization's new chairman. Kamat will hold this position till he is 60 or until further orders. Likewise, G. Satheesh Reddy, the present secretary, was chosen to serve as the defence minister's scientific advisor. Dr. Sameer Venkatapathy Kamat is the full name of Sameer V. Kamat. He graduated from IIT Kharagpur with a B.Tech Engineering (Hons) in Metallurgical Engineering in 1985.



National Institute of Immunology
राष्ट्रीय प्रतिरक्षाविज्ञान संस्थान

Odia Scientist Debasisa Mohanty Appointed As Director Of NII :-

According to a Personnel Ministry order, senior scientist Debasisa has been appointed director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII). He is currently employed by the institute as a staff scientist. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr Debasisa Mohanty, Staff Scientist-VII, NII, New Delhi to the post of Director, National Institute of Immunology, with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post and upto the age of his superannuation," the order said.



Rajesh Verma Named As Secretary To President Droupadi Murmu :-

According to the government, Odisha cadre IAS officer Rajesh Verma has been appointed as Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu. Verma has previously served as the Principal Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the Principal Secretary of the Government of Odisha's Energy Department. In January 2022, Rajesh Verma, Secretary of the Ministry of

Corporate Affairs (MCA), was given the additional charge of Financial Services Secretary. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Rajesh Verma's nomination for additional charge as DFS secretary.



Vikram Doraiswami Appointed To UK As India's High Commissioner :-

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that Vikram Doraiswami, the current Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. In 1992, Doraiswami joined the Indian Foreign Service. He worked in journalism for a year before that. According to the MEA, he graduated from Delhi University with a master's degree in history. Doraiswami was appointed Third Secretary in the Indian Embassy in Hong Kong in

May 1994 after completing his in-service training in New Delhi from 1992 to 1993.



Sajith Sivanandan Appointed As The Head Of Disney+Hotstar :-

Sajith Sivanandan, former Google Pay managing director, has been appointed executive vice president and head of Disney+ Hotstar to oversee the company's overall business operations in India. Sivanandan will start at Disney+ Hotstar in October and will report to both Rebecca Campbell, chairman of Disney's International content and operations group, and K Madhavan, president of Disney Star. Sivanandan, as executive vice president, will also collaborate closely with local leadership in international markets, as well as the Disney+ team in the United States.

4: Awards



Gen. Naravane And Former US Defense Secretary Honoured For Fostering Indo-US Relations :-

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) has honoured former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane for his role in strengthening ties between India and the United States. The USISPF presented global leadership and public service awards to individuals who have contributed to the strengthening of

ties between the United States and India. In addition to Naravane, former US Defense Secretary General Jim Mattis has received the public service award. During his tenure as Defense Secretary, General Mattis worked to make India a strategic partner of the United States.



Professor Kaushik Rajashekara Won Global Energy Prize 2022 :-

Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin engineering professor at the University of Houston, has been awarded the prestigious Global Energy Prize for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while lowering power generation emissions. The Global Energy Association chose only three people from a record 119 nominations from 43 countries to receive the award this year. The ceremony will take place on October 12-14, during Russian Energy Week in Moscow.



DSF Established "Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award For Excellence" In Music :-

The Dinesh Shahra Foundation (DSF) has made significant progress in its efforts to popularise soulful Indian music. The Foundation has established the first-ever 'Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award' for Excellence in Music. The Indian Arts & Cultural Society is supporting the initiative. DSF has taken up the cause of supporting senior artists in collaboration with the Indian Arts & Cultural Society as part of its mission to create a value-based social structure. Aside from a trophy or memento, the recognition will include a substantial monetary component.



Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong Received 'Distinguished Indologist For 2021' Award :-

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has named a Canadian scholar the 2021 Distinguished Indologist. Manish, India's consul-general in Vancouver, presented the award to Jeffrey Armstrong during a ceremony. The annual award was established in 2015 during the First World Indology Conference, which brought prominent Indologists from around the world together with Indian scholars to discuss the scope of promoting Indian studies abroad. Professor Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron of Germany was the first recipient of the award in 2015.



Andhra Pradesh Emerges As Winner In Utilisation Of Agri-Infra Funds :-

Andhra Pradesh is the state with the highest utilisation of agricultural infrastructure funds (Agri Infra Fund). It has emerged as the best state by putting a strong emphasis on farm-gate infrastructure development. At a function in New Delhi, Union Agriculture and Family Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award for the best state in the country in utilising Agri Funds in the fiscal year 2021-22 to B. Srinivasa Rao, CEO of State Rythu Bazars. Through multi-sponsored centres, the state government is providing large-scale infrastructure at the farm.



Spiritual Leader Dalai Lama Honoured With Ladakh's Highest Civilian Award :-

According to an official, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama was awarded the 'dPal rNgam Duston' award, Ladakh's highest civilian honour, for his immense contribution to humanity, particularly to the union

territory. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, bestowed the sixth award. According to advisor Umang Narula, the 'dPal rNgam Duston' commemorates the remarkable contribution and achievement of Ladakh's heroes and seeks to instil a sense of pride in the younger generation.



Indian-American Aarya Walvekar Crowned Miss India USA 2022 :-

Aarya Walvekar, a Virginia-born Indian-American teen, was crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual beauty pageant held in New Jersey. Walvekar represented the United States' capital, Washington, DC, in the competition, which featured 74 contestants from 30 states competing in three different pageants: Miss India USA, Mrs India USA, and Miss Teen India USA. Aarya, a senior at Briar Woods High School, founded Euphoria Dance Studio, a small business that offers affordable dance lessons to local children.



Puneeth Rajkumar To Be Conferred Karnataka Ratna Posthumously :-

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that Kannada film star Puneeth Rajkumar, who died last year, will be honoured posthumously with the 'Karnataka Ratna' award on November 1, which happens to be Kannada Rajyotsava, the state's formation day. He will be the state's tenth recipient of the highest civilian honour. The Chief Minister announced the award for the late actor in November last year at the "Puneetha Namana," an event to honour Puneeth Rajkumar.



Senior Congress Leader Shashi Tharoor To Receive France's Highest Civilian Award :-

Shashi Tharoor, Congress leader, is set to receive France's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. The French government has bestowed the highest French order of merit on the Thiruvananthapuram MP in recognition of his writings and speeches. Shashi, who was 22 when she received her doctorate in International Relations and Affairs from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1978, has previously received several awards and honours.



Prabath Jayasuriya And Emma Lamb Bags ICC Player Of The Month For July 2022 :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Prabath Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka and Emma Lamb of England as the winners of its Player of the Month awards for July 2022. It was announced that Jayasuriya has won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award following an outstanding series of performances with the ball, where his remarkable haul of wickets sees him crowned ahead of rival contenders England's Jonny Bairstow (who won the Men's award in June) and French youngster Gustav McKeon.



Sunil Chhetri, Manisha Kalyan Named Men's And Women's Footballer Of The Year :-

Sunil Chhetri and Manisha Kalyan have been named the men's and women's 2021-22 Footballer of the Year by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Their respective national team coaches, Thomas Dennerby and Igor Stimac, chose the two winners. Chhetri, who last won the award in 2018-19, had a fantastic year with the national team despite a disappointing season with Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League. Meanwhile, Manisha, 20, has had a meteoric rise in the last year. Last year, she became the first Indian footballer to score against Brazil.



Dadabhai Naoroji's London Home Gets Blue Plaque Honour :-

Dadabhai Naoroji, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain's first Indian parliamentarian, lived in south London for about eight years at the end of the nineteenth century, his home has been honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque. The English Heritage charity's Blue Plaque scheme recognises the historic significance of specific buildings throughout London. Naoroji's plaque was unveiled on August 17, in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Indian independence.



Bangladeshi Fahmida Azim Won The Pulitzer Prize 2022 :-

Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim, who works for the Insider online magazine in the United States, has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary in 2022. She is one of four journalists chosen for their work on China's oppression of the Uyghurs, along with Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams, and Walt Hickey of Insider, a New York-based publication. Fahmida Azim illustrated the work 'I escaped a Chinese internment Camp.' Fahmida Azim was born in Bangladesh and now lives in the United States.



Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel Wins Unesco Peace Prize 2022 :-

Angela Merkel, the former German Chancellor, was awarded the UNESCO Peace Prize for her "efforts to welcome refugees." According to the website of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Merkel was awarded the 2022 Félix Houphout-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize for her "courageous decision in 2015 to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea" as per the statement issued by jury president and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege.

5: Banking



Canara Bank Launched Its Mobile App Named "Canara ai1" :-

Canara Bank has launched its mobile banking app, Canara ai1. The banking app would be a one-stop shop with over 250 features to meet its customers' banking needs. Its goal is to eliminate the need for multiple mobile apps to work in silos to provide different services. The app is available in 11 languages, allowing it to reach out to people from all walks of life in their preferred language. The app supports a variety of social security schemes, such as public provident fund accounts, sukanya samruddhi accounts, senior citizens' savings accounts, Kisan Vikas Patra accounts, and others.



Federal Bank And CBDT Collaborate To Offer Online Tax Payment Services :-

Federal Bank has partnered with the Central Board of Direct Taxes to assist taxpayers in making payments through the income tax e-filing portal's e-pay tax facility. "Anyone can now pay their taxes instantly via any of their payment modes such as debit/credit card, UPI, net banking, cash, NEFT/RTGS," the bank said in a statement. With this collaboration, Federal Bank announced that it had become one of the first companies to be registered on the Income Tax Department's Tin 2.0 platform.



RBI Imposes ₹2.33 Cr Monetary Penalty On Spandana Sphoorty Financial :-

The RBI assessed the NBFC a financial penalty of Rs.2.33 crore. According to the RBI, its review of the risk assessment report, inspection reports, and supervisory letters revealed that the NBFC failed to follow the pricing of credit guidelines for NBFCs. The company was served with a notice, and after receiving its response, the RBI determined that the charge of noncompliance was substantiated and warranted the imposition of the monetary penalty. The RBI stated that the penalty was imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.



Indian Bank Received A Rs. 32 Lakh Fine From The RBI :-

The RBI fined Indian Bank 32 lakh for failing to follow instructions on fraud classification and reporting. The RBI conducted a Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the bank based on its financial position as of March 31, 2019. The review of the Risk Assessment Report, Inspection Report, and all related correspondence revealed that Indian Bank had violated certain provisions of the RBI (Fraud classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) Directions, 2016.



Federal Bank: First Payment Gateway To Be Listed On The New Tax Platform :-

Federal Bank of Kerala has become the first bank to list its Payment Gateway platform on the Income Tax Department's TIN 2.0 platform. The TIN 2.0 platform went live on July 1, this year, and the "Payment Gateway" has been enabled, giving taxpayers another payment option. They can now make payments with ease, using modes such as Credit/Debit Card, UPI, NEFT/RTGS, and Internet Banking. According to Harsh Dugar, Group President of Federal Bank, digital is being actively used as

a key enabler of superior experience and transaction convenience.



SBI Formalises Policy To Finance Makers Of Lab-Grown Diamonds :-

In a move that could significantly boost the industry of lab-grown diamonds, India's largest private lender, State Bank of India, has become the country's first bank to develop a policy to fund manufacturers of the man-made stone. While lab-grown diamonds appear to be exact replicas of natural stones, high-street banks frequently regard them with suspicion. However, SBI's move may bring a level of dependability to the industry. The policy is being formalised at a time when jewellers are establishing factories in Surat to produce synthetic diamonds.



RBI Cancelled The License Of Rupee Co-Operative Bank, Pune :-

The Reserve Bank of India revoked the licence of Pune's Rupee Cooperative Bank, effectively closing the bank,

which had been subject to restrictions since 2013. Rupee Cooperative Bank, one of Maharashtra's major urban cooperative banks, also has a presence in other parts of the state. The RBI dismissed the bank's board of directors in 2013, and Sudhir Pandit and others were appointed administrators to oversee it. An RBI press release cited several reasons, including a lack of adequate capital and earning potential.



Reserve Bank Of India's 1st Set Of Digital Lending Norms :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for entities engaged in digital lending, with the norms stating that all digital loans must be disbursed and repaid through bank accounts of regulated entities only, with no pass-through of lending service providers (LSPs) or other third parties. The latest regulatory framework focuses on the digital lending ecosystem of the RBI's regulated entities (REs) and the LSPs they engage to provide credit facilitation services.



State Bank Of India Launched "Utsav Fixed Deposit Scheme" :-

In honour of the nation's 76th Independence Day, the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new term deposit scheme called "Utsav Deposit." This fixed deposit will pay 6.1 percent interest beginning August 15, 2022. This offer is good for 75 days, or until October 30, 2022. Seniors will be entitled to an extra 0.50% on top of the standard interest rate. For regular citizens, SBI offers fixed deposit interest rates ranging from 2.90 percent to 5.65 percent with terms ranging from 7 days to 10 years.



Karnataka Bank Launches Term Deposit Scheme "KBL Amrit Samridhi" :-

To commemorate 75 years of independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav), Karnataka Bank has introduced the 'KBL Amrit Samridhi' term deposit . The annual interest rate on this 75-week (525-day) term deposit scheme is 6.10 percent. "Karnataka Bank, portraying the rich patriotic tradition and values, has always been ready to meet the aspirations and dreams of its valued patrons. With the new product, KBL Amrit Samridhi, the bank extends the benefit of an increase in the interest rates to our customers" Mahabaleshwara MS, MD and CEO of the bank said.



State Bank Of India Introduced Its First Dedicated Branch To Support Start-Ups :-

The State Bank of India (SBI) will open its first premium dedicated branch for start-ups in Bengaluru soon. The bank stated in its announcement that the new branch will help and support start-up businesses in the city. The new branch will function as a hub, with several stakeholders acting as spokes and assisting the hub branch in enabling startups to access end-to-end financial and advisory services. Based on the experience gained here, the bank will consider expanding to other cities.



HDFC Bank Introduced “Vigil Aunty” To Promote Secure Banking Practices :-

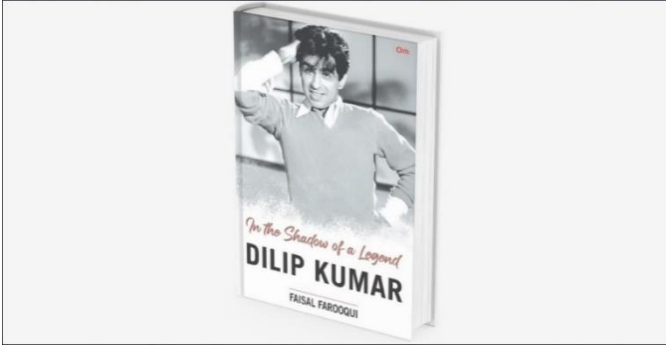
HDFC Bank has launched the 'Vigil Aunty' social media campaign to educate consumers on safe banking practises and cyber fraud awareness. 'Lola Kutty,' a popular TV character, will raise awareness through chat shows on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, among others. This new campaign will last 4-6 weeks and will encourage people to follow 'Vigil Aunty' on social media, WhatsApp, and other platforms. The HDFC Bank hopes that 'Vigil Aunty' will "motivate citizens to remain vigilant about the methods of financial fraudsters."



RBI Cancels Licence Of Deccan Urban Co-Operative Bank :-

Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vijayapur, Karnataka, had its licence revoked by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) due to insufficient capital and no earning prospects. According to the central bank, upon liquidation, every depositor is entitled to a deposit insurance claim amount of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961. According to data, more than 99% of depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

6: Books and Author



A Book Titled "Dilip Kumar: In The Shadow Of A Legend" By Faisal Farooqui :-

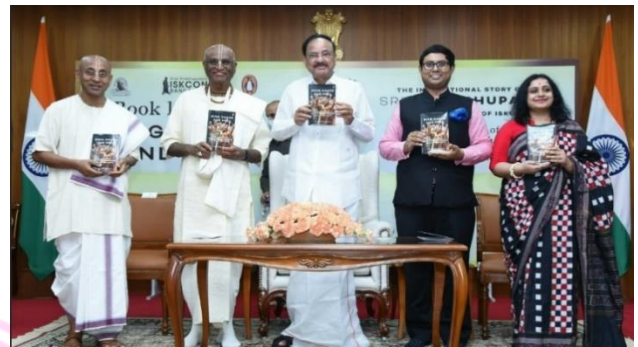
Author Faisal Farooqui has published a new book about the legendary Indian film actor Yusuf Khan, better known as Dilip Kumar. "Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend " is the title of the book. More than Dilip Kumar the actor, the book is a tribute to Dilip Kumar the man. Farooqui is the founder and CEO of Mouthshut.com, a leading review and rating platform in India. The author of Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend paints an intimate portrait of the actor in the book, shedding light on some little-known anecdotes from his illustrious life.



Anurag Thakur Released Books Showcasing Pictures Of President Kovind His Predecessors:-

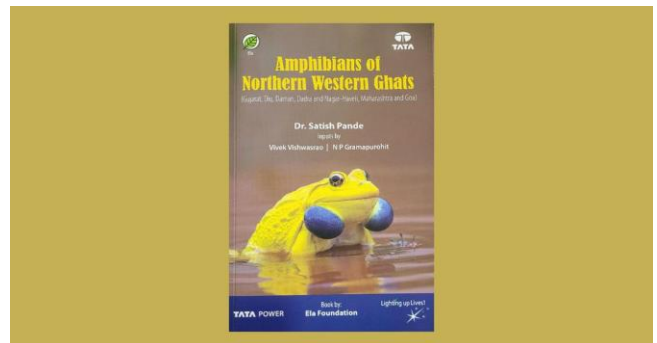
Anurag Thakur, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, has released three books featuring some of the most rare photographs of outgoing President Ram Nath

Kovind and his predecessors. According to Rashtrapati Bhavan tweets, the books were released during a function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, and the first copies were presented to President Kovind in the presence of President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Venkaiah Naidu releases book on ISKCON founder :-

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched "Sing, Dance, and Pray," a biography of ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada, at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi. According to a press release from the Vice President's Secretariat, Naidu stated that Indian civilisation stands for universal values such as unity, peace, and social harmony, and he called for a "spiritual renaissance" to preserve and propagate these age-old values. Dr. Hindol Sengupta's book is a biography of Srila Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON.



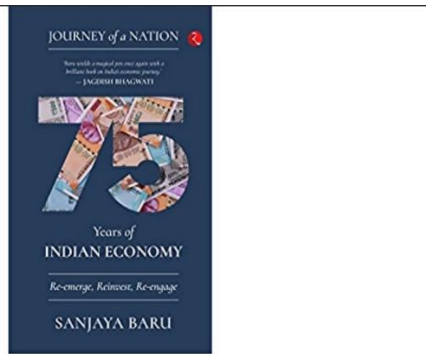
“Amphibians of the Northern Western Ghats” Authored By Satish Pande Released :-

In association with Ela Foundation, Tata Power has released the fourth book in a series on 'Amphibians of the Northern Western Ghats,' a photographic guide to all 52 species of amphibians in Gujarat, Diu, Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra, and Goa, highlighting the rich biodiversity of Maharashtra's western ghats. This book is a collaboration between Tata Power and the Ela Foundation, and it was written by Dr. Satish Pande with contributions from Mr. Vivek Vishwasrao and Prof Gram Purohit. The book's goal is to raise awareness of and protect neglected taxa.



Zoological Survey Of India (ZSI) Published A Book On 1000+ Bird Species :-

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published a field guide titled 'Field Guide, Birds of India,' which covers 1,331 avian species found in the country. Unlike other books that primarily used drawings, it emphasises high-quality photographs of birds, according to ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee. Despite the fact that the country has a large number of bird species, the number of bird enthusiasts in the country is far lower than in many European countries with less avian diversity, according to the ZSI director. Banerjee stated that this book will be a ready reckoner for all 1331 bird species found in the country.



‘The Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy: Re-emerge, Reinvest, Re-engage’ By Sanjaya Baru :-

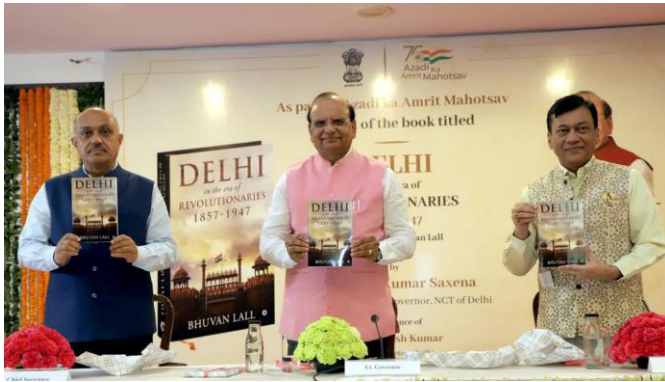
Published by Rupa Publications Sanjaya Baru’s Book “75 Years of Indian Economy” is part of a series that looks back at the past 75 years of independent India. However, according to Baru's book, India's current economic resurgence is part of a long history. The book begins with a reference to British historian Angus Maddison and his book 'The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective (2001),' which estimated that in 1700, China and India accounted for half of the world's national income, but by 1950, their combined share had dropped to less than 10%.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Releases Book ‘Rusty Skies & Golden Winds’ :-

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, launched a poetry book titled 'Rusty Skies and Golden Winds' written by 11-year-old

Sannidhya Sharma, a student in class 7. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the young author's efforts in crystallising his thoughts into a collection of his poems, congratulated him on this rare achievement at such a young age, and wished him a bright future. The book is published by Blue-rose publishers.



Lieutenant Governor of Delhi releases book on unsung heroes of freedom movement :-

V K Saxena, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, announced that the national capital will soon have a memorial dedicated to Delhi's unsung heroes of the freedom struggle. At a function in Raj Niwas, the LG launched the book "Delhi in the Era of Revolutionaries, 1857 - 1947." According to a statement from the LG office, the book is dedicated to the memory of relatively lesser known and unsung heroes of Delhi's Freedom Struggle who made massive efforts and sacrifices. He claimed that the history of India's freedom struggle was also the story of every ordinary Delhi resident.

7: Defence



Rajnath Singh Announces The Formation Of Combined Tri-Service Theatre Commands :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the formation of tri-service joint theatre commands to improve armed forces coordination. The defence minister also stated that India is rapidly transitioning from the world's largest importer of defence equipment to an exporter. Referring to the defence production, Singh said, "India was the world's largest importer (of

defence products). Today, India is not the world's largest importer but is among the top 25 nations engaged in defence exports," he pointed out.



India-Japan Conducted A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) In The Andaman Sea :-

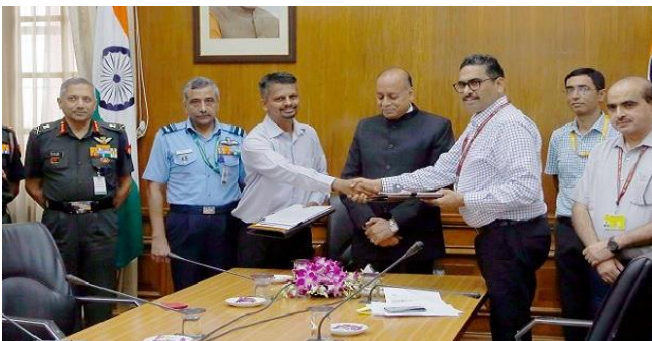
A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was recently held in the Andaman Sea between the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and the Indian Navy. As part of the operational interaction, INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol

vessel, and JS Samidare, a Murasame class destroyer, conducted various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations, and tactical manoeuvres. The two countries have been conducting regular exercises in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to strengthen maritime cooperation.



Indian Army Received Locally Developed QRFV From Tata Advanced Systems :-

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), the Tata group's aerospace and defence arm, has delivered an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium (QRFV) to the Indian Army. According to the company, the vehicle will improve the Indian Army's operational capabilities in future conflicts and war-like situations. The TASL tweeted, "TASL has successfully delivered the QRFV to the Indian Army." It went on to say that the introduction of this vehicle would improve the Indian Army's operational capabilities in future conflicts.



IDEX Signs Its 100th Contract For Innovation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) in April 2018, billed as the Ministry of Defence's (MoD's) flagship for technological innovation. The goal of iDEX was to encourage new businesses and provide them with a platform for co-creation and co-development in defence and aerospace technology. iDEX recently signed its 100th contract in New Delhi with Pacify Medical Technologies Pvt Ltd. "We are confident that iDEX will make India the biggest defence innovation ecosystem in the world." Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said on the occasion.



UAE, France, And India Conduct Discussions For Maritime Security :-

As part of a new trilateral framework, India, France, and the United Arab Emirates discussed potential areas of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Maritime security, regional connectivity, energy and food security, and supply-chain resilience were among the areas of cooperation identified by the three countries. The three countries' determination to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific under the trilateral framework comes amid growing global concern about China's growing military muscle in the region.



3rd India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” :-

India and Vietnam have begun the third edition of the Vietnam-India bilateral army exercise "Ex VINBAX 2022" to strengthen strategic partnership and defence cooperation. From the 1st to the 20th of August 2022, a 20-day military drill will be held at Chandimandir in Haryana. The exercise is a follow-up to a previous bilateral exercise held in Vietnam in 2019 and a significant step toward strengthening bilateral relations between India and Vietnam. Furthermore, India and Vietnam have a comprehensive strategic partnership, with defence cooperation serving as a key pillar.



Kargil War: Point 5140 At Dras In Kargil Sector Named As Gun Hill :-

To commemorate the Indian Armed Forces' victory and to honour the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in

'Operation Vijay' during the Kargil War, Point 5140 at Drass in the Kargil Sector was renamed 'Gun Hill.' The Indian artillery was able to direct lethal fire on the enemy and their strongholds, such as point 5140, which was critical to the army's success in evicting the intruders. The ceremony was attended by veterans from all artillery regiments that received the honour title "KARGIL" during Operation Vijay.



4th India-Oman Joint Military Exercise ‘AL NAJAH-IV’ :-

On August 1, contingents from the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman began the Joint Military Exercise 'Al Najah-IV' at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The India-Oman Joint Military Exercise 'Al Najah-IV' will be held for the fourth time. It will run until August 13. The Royal Army of Oman contingent, which included 60 members of the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment, arrived at the exercise site. Troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion represent the Indian Army.



4 soldiers died and 2 terrorist were gunned down :-

Four people have already been killed in the attack, including another rifleman who was hurt while battling terrorists in Rajouri. This death occurred late on Thursday night. Nishant Malik, a killed rifleman, was from the Haryana town of Hansi in the Hisar district. A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and three soldiers were earlier murdered and injured when two suicide bombers attempted to enter an Army base in the Parghal neighbourhood of Darhal in the Rajouri district. In the ensuing encounter, the two terrorists were also shot and killed.



India To Participate Combat Exercise Drill "Pitch Black 2022" In Australia :-

Later this month, India will join the other members of the QUAD, AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), as well as countries such as the United Arab Emirates and key NATO members, for Exercise Pitch Black 2022. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will conduct the exercises from August 19 to September 6. Combat drills will be conducted by nearly 2,500 personnel from 17 countries and 100 aircraft. India took part in Pitch Black for the first time in 2018, alongside Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, France, and the United States.



Indian Air Force Will Retire All Squadrons Of MiG-21 By 2025 :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has devised a three-year plan to phase out the remaining four MiG-21 fighter squadrons, one of which will retire in September. The IAF also intends to phase out three squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets over the next five years. Simultaneously, the plan to phase out the Soviet-origin aircraft fleet is part of the IAF's modernization drive and has nothing to do with the recent crash of a MiG-21 jet in Rajasthan's Barmer. According to people familiar with the situation, the plan is to retire all four MiG-21 squadrons by 2025.



India Navy And France Navy Conducted Exercise In The Atlantic Ocean :-

India and France conducted a two-day naval exercise in the North Atlantic Ocean to test navies' synergy. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash, built in Russia, took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French naval ships in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Indian Navy has ordered a second batch of Talwar-class frigates, including INS Tarkash. The successful completion of these surface and aerial exercises demonstrated the two navies' high level of professionalism and interoperability.



India-US Armies to hold mega military exercise "Yudh Abhyas" :-

In October, India and the United States will conduct a two-week-long mega military exercise in Uttarakhand's Auli, amid a rapidly changing regional security scenario. The 18th edition of exercise "Yudh Abhyas" is set to take place from October 14 to October 31, according to

sources in the defence and military establishment. The mega exercise will include a number of complex drills, they said. The last exercise was held in Alaska, United States, in October 2021. The exercise aims to improve understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the armies of India and the United States.



Indian Navy's All-Female Crew Completes First Solo Maritime Mission :-

Onboard a state-of-the-art Dornier 228 aircraft, five officers from the Indian Navy completed the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea. Following the completion of their mission, the Navy stated in a statement that the officers had months of ground training and comprehensive mission briefings prior to flying. The squadron is strategically located and plays an important role in surveillance in the North Arabian Sea.



Indian Army Conducts Pan-India Drill 'Skylight' To Test Operational Readiness :-

With China developing lethal weapons for space, cyberspace, and electronic warfare, the Army has carried out a major pan-India exercise codenamed 'Skylight' to test the operational readiness and robustness of its high-tech satellite communication systems in the event of an adversary attack. During the Skylight exercise, the Army activated all of its satellite communication assets from Ladakh to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, wargaming various technical and operational scenarios, including the disruption or destruction of terrestrial connectivity in a conflict.



Vostok-2022: Indo-China Military Drills To Be Held In Russia :-

India is expected to participate in the multinational military exercise 'Vostok 2022' in Russia, which will also include China. This will be Russia's first large-scale joint military exercise since the conflict with Ukraine began in February of this year. According to sources, the army will send a delegation to the exercise after receiving an invitation from Moscow. An official statement on the participation is expected at a later time. China has already confirmed its attendance at the event.



Indian Army & DFI Launched 'Him Drone-A-Thon' Programme :-

In collaboration with the Drone Federation of India (DFI), the Indian Army launched the Him Drone-a-thon programme . The initiative is consistent with self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing. It aims to catalyse and provide focused opportunities for the Indian drone ecosystem to develop game-changing drone capabilities for frontline troops. According to the Defence Ministry, the programme is a pan-India sustained link between all stakeholders, including industry, academia, software developers, and drone product manufacturers.



Task Force for Defense Cooperation India and Tanzania :-

Recently, Dr. Sturgomena Lawrence Tax, Tanzania's Minister of Defense and National Services, and Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh met in New Delhi for bilateral talks. The two ministers decided to form a task force to create a five-year plan to improve defence cooperation

between the two nations and to hold the earliest possible joint defence cooperation summit in Tanzania. The India-Africa Defense Dialogue and DefExpo, slated to take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from October 18–22, 2022, was also invited by the defence minister to his Tanzanian colleague.



Indian-made ammo is used in the AK-630 gun used by the Indian Navy :-

The Indian Navy received the first-ever fully made-in-India 30mm ammunition, giving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India initiative in the defence industry a big boost. The ammunition will be utilised in the warship-mounted AK-630 cannons. The fact that private sector has created entirely domestic ammunition is a significant

accomplishment for the nation. All of the components are native, and it was completed in a year.



India's First-Of-Its-Kind Naval Shooting Range Inaugurated At INS Karna :-

The first Composite Indoor Shooting Range in India has been inaugurated at INS Karna. The shooting range has advanced target systems with associated control software to assist personnel in improving their firing skills. Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta dedicated the Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) at INS Karna. The Navy's INS Karna is the first and only military unit in the country to develop and operate an indoor shooting range. An Indian company created the shooting range, which is a shining example of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

8: Economy



RBI Approves Piramal Enterprises' Establishment Of NBFC :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Piramal Enterprises permission to operate as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) without accepting public deposits, according to the company's announcement to exchanges. Previously, the company applied to the Reserve Bank of India for an NBFC licence. This is

consistent with the group's announced demerger plan last year. Piramal Enterprises announced the separation of its pharmaceuticals and financial services businesses on October 7.



Nifty Next 50 ETF And Nifty 100 ETF Introduced By HDFC Mutual Fund :-

HDFC Mutual Fund has introduced two new ETFs: HDFC NIFTY Next 50 ETF and HDFC NIFTY 100 ETF. The new schemes, according to the fund house, will help to expand the suite of "HDFC MF Index Solutions," which HDFC Mutual Fund has managed for the past 20 years. According to the fund house, the HDFC NIFTY Next 50 ETF's benchmark - NIFTY Next 50 Total Returns Index (TRI) - provides diversification benefits at the stock and sector levels, as well as the potential for higher risk-adjusted returns over the long term compared to the NIFTY 50.



NSE And BSE Approve Of Zee's Merger With Sony Pictures :-

Zee Entertainment has announced that its proposed merger with Sony Pictures Networks India has been approved by the stock exchanges BSE and NSE. According to a statement from Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL), the proposed merger with Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (formerly Sony Pictures Networks India) has been approved by the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE). "The approval from the stock exchanges marks a firm and positive step in the overall merger approval process," it said.



GDP Growth of India to be fastest. :-

The strongest among the largest economies, India's GDP growth will average 7% throughout this time, according to Morgan Stanley analysts, and India will contribute 28% and 22%, respectively, to both Asian and global growth. India will have the fastest-growing economy in Asia in 2022–2023 as a result. They asserted that the Indian economy is on track to have its best year in more than ten years as a result of the reawakening of latent demand. According to Chetan Ahya, chief Asia economist at Morgan Stanley, the most significant change in India's structural narrative is the obvious shift in policy

emphasis in favour of increasing the economy's productive potential and India's GDP growth.



GST Collection For July 2022 Second Highest Ever At Rs 1.49 Lakh Crore :-

The GST revenue for July was Rs 1.49 Lakh Crore, a 28 percent increase over the Rs 1.16 Lakh Crore collected during the same month last year, and the second highest collection ever since the Goods and Services Tax was implemented. According to government data, GST revenue collection remained above Rs 1.4 lakh crore for the fifth month in a row, indicating a steady rise. In July, the CGST collection was Rs 25,751 crore, the SGST collection was Rs 32,807 crore, and the IGST collection was Rs 79,518 crore.



4th RBI Monetary Policy : Repo Rate Raised By 50 Bps :-

With an eye on inflation amid current global uncertainties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced

a 50 basis point increase in repo rates — the rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks — bringing the total rate hike over the last three months to 140 basis points. The RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) remained concerned about high inflation as it decided to hike rates by another 50 basis points within two months. According to experts, the RBI would have preferred to stay on track in order to overcome the current challenges.



Retail Inflation Eases To 6.71% In July :-

Retail inflation in India, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 6.71% in July 2022, down from 7.01% the previous month. Inflation has slowed primarily due to lower food and beverage prices. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), or inflation in the food basket, fell to 6.75% in July from 7.75% in June, according to the data. For the seventh consecutive month, the CPI remains above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper margin of 6%.



Shiprocket Becomes India's 106th Unicorn, Raised \$33.5 Million :-

Shiprocket, backed by Zomato, became India's 106th unicorn after raising \$33.5 million (roughly Rs 270 crore) in a funding round led by Temasek and Lightrock India. With the new round of funding, Shiprocket was valued at around \$1.2 billion. The new funds will help Shiprocket expand its operating system by developing newer software and intelligence products, as well as deepening its capability in fulfilment and same-day delivery, according to a statement.



Center Launched "Manthan" Platform :-

The Manthan platform, launched by the Central Government, aims to promote large-scale collaboration between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem in order to help India meet its scientific missions and goals in accordance with the UN-defined Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) charter. To achieve the country's sustainability goals, the platform will serve as a fulcrum for transforming the nation through innovative ideas, inventive minds, and public-private-academia collaboration.



Edelweiss MF Introduced India's First Gold And Silver Fund :-

Edelweiss Gold & Silver FOF, a fund of funds that will invest in a mix of gold and silver ETFs, has been launched by Edelweiss Mutual Fund. The fund will attempt to maintain an equal allocation of Gold ETF and Silver ETF and will rebalance it on a regular basis. The scheme's fund managers will be Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti. According to the fund house, the ETFs will be chosen based on exchange liquidity, tracking error, and other relevant factors. According to the fund manager, both of these precious metals have a limited supply and are in high demand.



Goodfellows, Senior-Focused Startup Launched By Ratan Tata :-

Ratan Tata, emeritus chairman of Tata Sons, announced an investment in Goodfellows, a startup that provides companionship to the elderly. Ratan Tata has been actively investing in and supporting startups since stepping down as CEO of the Tata Group. Shantanu Naidu, Ratan Tata's business assistant at the time, founded Goodfellows. Naidu, 25, is a Cornell University graduate who works as a general manager in Tata's office and has been assisting Tata since 2018.



Sebi Joins Account Aggregator Framework To Facilitate Access To Financial Data :-

Sebi, the capital markets regulator, has joined the account aggregator framework, which will help the Reserve Bank of India-regulated financial-data sharing system. Customers will be able to share information about their mutual fund and stock holdings with financial service providers as a result of the change. Account aggregators (AA) are non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) regulated by the RBI that facilitate the collection of financial information pertaining to a customer from financial information providers with the customer's consent.



State's Revenue Growth To Slide To 9% Despite Rise In GST Collections :-

According to a report, state revenue growth will slow to 7-9 percent in FY23, despite the fact that large GST collections will aid in accretion. According to a report by rating agency Crisil, which examined 17 states accounting for 90% of the aggregate, revenue growth accelerated to 25% in FY22 due to a lower base in the pandemic-affected FY21. According to the report, healthy tax buoyancy will support revenue growth in FY23, with GST collections and devolutions from the Centre – which together account for up to 45 percent of state revenue – expected to show robust double-digit growth.

9: International



China Launches "Wentian," Second Of Its Three Space Station Modules :-

A new scientific lab docked with China's under-construction space station, Tiangong, in a major milestone for the country's space programme, bringing it closer to competition. According to the China Manned Space Agency, the Wentian module docked with the Tiangong station's main Tianhe living module. Wentian, the second of three modules to its permanent space station, was launched from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan onboard China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B. After nearly 13 hours of travel after launch, the spacecraft arrived at its destination.



Wasifa Nazreen: First Bangladeshi To Climb K2, Second-Highest Peak In The World :-

Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first Bangladeshi to scale Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain peak. She returned to the base camp after climbing the 8611-meter-high (28,251-foot) K2 mountain peak. When the climber returns to the base camp from the summit, the summit is technically complete. After completing this historic task, Wasifa, 39, encouraged her countrymen to take inspiration from history and never give up. Wasifa expressed gratitude to everyone who assisted her in this endeavour.



India Provides UNRWA With Donation Of USD 2.5 Million For Palestinian Refugees :-

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has expressed "deep appreciation" for India's contribution of USD 2.5 million, which will directly benefit the organization's schools, health centres, and other basic services for Palestinian refugees. "This timely

contribution is a strong demonstration of India's unwavering support to the work of UNRWA and commitment to the well-being of Palestine refugees," Karim Amer, Director of Partnerships at the Department of External Relations of UNRWA, said.



Bajram Begaj Takes The Oath As Albania's President :-

Bajram Begaj, the newly elected President of the Republic of Albania, was sworn in at the parliament in Tirana, Albania. Begaj, 55, declared in his first address to lawmakers as president that he will support and respect both the work of the government and the opposition, calling for cooperation rather than conflict between political parties. The president urged political parties to "get away from the politics of confrontation and replace it with the politics of dialogue."



Russia Decides To Leave The International Space Station After 2024 :-

According to Yuri Borisov, the newly appointed chief of Russia's space agency, Russia has decided to leave the International Space Station (ISS) after 2024 and focus on developing its own orbital outpost. The announcement comes as the Kremlin and the West are at odds over Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine, as well as several rounds of unprecedented sanctions against Russia. Russia and the United States have collaborated on the International Space Station (ISS), which has been in orbit since 1998. Borisov described the space industry as being in a "difficult situation."



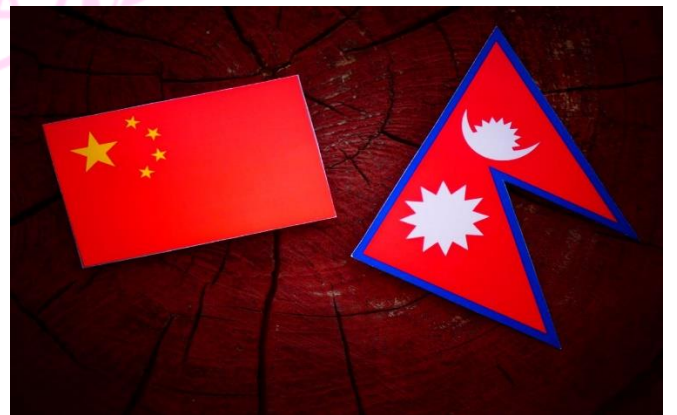
England's Leicester Cricket Ground Named After Sunil Gavaskar :-

The Leicester Cricket Ground in England is named after India's legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. Former Indian cricket team captain Gavaskar is widely regarded as one of the greatest batters of all time. He was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs and held the record for the most centuries (34) at one time. There is already a stadium named after Sunil Gavaskar in the Kentucky area of the United States of America (USA), and another is nearing completion in the Zanzibar region of the African nation Tanzania.



Zimbabwe Launched Gold Coins As Legal Tender To Tackle Inflation :-

Zimbabwe has issued gold coins to combat the country's soaring inflation. The country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, announced the move and distributed 2,000 coins to commercial banks. Zimbabwe has tried several methods to combat the country's nearly decade-long inflation. This year, the Zimbabwean dollar has lost value against major currencies. As a result, Zimbabweans have been black marketing US dollars. This action is being taken to combat illegal trade in the country.



Trans-Himalayan Network, China-Nepal :-

Following a meeting of their foreign ministers, China and Nepal have decided to construct the so-called Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, according to the Chinese foreign ministry. According to the agreement, Wang Yi, the foreign minister, stated that China would fund the feasibility study of a China-Nepal

cross-border railway and send experts to Nepal to conduct surveys this year. Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry, made these remarks on Thursday at a regular media briefing in Beijing.



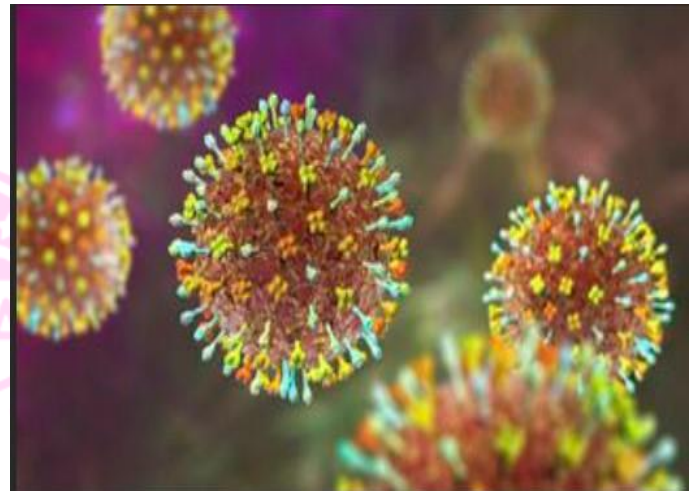
China shields Pakistan :-

Under the guise of procedure, China has once again protected Abdul Rauf Azhar, a global terrorist based in Pakistan, from UN sanctions. China has blocked a US-India proposal at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to list the commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) as a UN-designated international terrorist. The combined US-India plan to penalise Abdul Rehman Makki, a known terrorist with ties to Pakistan who serves as the deputy leader of the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba terrorist organisation, was similarly placed on technical hold by China in June of this year.



Fortune Global 500 List: LIC Breaks Into Fortune 500 List :-

Nine Indian public and private companies have made the prestigious 2022 Fortune Global 500 list, with insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India ranking 98th on the list with revenue worth \$97,266.7 million (\$97.2 billion) in 2021-22, up 2.6% year on year. The company made the list this year after being listed on domestic stock exchanges in May. Reliance Industries Ltd., India's largest private business conglomerate, has been ranked 104th, with \$93,982 million (\$93.9 billion) in revenue in 2021-22, up 49.4% from the previous year.



Langya Henipavirus Found In China :-

A new zoonotic virus has been identified in China's two eastern provinces, with 35 infections so far. Langya Henipavirus, or LayV, is another name for this new type of Henipavirus. Henipaviruses are pathogens with a biosafety level of 4 (BSL4). They can cause severe illness in both animals and humans, and there are currently no licenced drugs or vaccines for humans. Langya was discovered during surveillance testing of patients with fever and a recent history of animal exposure in eastern China.



Russia Successfully Launched Iran's Satellite Into Orbit :-

An Iranian satellite was successfully launched into orbit by a Russian rocket. The Soyuz rocket took off as planned from Kazakhstan's Baikonur launch facility, which Russia leases. It launched the Iranian satellite Khayyam into orbit about nine minutes later. It was named after Omar Khayyam, a Persian scientist from the 11th and 12th centuries. Iran has stated that the satellite, which is equipped with a high-resolution camera, will be used for environmental monitoring and will be completely under its control.



SBI To Run Indian Visa Centres (IVAC) In Bangladesh:-

For the next two years, the State Bank of India (SBI) will manage the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh. The SBI and the High Commission of India in Dhaka signed an agreement to extend the operations for

another two years. Amit Kumar, SBI Bangladesh country head of operations, represented the SBI, while Dr. Binoy George, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, represented the High Commission of India. SBI currently operates 15 IVACs across Bangladesh.



William Ruto Elected Kenya's Next President :-

Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto has been elected as the country's next President, according to the Kenyan Electoral Commission. Ruto narrowly defeated veteran opposition leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who was running in his fifth election, with 50.49% of the vote. He will be Kenya's fifth President since independence, having won the position on his first try. In his first speech after being declared the winner of the election, Ruto thanked Kenyans for electing him as the country's next leader.



Covid Booster Vaccination Approved First In The United Kingdom :-

The United Kingdom has become the first country to approve vaccine boosters targeting the COVID-19 omicron variant. The Moderna shot approved in the United Kingdom is "bivalent," which means it contains half of the original strain of COVID-19 and half of a new formulation designed to combat the original omicron variant, also known as BA.1. Researchers in the United Kingdom discovered that the Moderna-created omicron booster "triggers a strong immune response" against both the original 2020 coronavirus strain and the original omicron variant.



India Gift Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft To Sri Lanka :-

On the eve of the Chinese spy ship docking in Hambantota, India pushed military diplomacy with Sri Lanka by handing over a Dornier aircraft in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, reaffirming New Delhi's role as the region's net security provider. The donation of Dornier aircraft highlights the two maritime neighbours' defence and security cooperation. Despite India's concerns, Colombo has approved the Chinese vessel's visit after requesting a five-day delay in arrival.



India's IT Secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma Named To High-Level UN Internet Panel :-

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Alkesh Kumar Sharma, India's Electronics and Information Technology Secretary, to a panel of eminent experts on internet governance. According to Guterres' spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, Internet pioneer Vint Cerf and Nobel Prize-winning journalist Maria Reesa have also been appointed to the 10-member Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel. Amandeep Singh Gill, Guterres' envoy on technology, will also be on the panel.



United Kingdom(U.K) Inflation Rises To 10.1% :-

Last month, UK inflation rose faster than expected to the highest level in 40 years, putting more pressure on the government and the Bank of England to act. The Consumer Prices Index increased 10.1% year on year in July, following a 9.4% increase the previous month, according to the Office for National Statistics. Both the

BOE and private-sector economists expected a higher reading. Rising food prices contributed the most to the month's increase, indicating that inflationary pressures are spreading beyond energy.



HAL To Establish Its First Marketing Office Abroad In Malaysia :-

Indian defence entities are breaking down barriers and reaching out to the global market. In a first, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), India's largest defence public sector undertaking (DPSU), has announced plans to open an office in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). This is an important step because the defence sector has seen a significant increase in the export of military equipment. The office in Malaysia will help HAL in tapping the new business opportunities for Fighter Lead-in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).



S. Jaishankar Unveils Bust Of Mahatma Gandhi In Paraguay :-

S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of Paraguay, unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi and visited the historic Casa de la Independencia, where the South American country's independence movement began more than two centuries ago. Jaishankar arrived in Brazil on the first leg of a six-day trip to South America with the goal of strengthening overall bilateral relations with the region. "Honoured to unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi ji in Asuncion, Paraguay. We appreciate the Asuncion Municipality's decision to locate it at the prominent waterfront of the city." he said in a tweet.



Scotland's National Museum Decides To Return Seven Antiquities Artefacts Back To India :-

Glasgow museums reached an agreement with the Indian government to return seven stolen artefacts to India. Glasgow Life is a non-profit organisation that manages the city's museums. It announced the transfer earlier this year. However, the arrangement was formalised at a transfer of ownership ceremony held at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It was carried out in the presence of Sujit Ghosh, the Acting Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. During the nineteenth century, most of these objects were removed from temples and shrines in various northern Indian states.



Tropical Storm Ma-On struck Philippines :-

A tropical cyclone struck the northern Philippines displacing thousands and causing at least three injuries. Then, in numerous regions, including the capital, where flooding and landslides were predicted, authorities closed schools and government buildings. After moving through the rugged northern provinces and arriving at the Isabelan city of Maconakon, tropical storm "Ma-on" weakened just a little, according to meteorologists. The northernmost tip of the Luzon region experienced the storm's greatest effects.



Africa adopts PEN-PLUS strategy against non-communicable diseases:-

At the most recent Regional Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting in Lomé, Togo, Africa endorsed a pen-plus policy. To treat serious non-communicable diseases at first level referral health centres, PEN-PLUS is essentially a regional plan. This policy encourages district hospitals and other top-notch referral facilities to strengthen their capacities for the

early identification and care of significant non-communicable diseases, which would reduce mortality.



A fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains in Germany :-

In the state of Lower Saxony, Germany recently introduced the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains in the world to replace 15 diesel trains operating on non-electrified rails. The new trains will generate power by fusing water and hydrogen and are outfitted with a hydrogen tank and fuel cells on the roof. The corporation disclosed that the extra energy generated will be kept in lithium-ion batteries. The estimated cost of this project is around 93-million-euro (USD 92 million).



For The First Time, India TO Take Over The G20 Presidency By December 2022 :-

India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1 to November 30, 2023, and will host the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time next year. India joined the G20

Troika of Indonesia, Italy, and India in December 2021, representing the current, previous, and incoming G20 Presidency, respectively. India will take over the G20 Presidency from Indonesia, and the G20 Leaders' Summit will be held in India for the first time in 2023. India will be able to identify, highlight, develop, and strengthen international support for critical priorities for developing countries.



Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga Elected As Interim PM Of Mali :-

After Mali's civilian Prime Minister Choguel Kokalla Maiga was hospitalised, the military appointed Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga as interim Prime Minister. Colonel Maiga previously served as Government Spokesman and Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation. Many of Maiga's former allies had chastised him in recent months for toeing the Junta's line. Colonel Assimi Goita, the leader of the Military Junta, was appointed transitional president following the May 2021 coup.

10: Miscellaneous



BCCI Introduced A New A+ Category For Umpires :-

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has created a new A+ category for its umpires, which includes Nitin Menon and ten other officials. Other international umpires in the A+ category include Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma, and K N Ananthapadmabhanan. The A+ category also includes Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan,

Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe, and Navdeep Singh Sidhu. For a first-class game, umpires in the A+ and A categories are paid Rs 40,000 per day, while umpires in the B and C categories are paid Rs 30,000 per day.



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island Given To A&N Administration To Enhance Tourism :-

The historic Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island was handed over to the Andaman and Nicobar

Administration for the larger development of tourism and infrastructure growth on the island by the Andaman and Nicobar Command. The official ceremony was held on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, where Lt. General Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief of A&N Command, symbolically handed over administrative control of the island to Dy. Suneel Anchipaka, Commissioner of South Andaman. He also remembered the island's historical significance and a series of events.



India Will Host ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 :-

The Women's 50-over World Cup will be held in India in 2025, after the BCCI successfully bid for the event at the ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham. On the same day, three other ICC women's events were awarded, with Bangladesh hosting the 2024 T20 World Cup and England winning the 2026 edition. Sri Lanka will host the inaugural T20 Champions Trophy in 2027. A Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden, along with Clare Connor and Sourav Ganguly, selected the hosts through a competitive bidding process.



Mastercard Set To Replace Paytm As BCCI Title Sponsor :-

Mastercard, the global payments and technology company, will take over as title sponsor for all international and domestic cricket matches organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), replacing India's digital payments unicorn Paytm. This move may re-establish the credit card industry's dominance, which had shifted to digital wallets and BNPL products. According to experts, with Paytm ending its seven-year partnership with BCCI as title sponsor and Mastercard taking over, credit cards will be back in the spotlight.



Asia Cup 2022 Shifted From Sri Lanka To The UAE :-

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the United Arab Emirates will host the Asia Cup in place of Sri Lanka due to the island nation's ongoing political and economic crisis. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will continue to host the nine-team tournament, which will take place from August 27 to September 11 and will serve as preparation for Asian teams ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup later this year. The country of 22 million people has been crippled by an economic crisis, with fuel, food, and other necessities in short supply.



Ramsar Sites: India Adds 10 New Wetlands In The List :-

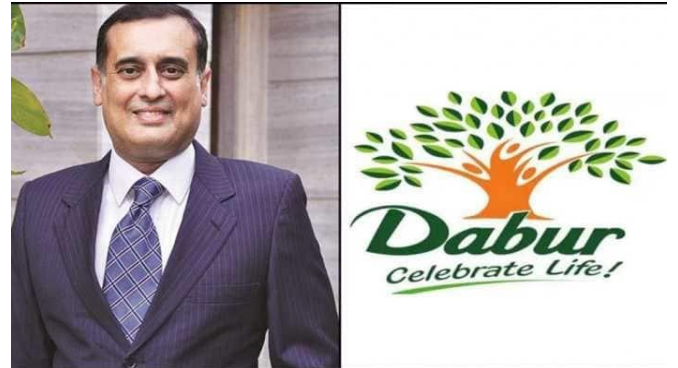
The Ministry of Environment has announced the addition of ten more Indian sites to the Ramsar list, bringing the total to 64. The new Indian wetlands, which have bagged the coveted tag, are Tamil Nadu's Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary, Koonthakulam Bird Sanctuary, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, and Vembannur Wetland Complex. Further, Karnataka's Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Goa's Nanda Lake, Madhya Pradesh's Sirpur Wetland and Odisha's Satkosia Gorge.



Tennis Legend Serena Williams Announces Her Retirement From Tennis :-

Serena Williams, the winner of 23 Grand Slam titles, has announced her retirement from tennis. Tennis legend announced her retirement in an article published in Vogue Magazine. She was defeated in her first singles match at Wimbledon earlier this year. She has now set

her sights on the US Open, which could be her final tournament. Serena has won the most Grand Slam singles titles of any player in the open era and the second-most of all time, trailing only Margaret Court's 24.



Amit Burman Steps Down As The Chairman Of Dabur :-

Dabur India Ltd has announced that Amit Burman has stepped down as chairman and that Mohit Burman has been appointed as non-executive chairman. According to a regulatory filing, Amit Burman will remain the company's non-executive director. Mohit Burman has been named non-executive chairman for a five-year term beginning August 11. He is currently the company's non-executive vice chairman. Saket Burman has also been appointed as the company's non-executive vice chairman for a five-year term.



Ireland's Kevin O'Brien Announces Retirement From International Cricket :-

Kevin O'Brien, Ireland's star all-rounder, has announced his retirement from international cricket. In a nearly two-decade career that began with his debut for Ireland in 2006, O'Brien has helped the national team reach new heights. During his stellar career, O'Brien represented Ireland in three Tests, 153 ODIs, and 110 T20Is, scoring 5850 runs and taking 172 wickets. O'Brien first gained international attention in the 2011 ICC World Cup when he scored 113 runs off 63 balls against England. His century was the fastest in World Cup history at the time.



BRO To Build First Steel Slag Road In Arunachal Pradesh :-

The Border Roads Organization (BRO) will construct a Steel Slag Road in Arunachal Pradesh as a pilot project. The Steel Slag Road will be a first-of-its-kind project that can withstand heavy rains and other adverse weather conditions. Steel Slag Road is being built in a remote area of Arunachal Pradesh that experiences extreme climatic conditions in order to investigate possible solutions for building durable roads along strategic locations in treacherous areas. If the project is successful, it will address connectivity issues in remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh.



MasterCard Tie-Up With Badminton Players To Promote Digital Payments In India :-

Mastercard has appointed Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty as brand ambassadors in India. The new ambassadors will work with Mastercard to raise awareness about the safety, security, and convenience of digital payments in India as winners of the Thomas Cup 2022 and the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022. This collaboration aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) efforts and Prime Minister Modi's vision of Digital India.



Punjab & Haryana Agree To Be Name Chandigarh Airport After Bhagat Singh :-

Punjab and Haryana agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport Bhagat Singh International Airport.

Following a joint meeting between Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, an announcement was made in this regard. The dispute between the two governments over the issue has raged for several years. The Punjab Government wanted to rename the civil air terminal complex at the Chandigarh airport 'Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali,' but the Haryana Government objected because the word 'Mohali' was used.



K. Subramaniam assumed the position of Executive Director for India at the IMF :-

Former Indian Chief Economic Advisor K. Subramaniam just assumed the position of Executive Director for India at the IMF (IMF). He will succeed Surjit S. Bhalla, who was chosen in 2019 to serve as India's executive director on the IMF board. Beginning on November 1, 2022, K.

Subramaniam shall hold this position for three years or until further orders, whichever comes first. The IMF's Executive Board is based in Washington and is responsible for conducting its day-to-day business.



Noida twin tower demolished :-

After much anticipation and deliberation, the Noida Supertech twin tower was demolished in just 9 seconds on Sunday, August 28th, using the waterfall implosion technique. After approximately 5,000 residents of Emerald Court and adjoining ATS Village societies in Sector 93A were evacuated by 7 a.m. on Sunday, the court-ordered demolition took place. Approximately 3,000 vehicles were displaced, as well as 150-200 pets, including cats and dogs. While the nearby Noida-Greater Noida Expressway was closed from 2.15 to 2.45 p.m., the city remained a drone-free zone.

11: National



Center Modifies Flag Code Of India 2002 To Permit Tricolour To Be Displayed Constantly :-

If the national flag is hoisted in the open and by a member of the public, it can now stay up all night. The Ministry of Home Affairs amended the Flag Code of India 2002 to allow the national flag to be flown even at night, as the central government launches the Har

Ghar Tiranga campaign on August 13. Previously, the flag could only be flown between sunrise and sunset. The ministry said that clause XI of paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code was replaced by the following clause: "where the flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night".



Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur became the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in the Country :-

Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh, also known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin,' became the country's first certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district. Burhanpur is the only district in the country where people from each of the 254 villages have declared their villages to be 'Har Ghar Jal' through a Gram Sabha resolution. As a result, it certifies that all residents of the villages have access to safe drinking water via taps. Only 37,241 rural households (36.54 percent) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections when the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.



PM Narendra Modi Launches International Bullion Exchange IIBX In GIFT-City :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), the country's first International Bullion Exchange, and the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect at Gandhinagar's GIFT city, an international financial services hub established by the Gujarat government outside the state capital. The IIBX is seen as India's effort to bring transparency to the precious metal market, as it is the world's second largest consumer of gold. India is a major gold importer, with 1,069 tonnes imported in 2021, up from 430 tonnes the previous year.



Tamil Nadu Police Received President's Colour From Venkaiah Naidu :-

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the prestigious President's Colours to the Tamil Nadu police, stating that it is a recognition of the State police's commendable service and numerous accomplishments. Naidu presented the Colours to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin during a ceremony. Naidu, in his address, said "It is indeed a proud moment for every Tamilian and I feel very happy and privileged to bestow this honour on Tamil Nadu police on behalf of the supreme commander of the armed forces of India."



Gol Released Commemorative Postage Stamp To Honour Tricolour Designer P Venkayya :-

The Central Government issued a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, the designer of India's national flag. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the stamp during a ceremony in New Delhi. In 2009, a postage stamp was issued in his honour. In 2014, All India Radio's Vijayawada station was named after him. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy proposed

his name for the Bharat Ratna last year. His design was used to create the current national flag.



Government Withdraws Data Protection Bill, 2019 :-

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), withdrew the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019 from Parliament. The grounds for the withdrawal were outlined in a message to MPs, which stated that "considering the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), a comprehensive legal framework is being worked upon. Hence, in the circumstances, it is proposed to withdraw the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 and present a new Bill that fits into the comprehensive legal framework."



Indian Railway Protection Force Launched "Operation Yatri Suraksha" :-

To improve passenger safety, the Indian Railways and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have launched Operation Yatri Suraksha, a pan-India operation. Several steps are being taken as part of this initiative to provide passengers with round-the-clock security. Surveillance via CCTV, checking on active criminals, presence of a person at different stations, escorting the train, assisting in identifying black spots or crime-prone trains, increasing security threats, and planning crime-reduction strategies will be provided.



World's Highest Chenab Railway Bridge Inaugurated :-

The Chenab Railway Bridge, which is part of the Kashmir Railway project, received its Golden Joint. The Indian Railways announced the opening of the Chenab Bridge's Golden Joint on August 14th. The Golden Joint of a Bridge connects the two ends of the bridge's deck. It will be the World's Highest Railway Bridge once construction is completed, connecting Katra to Banihal. The bridge, when completed, will be 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower and will be an important link in the railway connectivity network being developed in the Kashmir Valley.



FIFA Suspends All India Football Federation (AIFF) :-

FIFA announced that the All India Football Federation (AIFF) would be suspended with immediate effect. The decision was made "due to undue influence from third parties," according to FIFA's governing body, and was a serious violation of the organization's statutes. The AIFF is in disarray and being run by administrators after long-serving former chief Praful Patel stayed in office beyond the maximum term of 12 years without holding new elections, which was ruled invalid by courts.



India To Start Supplying Petrol With 20% Ethanol From April 2023 :-

In order to reduce its reliance on oil imports while also addressing environmental concerns, India will begin supplying petrol with 20% ethanol blending at select petrol pumps in April of next year. Following that, the government will gradually increase supply. Following the achievement of its 10% ethanol blending target ahead of schedule, the country has advanced the target of mixing petrol with 20% ethanol by five years to 2025. According to the country's Oil Minister, Hardeep Puri, ethanol will account for one-fifth of all gasoline by 2025.



Centre Launches Paalan 1000 National Campaign And Parenting App :-

As part of the Early Childhood Development Conclave, Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar launched the Paalan 1000 National Campaign and Parenting App. MoS Health virtually launched the Conclave in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Ms Pawar noted at the conclave's launch event that India has made rapid progress in reducing child mortality from 45 per 1000 births in 2014 to 35 per 1000 births in 2019. Dr. Vinod K Paul, Member (Health & Nutrition), NITI Aayog, was also present for the Conclave's launch in Mumbai.



Indian Flag Unfurled In Space To Marks 75 Years Of Independence :-

Space Kidz India, an organisation known for promoting space science to children, launched the Indian tricolour into space, approximately 30 kilometres above the planet. It also describes itself as a research and development organisation for young scientists in the country. On August 15, the Indian national flag was raised 30 kilometres above the Earth to commemorate the country's 75th anniversary of independence. The flag was carried to an altitude of 1,06,000 feet above the earth by a balloon, where it was unfurled.



Super Vasuki: Indian Railways Longest Freight Train :-

On the 75th anniversary of Indian independence, the Indian Railways ran the Super Vasuki, billed as the heaviest and longest freight train with 295 loaded waggons. The 3.5-kilometer-long train, which was powered by five locomotives and carried 295 loaded waggons, carried a total trailing load of 27,000 tonnes of coal. It takes nearly four minutes for the train to cross a station. The Railways intends to make a regular arrangement, particularly to transport coal during peak demand season due to fuel shortages at power plants, according to Railways officials.



Rashtriya Puruskar Portal Launched By Union Government :-

The Union Government has launched the Rashtriya Puruskar Portal to consolidate all government awards from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies into a single platform. This was done to ensure transparency and public participation. According to a statement from the Home Ministry, nominations or recommendations for the Padma Awards are open until the 15th of next month, while nominations or recommendations for the

Jeevan Raksha Padak are open until the 30th of next month.



Jitendra Singh Unveiled First Completely Indigenously Built Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus :-

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the country's first hydrogen fuel cell bus, developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune, was unveiled by Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh. Green hydrogen, according to the minister, is an excellent clean energy vector that enables deep decarbonization of difficult-to-abate emissions from the refining industry, fertiliser industry, steel industry, cement industry, and heavy commercial transportation sector.



Atal Bridge on Sabarmati river, by Modi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the pedestrian-only "Atal Bridge" over the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. PM Modi went to the bridge on the spur of the moment. The Atal Bridge, according to a news release, connects the flower garden on the western end of the riverfront to the future arts and culture centre on the eastern end. Atal Bridge has a central section that is 14 metres broad and almost 300 metres long.



Amrita Hospital, Asia's Biggest Hospital Unveiled By PM Modi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Amrita Hospital in Faridabad, Haryana, with the goal of increasing the availability of modern medical infrastructure in the National Capital Region (NCR). The super-speciality hospital, which will be managed by Mata

Amritanandamayi Math, will have 2600 beds. The hospital, which is being built at a cost of around Rs. 6000 crores, will provide cutting-edge healthcare to the people of Faridabad and the entire NCR region.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur Launched 'Azadi Quest' Online Games :-

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur launched 'Azadi Quest,' a series of online educational mobile games developed in collaboration with Zynga India. Following the launch, Thakur stated that the initiative is part of the government's ongoing efforts to recognise the contributions of our freedom fighters and unsung heroes of the freedom struggle. The minister expressed confidence that these games will captivate people of all ages.

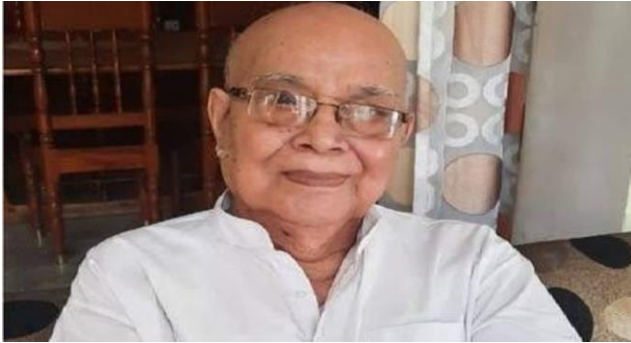
12: Obituaries



Renowned Marathi Writer Anant Yashwant Khare Passes Away :-

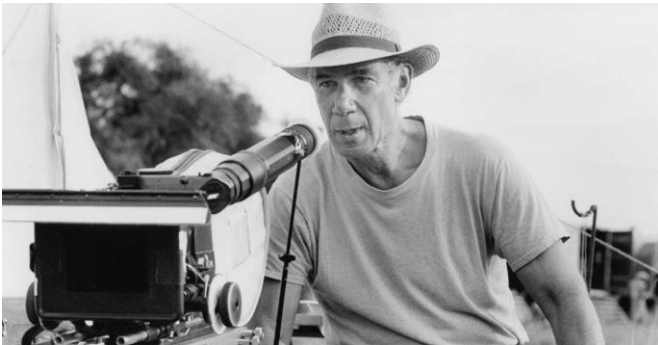
Anant Yashwant Khare, better known as Nanda Khare, a well-known Marathi writer, died in Pune after a long illness. He was 76. Foundations like Granthali, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Lokmangal, and Shabd: The Book Gallery have all given him numerous awards. For his book 'Kahani Manav Pranyachi,' he received the state

government's Bhai Madhavrao Bagal Award in 2010. Mr. Khare was offered the Sahitya Akademi award in 2020 for his novel 'Udya,' but politely declined because he had already decided not to accept any awards.



Eminent Assamese Writer Atulananda Goswami Passes Away :-

Atulananda Goswami, an eminent Assamese writer, died at the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital. He was 87. Born in 1935, the erudite litterateur received the Sahitya Academy award in 2006 for his novel 'Seneh Jorir Ganthi.' Other notable works by Goswami include 'Namgharia,' 'Hamdoi Pulor Jon,' 'Rajpaat,' 'Polatok,' and 'Ashray.' Goswami also received the Kumar Kishore Memorial Award, and in 1992, he received the Katha award for creative writing for his work 'Boliya Hathi.' Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, expressed his condolences on the death of the noted writer.



Oscar-Nominated Director Bob Rafelson Passes Away :-

Bob Rafelson, an influential figure in the 1970s New Hollywood era who was nominated for two Academy Awards for his "Five Easy Pieces," has died. He was 89. Rafelson and the late Bert Schneider co-created the fictional pop music group and television series "The Monkees," which earned him an Emmy for outstanding comedy series in 1967. But he was perhaps best known for his work during the New Hollywood era, when a traditional studio system gave way to a slew of rebellious young voices and innovative filmmaking techniques.



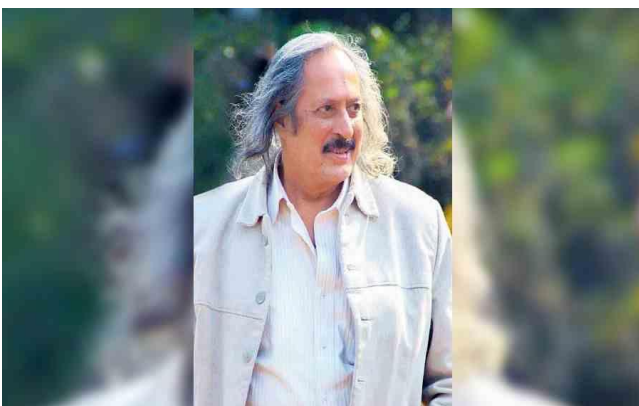
Northern Irish Nobel Peace Prize Winner David Trimble passes away :-

David Trimble, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning former Northern Ireland first minister whose statecraft helped end decades of conflict, died at the age of 77, according to his party. Trimble, a key architect of the landmark 1998 peace agreement in the troubled UK province, shared the award with pro-Irish leader John Hume the year after the historic agreement was signed. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which largely ended a 30-year conflict in Northern Ireland that killed 3,500 people, is still regarded as a model of statecraft.



Famous UK-Based Punjabi Singer Balwinder Safri Passes Away :-

Balwinder Safri, a popular Punjabi singer based in the United Kingdom, died at the age of 63, his family confirmed. Safri, who was born in Punjab and raised in Birmingham, had been involved in the UK bhangra scene since 1980 and founded the Safri Boyz Band in 1990. Safri, best known for hit Punjabi songs like "Rahaye Rahaye" and "Chan Mere Makhna," went into a coma in April after suffering brain damage during a heart surgery. After recovering from a coma, he was discharged from Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital on July 15 and transferred to a specialist rehabilitation centre.



Padma Shri Awardee Sushovan Banerjee Passes Away :-

Padma Shri Sushovan Banerjee, also known as the "One Rupee Doctor," died. The 80-year-old was admitted to a hospital in Durgapur due to kidney problems. Banerjee was known for treating patients for Re 1 per visit for nearly 60 years. In 2020, he received the Padma Shri award for his contributions to medicine. In the same year, his name was inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for treating the greatest number of patients. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on Banerjee's death. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also expressed her condolences on the doctor's death.



Former Philippine Prez Fidel Valdez Ramos Passes Away :-

Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, a US-trained ex-general who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was instrumental in overthrowing a dictator in 1986, has died. He was 94. Ramos was a decorated soldier who spearheaded the modernization of Asia's most underfunded military, according to the Department of National Defense, which he once led. He organised the army's elite special forces and the national police. Condolences were expressed by the United States, the European Union, and other foreign governments.



Veteran Bengali Singer Nirmala Mishra Passes Away :-

Nirmala Mishra, a well-known Bengali singer, died of a heart attack at her home in the Chetla neighbourhood of South Kolkata. She was 81 years old. Mishra (81) had long suffered from age-related ailments. She sang several songs in Odia and Assamese films, in addition to Bengali. While the West Bengal government honoured her with the 'Sangeet Samman,' 'Sangeet Mahasamman,' and 'Bangabhibhushan,' she also received the Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Award for her lifetime contribution to Odia music.



Uma Pemmaraju, Dies At 64 :-

According to media reports from Fox News, where Uma Pemmaraju was a contributor to several programmes including The Fox Report, Fox News Live, Fox News Now, and Fox On Trends, she passed away at the age of 64. According to Suzanne Scott, CEO of Fox News Media,

Pemmaraju was a part of the group when Fox News originally debuted in 1996. Pemmaraju, one of the station's original anchors, was a "kind and pleasant person." Pemmaraju was "extremely talented," according to Scott, and well-known for her consideration for her sources and coworkers.



Billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala passes away at 62 :-

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, India's most successful investor, died on Sunday, August 14, at the age of 62. Rakesh Jhunjhunwala recently entered the aviation industry with the launch of Akasa Air on August 7. Jhunjhunwala was the chairman of Apteck Limited and Hungama Digital Media Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. in addition to being an investor. He was also a director of several Indian companies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on Jhunjhunwala's death.



AIADMK's First MP Maya Thevar Passes Away :-

K. Maya Thevar, a former Member of Parliament and senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) politician, died of an age-related illness at his home in Chinnalapatti near Dindigul. He was 87. It should be noted that when former Chief Minister and AIADMK founder M.G. Ramachandran launched the AIADMK party, Mr. Maya Thevar won the first election under the 'two-leaves' symbol in the Dindigul Lok Sabha constituency in 1973.



Former Jharkhand Governor Syed Sibtey Razi Passes Away :-

Syed Sibte Razi, a senior Indian National Congress leader and former governor of Jharkhand and Assam, died recently at the age of 83. He began his political career as a student leader before moving on to active politics in Congress. He also served as the Governor of Jharkhand

from 2004 to 2009, as well as the Governor of Assam in 2009. He was elected president of the Youth Congress in 1971 and served in that capacity until 1973. Syed Sibte Razi was elected to the Rajya Sabha three times.



Veteran Producer Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala Passes Away :-

Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala, a veteran Indian film producer, died at the age of 91. Multiple issues, including diabetes and asthma, contributed to his death. Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala has worked in the industry since 1984. Jhutha Sach, starring Dharmendra and Rekha, was his first film as a producer. Lahoo Ke Do Rang and the comedy-drama Hera Pheri were his next films. Hera Pheri is regarded as one of Bollywood's finest comedies. He was extremely enthusiastic about his film and devoted his heart and soul to each project.

13: Ranks & Reports



New Delhi Among Top 20 Busiest Airports :-

Airports Council International (ACI) World has ranked Delhi Airport 13th among the world's busiest airports for the full year 2021. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi handled 37.14 million passengers in 2021, a 30.3 percent increase from 2020, when the airport handled 28.5 million passengers. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is back on top of the 2021 rankings, with 75.7 million passengers, followed by Dallas Fort Worth and Denver.



IMF Cuts Indian Economic Growth Forecast By 80 Bps To 7.4% :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) by 80 basis points to 7.4 percent, citing less favourable external conditions and the central bank's rapid tightening of policy. The IMF stated in its April World Economic Outlook update that, while a global recession in 2022 was ruled out with a growth estimate of 3.2%, the balance of risks was tipped to the downside, driven by a wide range of factors that could harm global economic performance.



Roshni Nadar Retained As India's Richest Woman For 2nd Year In A Row :-

For the second year in a row, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has retained the title of richest woman in India. Roshni Nadar's total wealth was Rs 84,330 crore as of December 31, 2021, according to

the third edition of the 'Kotak Private Banking Hurun - Leading Wealthy Women List.' Roshni Nadar was followed by Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar, who surpassed Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw with a total wealth of Rs 57,520 crore. Falguni Nayar is the tenth richest self-made woman in the world.



In Three Years, India Lost 329 Tigers, 29 Of Which Were Killed By Poachers: Govt:-

According to the government, India has lost 329 tigers in the last three years due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes. Poaching, electrocution, poisoning, and train accidents killed 307 elephants during this time period, according to the report. According to figures presented in Lok Sabha by Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey, 96 tigers died in 2019, 106 in 2020, and 127 in 2021. According to the minister, 68 tiger deaths were caused by natural causes, five by unnatural causes, 29 by poaching, and 30 by 'seizure.' He went on to say that 197 tiger deaths are being investigated.



Parle Ranks No.1 As India's Most Chosen FMCG Brand :-

According to the latest Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint report, homegrown fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) brand Parle is the most preferred brand in India for the tenth year in a row in 2021. The top ten FMCG brands in 2021, according to data and rankings from Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint 2022 report, are Parle, Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, Tata, Ghadi, Nandini, Colgate, Aavin, and Lifebuoy. According to the report, these brands were ranked based on Consumer Reach Points (CRPs).



Indian Savitri Jindal Replaces China's Yang Huiyan To Become Asia's Richest Woman :-

Savitri Jindal, the Emeritus Chairperson of the OP Jindal Group, has surpassed China's Yang Huiyan, whose fortune fell by half as a result of China's real estate crisis. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Yang is now the third richest woman in Asia, as her net worth

has fallen below that of fellow Chinese tycoon Fan Hongwei, CEO of chemical-fibre company Hengli Petrochemical Company. Meanwhile, thanks to her conglomerate Jindal Group, Savitri Jindal is just slightly ahead of Fan Hongwei with a fortune worth \$11.3 billion.



In India, 7.3% Of The Population Owned Digital Currency In 2021 :-

According to a UNCTAD report, India's crypto ownership is the seventh highest in the world, with approximately 7.3% of the Indian population owning digital currency (in the form of cryptocurrencies) in 2021. India ranked one notch below the United States (8.3 per cent) in a list of the top 20 economies ranked for digital currency ownership as a share of population as of 2021. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7%, followed by Russia and Venezuela, with 11.9% and 10.3%, respectively. Singapore (9.4%) and Kenya (8.5%) were ahead of the United States in the pecking order.



Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Declines To 13.93% In July :-

According to government data, wholesale inflation in India fell to 13.93 percent in July from 15.18 percent in June and a record high of 15.88 percent in May. The WPI for July in 2021 stood at 11.57 per cent. Inflation in July 2022 is primarily contributed by the rise in prices of minerals, oils, food articles, crude petroleum and natural gas, basic metals, electricity, chemicals and chemical products, food products, etc., as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, the Government of India's press release said.



India's Oil Demand Will Rise By 7.73% In 2022, Fastest In The World :-

According to Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) report, India's demand for petroleum products such as petrol and diesel will increase by 7.73 percent in 2023, the fastest rate in the world. According to OPEC's monthly oil report, India's demand for oil products is expected to rise from 4.77 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2022 to 5.14 million bpd in 2023. Demand is growing at the fastest rate in the world, ahead of China's 1.23 percent, the United States' 3.39 percent, and Europe's 4.62 percent. After the United States and China, India is the world's third largest importer and consumer of oil.



Vistara Emerges Second Largest Domestic Airline By Market Share :-

In July, Tata Sons-Singapore Airlines joint venture Vistara overtook Singapore Airlines as the second largest airline by domestic market share for the first time since its inception in January 2015. In the month that it flew 1.01 million passengers, the carrier's market share was 10.4%. Complete service Vistara trailed market leader IndiGo, which held 58.8 percent of the market. Vistara taking second place is significant in and of itself, as the number two spot had previously been shared by SpiceJet, Go First, and Air India.



Mandla Becomes India's First Fully 'Functionally Literate' District :-

According to state Minister Bisahulal Singh, Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mandla region has become the country's first fully "functionally literate" district.

Speaking about the achievement, Mandla collector Harshika Singh stated that the literacy rate in the district was 68% according to a 2011 survey, while another report in 2020 stated that over 2.25 lakh people were

illiterate in the district, with the majority of them being tribals living in the forest areas. She claims that in two years, the entire district has become functionally literate.

14: Schemes & Committees



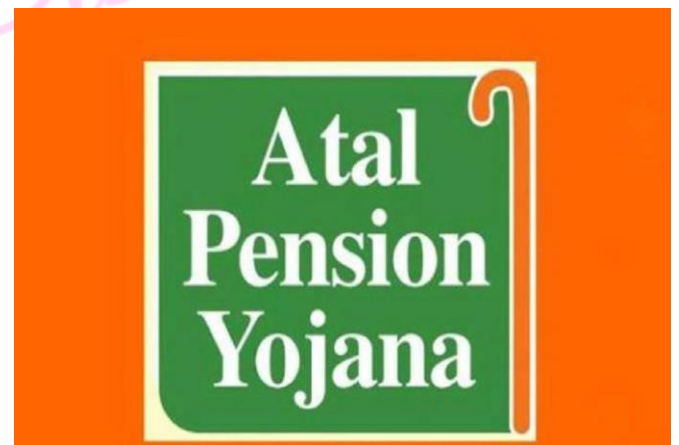
Union Cabinet Adopts A \$1.6 Billion BSNL Revitalization Plan :-

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 1.64-lakh crore package for the revival of state-owned telecom service provider Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), with the emphasis on fresh capital for upgrading the company's network and allocating spectrum for it to offer 4G services, de-stressing its balance sheet, and expanding its fibre network. The four-year revival strategy comes after the government announced a Rs 70,000-crore package in 2019, primarily to cover a voluntary retirement scheme for BSNL employees.



Monkeypox Virus: Centre Creates Special Task Force Under VK Paul :-

In the aftermath of Monkeypox cases in India, the Centre formed a task force to monitor and advise the government on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and the investigation of vaccination for the infection in the country. Cabinet Secretary, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Additional Secretary (PMO), and other senior officials attended the meeting. "The team will be headed by Dr VK Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog and members including Secretary, Union Health Ministry, Pharma and Biotech," said an official statement.



Atal Pension Yojana, new rule. :-

Beginning on October 1, income tax payers won't be able to sign up for the government's Atal Pension Yojana (APY) social security programme. The goal, according to the finance ministry, is to better focus pension benefits

to disadvantaged demographic groups. On June 1, 2015, the government implemented APY to offer social security to workers, mostly in the unorganised sector. After turning 60, programme participants receive a guaranteed minimum pension ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month, based on their contributions.



6 National Highway Projects Launched In MP By Union Minister :-

In Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for six National Highway projects totaling 119 kilometres and costing 2300 crore rupees. Local artisans, students, and businesspeople will benefit from improved connectivity from Indore. He also stated that the villages on the Indore-Harda section will be better connected to Indore. The development of the Dhar-Pithampur Industrial Corridor will result in the creation of new job opportunities.



Kerala Launched Eggs And Milk Scheme For Anganwadi Children :-

The Kerala government has launched an exclusive programme, 'Poshaka Balyam' (Nutritious Childhood), to improve nutrition among children aged 3-6. Each child will receive 125 mL of milk twice a week for 44 weeks (10 months) and an egg twice a week under this scheme, which is a first in the country. Kerala is the first state in the country to implement such a programme to combat childhood malnutrition. This critical intervention will benefit approximately 4 lakh children who attend the state's 33,115 Anganwadis.



Haryana Government Developed The Cheerag Programme For EWS Students :-

Manohar Lal Khattar's government in Haryana recently launched the "Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance, and Grant (Cheerag)" scheme. It replaced a similar scheme launched in 2007 by Bhupinder Singh Hooda's government under Rule 134 A of the Haryana School Education Rules, 2003. Government school students whose parents have an annual verified income of less than Rs 1.8 lakh can enrol in private schools from Class II to XII under the Cheerag scheme.



Uttarakhand Govt Decides To Develop One Sanskrit-Speaking Village In Each District :-

The Uttarakhand government has decided to establish one Sanskrit-speaking village in each of the state's 13 districts. Uttarakhand is the first state in the country to launch such a large-scale initiative to promote Sanskrit. Experts will train residents of these villages to use the ancient Indian language as a medium of daily communication. Dhan Singh Rawat, Uttarakhand's Minister for Sanskrit Education, stated that Sanskrit teachers will be sent to selected villages to teach locals how to communicate in the language.



SEBI Constitutes A 15-Member Committee To Attract Foreign Investment :-

To increase foreign investment into India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formed an expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) will be chaired by former Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian and will include 14 other members from foreign banks, stock exchanges, depositories, and the RBI. The FAC has been tasked with advising on issues relating to FPI investments and operations in financial markets, including measures to make it easier for FPIs to do business in India.



UP Govt Plans To Double Farmers Income Under 'Panchamrut Yojana' :-

The Uttar Pradesh government announced that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'Panchamrut Yojana' will aid in doubling farmers' income through the implementation of cost-effective technical measures and the promotion of co-cropping. The government has already begun taking steps to achieve this goal through the Panchamrut Yojana, and would initially select a total of 2028 farmers in the state ahead of the autumn season to develop model plots, so that more and more innovative farmers felt encouraged to join the programme for their own benefit.



Goa CM Pramod Sawant Announced To Implement 100% NEP In Higher Education :-

Pramod Sawant, the Chief Minister of Goa, stated that the Goa government will implement the National Education Policy (NEP) in all higher education institutions beginning with the next academic year. He also stated that the state government is working to improve manpower skills through agreements signed with various industry associations in the state. "We have started working on the implementation of the National Education Policy in the state" an official release quoted Mr Sawant as saying.



"UMEED Market Place" Launched By Manoj Sinha As Part Of AVSAR Program :-

In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the "UMEED Market Place" at Srinagar International Airport as part of the Airport Authority of India's AVSAR Scheme. A similar Marketplace also opened at Jammu Airport, and both locations will feature products from all 20 districts. In his address, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha stated that such an initiative will support local art and artisans of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission Self Help Groups by providing a platform to market local products directly to customers.



Ministry Of Social Justice Launches SMILE-75 Initiative :-

The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of beggars in 75 identified municipalities as part of the 75th anniversary of independence, according to a Ministry statement. The initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) project, for which a total of 100 crore has been set aside until 2025-2026. The goal of SMILE- 75 is to eliminate begging in our cities, towns, and municipal areas.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Launched 'Make India No. 1' Mission :-

Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener, has launched a national mission to make India the number one country in the world and has invited all citizens and political parties to join him. To achieve the goal, he stated that free education and healthcare for citizens, employment for youths, equal rights and dignity for women, and fair prices for farmers' products are required. Mr. Kejriwal stated that he will travel across the country as part of the 'Make India Number 1' mission to encourage people to join the initiative and help it achieve its goals.

**All households in UP will get Parivar Kalyan Card :-**

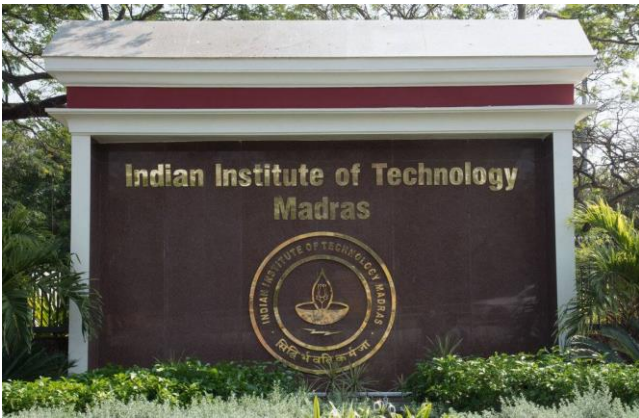
Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh mentioned that all households in the state would receive "UP Parivar Kalyan Cards." This entitles recipients to the advantages of the several social programmes now in place in the state. In order to streamline the process and connect all government programmes, this card will be manufactured using information from ration cards. In Uttar Pradesh, there are now 15 crore ration card holders with active Aadhaar numbers who are eligible to receive Parivar Kalyan cards right away. Ration cards cover over 60% of the state's population.

15: Science & Technology**Monkeypox Vaccine IMVANEX Approved By European Commission :-**

According to the Danish drugmaker that developed the vaccine, the European Commission has approved a smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox after the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency. "The European Commission has extended the marketing authorisation for the company's smallpox vaccine, Imvanex, to include protection from monkeypox" according to a statement issued by Bavarian Nordic.

**India's First Teaching Robot, Introduced By Indus International School :-**

A school in Hyderabad has introduced robotic teachers, which are said to be the first of their kind in India for students. Eagle, the teaching robot, is said to be capable of teaching students in grades 5 to 11 both in the classroom alongside a human teacher and on its own. Indus' in-house developed robots have been introduced as teacher assistants in physics, chemistry, biology, geography, and history classes 7, 8, and 9. Eagle robots are programmed to teach all the science and humanities subjects, including languages.



Nilekani Center Established By IIT-M To Promote Indian Language Technology :-

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has announced plans to establish the 'Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat' to advance the state of Indian language technology with the goal of having a societal impact. According to an official statement, Rohini and Nandan Nilekani have donated Rs 36 crore to the centre through Nilekani Philanthropies. The center's goal is to advance Indian language technology in order to have a greater impact. AI4Bharat was founded as an IIT Madras initiative to develop open-source language AI for Indian languages.



Low Altitude Escape Motor, Gaganyaan :-

The Low Altitude Escape Motor (LEM) of the Crew Escape System was successfully tested from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking yet another significant achievement in the Gaganyaan project. "In the event of an emergency, the Gaganyaan mission's Crew module is removed by the Crew Escape System (CES), which also saves the astronauts. If a mission is aborted during the opening stages of flight, the LEM gives the CES the necessary propulsion to remove the Crew Module from the launch vehicle "read the ISRO statement.



World's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant Going To Be Built In Khandwa, MP :-

A floating solar power plant will be built in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh. It is expected to generate 600 Megawatts of power by 2022-23, making it the world's largest floating solar plant. The project is expected to cost more than 3000 crores. "Omkareshwar Dam is built on the Narmada river. This is our hydel project and in this, we produce energy from water, but it is spread over about 100 square kilometres, there is a very large water body where the water level remains normal," Renewable Energy Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Dubey said.



NASA Made The First Multispectral Maps Of Mars Available :-

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has released the first portions of multispectral maps of Mars' surface. The 5.6 GB multicoloured map covers 86 percent of Mars' surface. The full map will be released in batches over the next six months by the American space agency. The first portions were made available through NASA's Planetary Data System, an open archive of all digital data collected by the agency during planetary flights and other missions. NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) provided the data for the maps.



SpaceX Launches South Korea's First Moon Mission, Danuri :-

South Korea became the world's seventh country to launch a mission to the Moon when its orbiter boarded SpaceX Falcon-9. The Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, dubbed Danuri, took off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's launch complex 40. South Korea's first lunar mission comes after the country recently developed a space rocket launch capability. Nasa and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) collaborated on the lunar mission.



SPARK: New Virtual Space Museum Launched By ISRO :-

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations commemorating India's 75th year of independence, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled 'SPARK,' a virtual space tech park. The virtual space museum, founded by ISRO Chairman S Somanath, houses documents, images, and videos about launch vehicles, satellites, scientific missions, and Indian space pioneers. Somanath, who is also the Secretary of the Department of Space, and the Directors of various ISRO centres lauded the initiative.



Lumpi-ProVac: ICAR Creates Locally Produced Vaccine For Cattle With Lumpy Disease :-

In a major breakthrough, two ICAR institutes developed an indigenous vaccine called "Lumpi-ProVaInd" for Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle, which has spread across many states in recent months. The Centre intends to commercialise this vaccine, developed by two Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, as soon as possible in order to control the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), which has killed cattle in six states. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced the new technology.



India's First 3D-Printed Human Cornea :-

Researchers in Hyderabad have successfully 3D-printed an artificial cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit eye for the first time in India. According to a press release, researchers from the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IITH), and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) collaborated to develop a 3D-printed cornea from human donor corneal tissue. According to the company,

the product is completely natural, contains no synthetic components, is free of animal residues, and is safe to use in patients.



Geothermal Energy To Be Used To Supply Energy To Ladakh :-

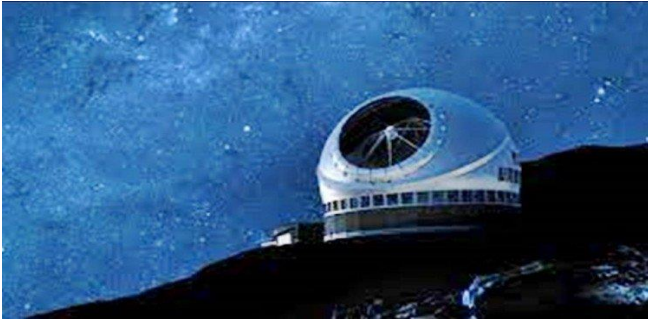
The state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has begun drilling to extract energy from the earth's crust in Ladakh, which is located on the Himalayan geothermal belt. It has long been reported that Puga Valley in Ladakh's south-eastern region may have significant geothermal energy potential, and now feasibility studies have begun. An agreement to establish the first geothermal power project was announced on February 7, 2021. The Puga valley in Ladakh was an obvious choice. The power plant here will be not only the first in India, but also the tallest.



Country First Indigenous Monkeypox Test Kit Launched :-

In India, the first indigenously developed RT-PCR kit for testing monkeypox disease has been released. Transasia

Bio-Medicals created the kit, which was unveiled by Ajay Kumar Sood, the Centre's Principal Scientific Adviser. This Monkeypox Testing Kit is simple to use and highly sensitive. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the monkeypox outbreak an international health emergency. More than 30,000 cases of the disease have been reported in at least 90 countries.



India's First Observatory To Monitor Space Activity To Come Up In Uttarakhand :-

Digantara, a space sector start-up, will establish India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the Earth. The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will assist India in tracking all space activity, including space debris and military satellites hovering over the region. The United States is currently a dominant player in space debris monitoring, with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional input from around the world.

16: Sports



Commonwealth Games 2022: Weightlifter Sanket Sargar wins silver :-

Sanket Sargar of Maharashtra made history on July 30 by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022. In Birmingham, the 21-year-old won silver in the men's 55kg weightlifting event. Sanket Sargar finished second in the men's 55kg event with a total of 248kg (113kg in snatch, 135kg in clean and

jerk), trailing Malaysia's Aniq Mohamad, who won gold with a total of 249 kg (107kg in snatch, 142kg in clean and jerk). Sanket Sargar injured his elbow while attempting to lift 139kg in his second clean and jerk attempt.



Commonwealth Games 2022: Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary wins bronze :-

Gururaja Poojary won a bronze medal in the men's 61kg final at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, making it two out of two for India in weightlifting.

Poojary successfully completed a combined lift of 269kg (118kg in snatch and 151kg in clean and jerk) to secure India's Olympic medal. Gururaja, who won a silver medal at the Gold Coast Games in 2018, started with an explosive clean lift of 115kg and quickly advanced to the top. Poojary fumbled in his third snatch attempt, which was of 120 kgs, and finished fourth in the round.



Commonwealth Games 2022: Bindiyanani Devi wins silver medal :-

Bindiyarani Devi won a silver medal for India in the women's weightlifting category of 55 kg. Bindiyanani scored 86 points in snatch and 116 points in clean and jerk. That is, she won the silver medal with a total score of 202 kg. Bindiyanani Devi made her international debut in 2016 at the World Youth Championship in Penang, Malaysia, where she finished 10th. Bindiyanani Devi, a 23-year-old from India, won gold at the 2019 South Asian Games. Bindiyanani also won the Commonwealth Championship title in 2019.



Swiss Open 2022: Casper Ruud Defeats Matteo Berrettini In The Finals :-

Casper Ruud of Norway, a 2022 French Open finalist, won his second consecutive Swiss Open title after defeating Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final in Gstaad. Ruud rallied from a set down to defeat Berrettini 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 and retain the ATP 250 title. Berrettini, a semifinalist at the Australian Open in 2022, won the first set with a single break of serve in the fifth game. The Italian led early in the second set tiebreak, but Ruud eventually levelled the match. Ruud's victory was his ninth in his career and his third this year, following victories in Geneva and Buenos Aires.



ICC Members List: Cambodia, Uzbekistan And Cote D'Ivoire Receives Membership Status :-

During the ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham, three countries were granted membership status. Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia, and Cote D'Ivoire from Africa, were all awarded Associate membership status, taking ICC's total members to 108 countries, including 96 Associates. 'Participation and domestic structures' of Clause 2.1 (d) of the ICC Membership Criteria is a major criterion for gaining ICC Membership. This includes having a proper structure in place, as well as minimum team requirements for 50-over and 20-over tournaments.



Commonwealth Games : Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins Gold in men's 67 kg weightlifting :-

Jeremy Lalrinnunga is the second Indian weightlifter to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 2022. The 19-year-old lifted a total of 300kg to take first place. He was in pain during his first clean and jerk attempt, but he completed the 154kg lift successfully and jumped to the top spot. Despite having back problems, he lifted 160kg on his second attempt. His 160kg attempt resulted in a total lift of 300kg. He was unable to complete his lift on the third attempt due to an elbow injury.



Commonwealth Games : Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli clinch gold medal:-

Achinta Sheuli, 20, won the yellow metal with a combined effort of 313 Kilograms (143kg in snatch and 170kg in clean & jerk). President Droupadi Murmu congratulated Achinta Sheuli on her gold medal victory. Ms Murmu said in a tweet, "Achinta Sheuli has made India proud by winning gold and flying the tricolour high at the Commonwealth Games." Achinta Sheuli, she said, immediately overcame the failure in one attempt and topped the lineup. According to the President, he is the champion who has made history.



Commonwealth Games : Weightlifter Harjinder Kaur claimed the bronze medal:-

Harjinder Kaur won bronze in the women's 71kg weightlifting event at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Kaur appeared destined to finish fourth in the event, but after Nigeria's Joy Eze failed all three of her clean and jerk attempts, Kaur was awarded bronze. The 25-year-old lifted 93kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk for a total of 212kg to win bronze behind England's Sarah Davies (229kg – 103kg snatch and 126kg c&j) and Canada's Alexis Ashworth (214kg – 91kg snatch and 123kg c&j).



Commonwealth Games 2022: In Judo, Shushila Devi Likmabam won the silver medal :-

Shushila Devi Likmabam's silver medal in the women's judo 48kg final gave India its seventh medal of the Commonwealth Games 2022. Shushila, who had defeated Harriet Bonface in the quarterfinals earlier in the day, secured a medal by defeating Priscilla Morand of Mauritius in the semis. Shushila was guaranteed a silver medal, but she fell short in the final against South Africa's Michaela Whitebooi, ensuring her second CWG medal. The Indian judoka also took silver at the 2014 CWG and competed in the Tokyo Olympics last year.



Commonwealth Games : Vikas Thakur wins weightlifting silver medal:-

Vikas Thakur of India won silver in the men's 96kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. Vikas finished second with a total weight of 346kg (155kg in the Snatch and 199kg in the Clean and

Jerk). Vikas Thakur has three Commonwealth Games medals, having won silver in Glasgow in 2014 and bronze in Gold Coast in 2018. Thakur, a five-time Commonwealth Championships medalist, finished third after the snatch round with three clean lifts of 149kg, 153kg, and 155kg.



Commonwealth Games : Indian weightlifter Gurdeep Singh wins bronze :-

On Day 6 of the Commonwealth Games 2022, India's Gurdeep Singh took bronze in the men's 109+kg weightlifting event. Gurdeep lifted a total weight of 390kg (167kg+223kg) in the final to win India's 10th weightlifting medal at the Games. Gurdeep, a national record holder in the 105+kg category, had a tense start to the final after failing to lift the 167kg on his first snatch attempt. Gurdeep got off to a good start in Clean and Jerk with a 207kg lift, which was enough to earn the Indian a medal.



Commonwealth Games: Lovepreet Singh clinches bronze medal in men's weightlifting :-

Lovepreet Singh won bronze in the men's 109kg weightlifting final with a stunning lift of 355kg. Lovepreet finished on the podium after lifting a best of 163kg in snatch and 192kg in Clean and Jerk. He completed all six lifts successfully, setting a new Clean and Jerk National Record. After starting with a 159kg lead in his first snatch attempt, Lovepreet took the lead with a 161kg effort in the next, albeit after a brief struggle. Lovepreet easily nailed the 163kg lift after adding two kilogrammes.



Commonwealth Games : India's paddlers wins gold in Table Tennis :-

The Indian men's table tennis team won gold in Birmingham by defeating Singapore 3-1 in the Commonwealth Games final. Harmeet Desai raised his game in the decisive singles to help India retain its gold medal after a close battle with Singapore. 121st in the world In the third singles, Harmeet defeated 133rd-ranked Zhe Yu Clarence Chew 11-8, 11-5, 11-6 to secure India's third gold men's team medal in CWG history. The gold was India's seventh gold medal since the sport's inception in Manchester in 2002.



Commonwealth Games: Indian badminton team claimed the silver medal:-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian Badminton team on their silver medal in the final of the mixed team event at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, which is currently underway. The Indian badminton team won silver in the Commonwealth Games 2022 mixed group match. The Indian badminton mixed team lost 1-3 to Malaysia and had to settle for silver. Only PV Sindhu managed to win the women's singles match in the summit clash against Malaysia.



Commonwealth Games: Sakshi Malik Wins Gold in Women's Wrestling :-

Sakshi Malik of India won gold in the women's 62kg freestyle wrestling event at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, UK. This is Sakshi Malik's third consecutive medal at the CWG. She won 58kg silver in

Glasgow in 2014 and bronze in Gold Coast in 2018. Sakshi Malik, a bronze medalist in Rio 2016, defeated Canada's Ana Godinez Gonzalez by fall in the gold medal match at the Coventry Stadium and Arena. Esther Kolawole and Berthe Etane Ngolle of Nigeria won the bronze medals.



Commonwealth Games : Tulika Maan wins silver in women's 78kg judo event :-

Tulika Mann of India won silver in the women's 78 kg event at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. Mann's silver medal brought India's total medal count at the Commonwealth Games to 16. In the final event, she was defeated by Sarah Adlington of Scotland. Mann advanced to the final after defeating New Zealand's Sydnee Andrews in the semi-finals. India has three medals in Judo. Vijay Kumar Yadav took bronze in the men's 60 kg judo final. Shushila Devi Likmabam won a silver medal in the women's judo 48 kg final as well.



Commonwealth Games : Tejaswin Shankar wins India's first High Jump Medal :-

Tejaswin Shankar, a last-minute addition to the athletics team, became the first Indian to win a men's high jump medal at the Commonwealth Games. On countback, the national record holder cleared 2.22m to finish third. Donald Thomas of the Bahamas and Joel Clarke-Khan of England also cleared 2.22m, but it took them more than one attempt, whereas Shankar did it in a single attempt. He then attempted 2.28m in his third and final attempt to win silver, but failed.



Commonwealth Games : Saurav Ghosal wins India's first-ever singles medal in squash :-

Saurav Ghosal, an Indian squash player, made history by capturing the elusive bronze medal in men's singles at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, defeating home favourite James Willstrop 3-0 (11-6, 11-1, 11-4) in the playoff match. This was India's first Commonwealth Games singles squash medal in either the men's or women's categories. India has only won four medals in squash at the CWG. Dipika Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa won the gold medal in women's doubles in 2014 and the silver medal in 2018. That same year, Pallikal and Ghosal won silver in mixed doubles.



Commonwealth Games : Murali Sreeshankar wins silver in long jump:-

Murali Sreeshankar made history by taking silver in the men's long jump at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. In the men's long jump event at the Commonwealth Games, Sreeshankar became the first Indian to win a silver medal. The 23-year-old Indian finished second behind Laquan Nairn of the Bahamas, jumping 8.08 metres in his fifth attempt. Nairn also had the best jump of 8.08 metres. However, he won the gold medal because his second best of 7.98 metres was better than Sreeshankar's 7.84 metres.



Commonwealth Games: Sudhir won the gold medal in men's heavyweight para powerlifting:-

Sudhir, an Indian para powerlifter, set a Commonwealth Games record to win gold in the men's heavyweight final. Sudhir took the lead with a 212 kg lift in his second attempt after lifting 208 kg in his first. Despite failing to

attempt 217 kg on his third and final attempt, Sudhir won gold and set a Games record with his total points of 134.5. This was India's seventh Commonwealth Games gold medal. People from all walks of life congratulated Sudhir on his gold medal win on Twitter.



Commonwealth Games : India's Deepak Punia won a gold medal in Wrestling :-

Deepak Punia, India's other star wrestler, won his first gold in the men's 86kg category, following Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia. In the men's 86kg final, the 23-year-old former World Championships silver medalist defeated Pakistan's Muhammad Inam. Punia won the gold medal match by a score of 3-0. At the Commonwealth Games 2022, he won India's third gold medal in wrestling and the country's ninth gold medal overall. The Indian grappler led 2-0 after the first period, and the pressure was on Punia's opponent heading into the final three minutes.



Commonwealth Games : Bajrang Punia Wins Gold in Men's 65kg Category:-

Bajrang Punia of India won gold in the men's 65kg freestyle wrestling event at the Commonwealth Games 2022. Bajrang's efforts increased India's medal tally at the Birmingham Games to 22. The bronze medalist from the Tokyo Olympics defeated Lachlan McNeil of Canada in the final (9-2) to finish on the podium and continue India's dominance in wrestling at the CWG. This was Bajrang's third medal at the Commonwealth Games. The 28-year-old Indian defeated his English opponent, George Ramm, by technical superiority (10-0).



Commonwealth Games : Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya bags gold for India :-

Tokyo Olympian Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya won India's tenth gold medal by defeating Nigeria's Ebikewenimo Welson in the men's 57 kg final by technical superiority (10-0) at the Commonwealth Games 2022 Birmingham. Ravi Dahiya advanced to the semi-finals of the men's 57 kg category after defeating Suraj Singh of New Zealand in the quarterfinals. He won the match 10-0 due to technical superiority. The Indian took care of the New Zealander before he even had a chance to score.



Commonwealth Games : Priyanka Goswami wins India's 1st medal in race walk :-

Priyanka Goswami made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal in race walking at the Commonwealth Games, taking silver in the 10,000m event. Goswami finished second in a personal best time of 43:38.83s, trailing Australia's Jemima Montag (42:34.30). Kenya's Emily Wamusyi Ngii (43:50.86) won bronze. Bhawna Jat, the other Indian in the race, finished eighth and last with a personal best time of 47:14.13. Harminder Singh was the first Indian to win a medal in race walking (bronze) in the 20km event at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.



Commonwealth Games : Vinesh Phogat bags gold medal in women's wrestling 53kg :-

Vinesh Phogat, an Indian wrestler, won gold in the women's 53kg event at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Vinesh, 27, entered Birmingham 2022 as a two-time champion and went undefeated to win her third consecutive CWG gold. She had won gold in the 48kg

division in Glasgow in 2014 and the 50kg division in Gold Coast in 2018. Because there were only four wrestlers in the women's 53kg division in Birmingham, the medals were decided through a single-phase Nordic Group system in which all wrestlers faced each other once.



Commonwealth Games : Eldhose Paul becomes the first Indian to win gold in the triple jump :-

Eldhose Paul won gold in the Men's Triple Jump event at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in a first for India. The cherry on top was that India also won silver in the same event, with compatriot Abdulla Aboobacker finishing second with a best jump of 17.02m. Paul got off to a slow start in the men's triple jump event, jumping 14.62 metres on his first attempt. In his second attempt, he jumped 16.30m higher. Paul made a monster jump of 17.03m in his third attempt to take first place on the table.



India Finishes CWG 2022 Campaign On 4th Position With 61 Medals :-

The Commonwealth Games 2022, which lasted 11 days in Birmingham, came to an end on August 8. The Indian team finished fourth in the medal count at the CWG 2022. India finished its CWG campaign with 61 medals in Birmingham (22 Gold, 16 Silver, and 23 Bronze medals). India has won the most medals in various wrestling and weightlifting categories. India won 12 gold medals in wrestling and 10 gold medals in weightlifting. With 178 medals, Australia dominated the CWG 2022 medal tally (67 Gold, 57 silver, and 57 Bronze medals).



44th Chess Olympiad: Uzbekistan Win Gold In Open Section, Ukrainian Women Triumph :-

According to the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the 14th-seeded Uzbekistan team won the gold medal, while Armenia and India-2 teams won silver and bronze in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad held here. Jakhongir Vakhidov's win on board 4 helped Uzbekistan defeat the Netherlands in the second round. According to FIDE, Ukraine has won gold in the women's section. The India-2 team, made up of young players, defeated Germany 3-1 in the 11th and final round.



Former West Indies Skipper Kieron Pollard First Cricketer To Play 600 T20 Matches :-

Kieron Pollard, a former West Indies all-rounder, became the first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches. The hard-hitting batter reached this milestone during London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals at Lord's during The Hundred tournament. Pollard has some outstanding T20I statistics. Over 600 games, he has scored 11,723 runs at an average of 31.34. He has the highest individual score of 104. In the format, Pollard has one century and 56 half-centuries. He has also taken 309 wickets with a best bowling average of 4/15.



Tamara Walcott Lifts 737.5 Kg To Break Powerlifting Guinness World Record :-

Tamara Walcott, a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States, broke the record for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of 737.5 kg across three compound lifts - the squat, the bench press, and the

deadlift, according to sources in the investigating agency. According to the official website of Guinness World Records. Last month, she was honoured at the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia. Ms Walcott weighed 188.2 kg, according to the record-keeping agency.



Bengaluru To Host FIBA U-18 Women's Asian Basketball Championship :-

From September 5 to 11, the International Basketball Federation FIBA will host the FIBA U18 Women's Asian Championship at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerva and Koramangala Indoor stadiums. The event will be attended by as many as 16 countries. The championship will be divided into two divisions: A and B. The countries in Division A are: China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Chinese, Taipei, Australia and New Zealand. In Division B are: Hong Kong, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Samoa and Thailand.



FTX Crypto Cup: R Pragganandhaa Defeated World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen :-

Indian Grandmaster Pragganandhaa Rameshbabu finished runner-up by defeating world champion Magnus Carlsen for the third time in six months at the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of the Champions Chess Tour, in Miami. After a 2-2 tie in the regulation game, Pragganandhaa defeated Carlsen in the seventh round of the blitz playoff to finish second in the standings with 15 points. Pragganandhaa rose to prominence earlier in February after defeating world champion Carlsen in an online chess match.



Antim Panghal: India's First-Ever U-20 World Champion In Wrestling :-

Antim Panghal became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the U-20 world championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, when she defeated Kazakhstan's Atlyn Shagayeva 8-0 in the 53kg category final. An Indian girl finished on top of the podium for the first time in the competition's 34-year history. The 17-year-old from

Haryana's Bhagana village in Hisar district won all of her fights by wide margins, including the prized scalp of European champion Olivia Andrich, whom she defeated through technical superiority (11-0).



Linthoi Chanambam won Judo World Championships:-

With a gold medal in the Women's 57kg division, Indian judoka Linthoi Chanambam made history by earning India's first-ever medal at the Judo World Championships. In the Women's 57kg division at the World Judo Cadet (U18) Championships, Indian judoka Linthoi Chanambam made history by earning India's first-ever medal in Judo World Championships. Bianca Reis of Brazil was defeated by the 15-year-old judoka in the 57-kg division final. The first Indian judoka to medal in any age group division at the World Championships was Linthoi Chanambam.

17: State



Large Statue Of Chandrashekhar Azad To Be Erected In Bhopal :-

In Bhopal, a large statue of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad will be erected. Soil brought from Azad's birthplace, Bhabra, will be used at the base of the statue, and the statue site will be developed as a source of inspiration for the youth. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated this while speaking at the inaugural session of the first state-level Youth Mahapanchayat, which was held in Bhopal on the 116th birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur also addressed the programme.



Kerala Will Start Taking Steps To Ensure Every Citizen Fully Digitally Literate :-

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stated that the state government is moving ahead with steps to achieve complete digital literacy in order to educate people, particularly children, about cyber traps and threats in cyberspace. Children cannot be kept away from digital space forever, he says, because smartphones have become a significant tool for online education in the post-COVID-19 period. However, their safety and security should be ensured through awareness.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar Launched 'Smart E-Beat' System For Gurugram Police :-

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched an app-based system for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel in Gurugram. At an event at the Commissioner of Police's office, the CM unveiled the 'Smart E-Beat' system, which is linked to 119 motorcycle police officers. According to Khattar, this app-based system was introduced in Gurugram as part of the 'Smart Policing Initiative' (SPI), and it will assist these cops in marking their attendance and monitoring their rides.



India's First All Women-Run Cooperative Bank Coming Up In Rajasthan :-

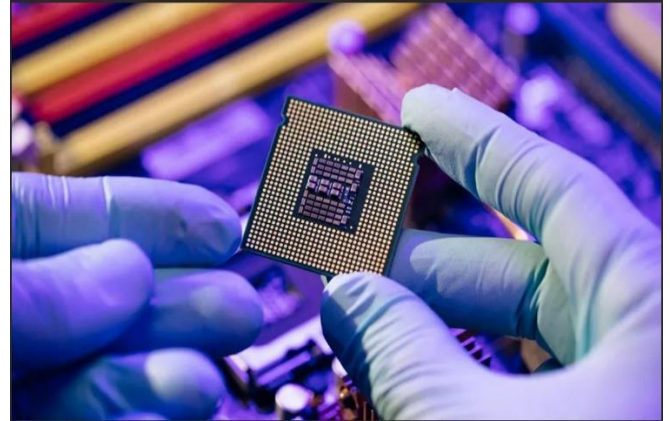
Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) and Stree Nidhi, a government of Telangana organisation, signed an MoU to establish Rajasthan's first 'women's financial institution.' The state will establish a 'Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi' (RMN) similar to Telangana's 'women fund model.' CM Ashok Gehlot announced the establishment of a bank run by women in his budget for 2022-23. According to officials, RMN will be established as a state-level cooperative financial institution through Rajeevika.



Chhattisgarh CM Launched 'Mahtari Nyay Rath' For Women Rights Awareness :-

Mr Bhupesh Baghel, the Chief Minister, flagged off Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath from his Raipur residence. The Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women has launched the Nyay Rath Yatra to educate women in the state about their constitutional rights and laws. Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra, an initiative of the Chhattisgarh Women Commission for

women empowerment, will travel from village to village in all districts to raise public awareness about the legal provisions and constitutional rights of women.



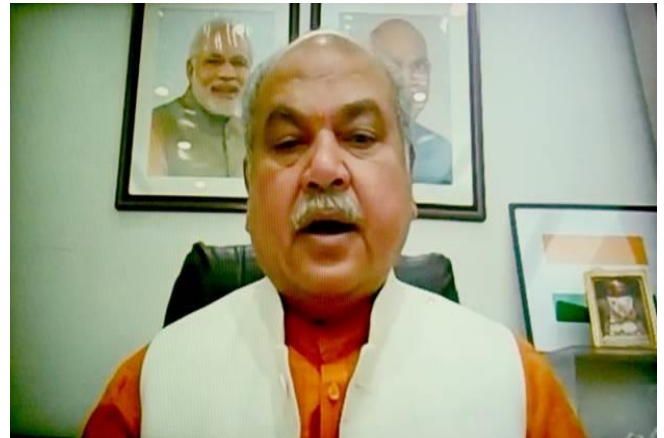
Gujarat Becomes First Indian State To Launch Semiconductor Policy 2022-27 :-

Gujarat became the first state to launch a Semiconductor Policy 2022-27, with the goal of increasing semiconductor manufacturing in the state and creating two lakh jobs over the next five years. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced and unveiled the policy, which includes a slew of incentives and subsidies for semiconductor manufacturing. The state government announced the formation of the Gujarat State Electronics Mission (GSEM), which will serve as the policy implementation nodal agency.



West Bengal To Form 7 New Districts :-

Bengal will gain seven new districts in the next six months, bringing the total to 30 from 23 currently, according to chief minister Mamata Banerjee. According to sources, the goal of creating more — but smaller — districts was to improve administration and management. Kandi, Behrampore, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Icchamati, Basirhat, and Sunderbans were among the new districts proposed by Banerjee. Bengal is the fourth-most populous state in the country, but its 23 districts are fewer than those of its less-populated neighbours Assam (35 districts), Odisha (30 districts), and Jharkhand (24).



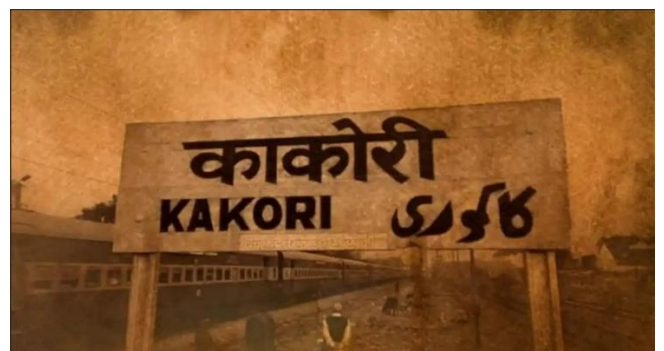
Indo-Israel Center Of Excellence For Vegetables Inaugurated :-

Through video conferencing, Union Minister of Agriculture Shri Narendra Singh Tomar laid the groundwork for the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables in Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh). Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar stated that the Central and State Governments are collaborating to improve agriculture. According to Shri Tomar, this Center is the result of the State Government's efforts. Its establishment will be critical to the district's development. It will also be a revolutionary step in the field of agriculture in the neighbouring districts and districts of the Bihar border.



Nitish Kumar resigned and took oath again :-

In an alliance with the BJP, Nitish Kumar held the office of chief minister of Bihar till he resigned. Before presenting his resignation to the waiting media at Raj Bhavan, Nitish Kumar went alone to see Governor Phagu Chauhan. Nitish Kumar has now joined the Mahagathbandhan. JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar on 10 August took oath as Bihar chief minister for a record eighth time in a no-frills ceremony at Raj Bhavan, a day after snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA and joining hands with the RJD to form a 'Mahagathbandhan' government.



'Radio Jaighosh' Launched By CM Yogi On Kakori Train Action Anniversary :-

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Radio Jaighosh' to commemorate the anniversary of the Kakori Train Action. The state Department of Culture is

launching a community radio channel to promote folk art, performing arts, Uttar Pradesh regional delicacies, and gallantry award winners. Radio Jaighosh will be available on 107.8 MHz and will broadcast programmes from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from the Sangeet Natak Akademi's newly renovated studio in Lucknow.



Kerala Government To Launch Mobile App To Curb GST Evasion :-

In an effort to reduce GST evasion, the Kerala government will launch a mobile app where people can upload original bills and compete for prizes. The state government anticipates that the 'Lucky Bill App' will aid in increasing tax collections by encouraging people to ask for bills when purchasing goods and services. The government, which is struggling financially, is looking for ways to increase revenue, and officials said the app will also allow the state GST department to examine return filings using bills uploaded by citizens.



Rishabh Pant Appointed As The State Brand Ambassador Of Uttarakhand :-

In a ceremony held at the Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami named star Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant as the state's brand ambassador. While congratulating Rishabh on this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the way Rishabh Pant accomplished the goal with his determination and strong willpower in very ordinary circumstances would inspire everyone. CM Dhami stated that naming cricketer Rishabh Pant as the Uttarakhand brand ambassador would inspire youth in the state to participate in sports.



5th Elephant Reserve In Agasthyamalai Landscape Announced By Tamil Nadu :-

On the occasion of World Elephant Day, the Centre announced the establishment of a new elephant reserve at Agasthiyamalai. It will be the 32nd elephant reserve in the country and the fifth in Tamil Nadu, with 1,197 square kilometres dedicated to elephant conservation. M K Stalin, the chief minister, welcomed the move to establish the elephant reserve, saying the mammals play an important role in balancing the forest ecosystem. The new elephant reserve will now assist the state in obtaining funds through central schemes such as "project elephant," which provides Rs 1 crore per year.



Arunachal Got 3rd Airport Named 'Donyi Polo Airport' :-

The Arunachal Pradesh administration has named the third airport in the state "Donyi Polo Airport", which is currently under construction in Itanagar, the state capital. According to a representative from the Chief Minister's Office, the state cabinet named the airport "Donyi Polo Airport" during its meeting. The gathering was presided over by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. According to the official, the airport would represent the tribally dominant state's long-standing customs and rich cultural legacy.



Arunachal Got 3rd Airport Named 'Donyi Polo Airport' :-

The Arunachal Pradesh administration has named the third airport in the state "Donyi Polo Airport", which is currently under construction in Itanagar, the state capital. According to a representative from the Chief Minister's Office, the state cabinet named the airport "Donyi Polo Airport" during its meeting. The gathering was presided over by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. According to the official, the airport

would represent the tribally dominant state's long-standing customs and rich cultural legacy.



'Medicine From The Sky': First Pilot Project Launched In Arunachal Pradesh :-

Arunachal Pradesh has successfully launched the first flight of its 'medicine from the sky' drone service from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in East Kameng district. Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Pema Khandu wrote "Drone Services Launched: Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India the world's drone hub, the government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to conduct a pilot project of using drones in healthcare, agriculture and disaster management in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF)".



Meghalaya Set To Host 2nd Edition Of North East Olympics :-

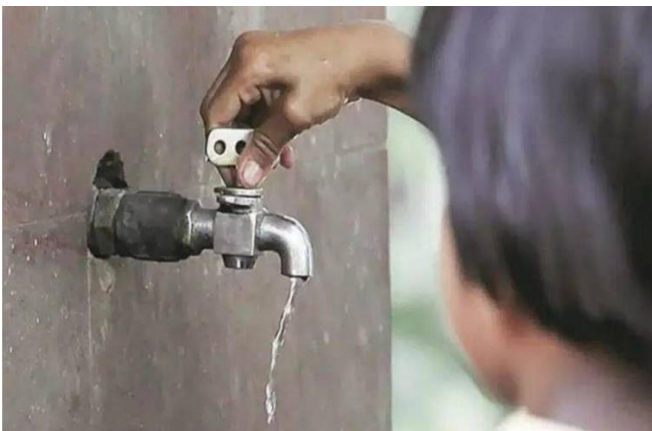
Meghalaya is gearing up to host the second edition of the North East Olympics in Shillong from October 30th to November 6th. In this edition, approximately 4,000

participants from eight North Eastern states will compete in 18 disciplines across 13 venues in Shillong. Participants will be competing in disciplines, such as archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling (Mountain Bike), golf, weightlifting and wrestling.



Country First Electric Double-Decker Bus Launched In Mumbai :-

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, unveiled India's first AC double-decker electric bus in Mumbai. Gadkari stated that the government's vision and policies are favourable to EV adoption, citing rising consumer demand for greener alternatives. The initiative, according to the minister, will provide a dynamic boost to the sustainable transportation sector. The electric double-decker bus, manufactured by Switch Mobility Ltd (Switch), has a larger capacity and can carry nearly twice as many seated passengers as a single-decker bus.



Goa, First State In India To Receive "Har Ghar Jal" Certification :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Goa government on becoming the first state to be 'Har Ghar Jal-certified,' indicating that every household in the state had a piped water connection. He stated in a virtual address that the Union Territories of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had also accomplished the feat. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat attended the Har Ghar Jal Utsav under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Panaji. "Goa has taken the lead in various national missions," the Prime Minister said.



"Dahi-Handi" Recognised As An Official Sport Of Maharashtra :-

'Dahi Handi,' an event associated with the Hindu festival of Janmashtami in Maharashtra, has now been designated as an adventure sport. The Maharashtra government will now recognise the participants, Govindas, as athletes by designating Dahi Handi as an adventure sport. "With this recognition, the players will become eligible to apply for government jobs under the sports quota," said CM Shinde in the Lower House. In the event of a fatality or other injury, participants or their families will be compensated.



HDFC Bank Opened The First All-Women Branch In North Kerala :-

To increase gender diversity in the banking sector, HDFC has opened its first all-women branch in Kozhikode, Kerala, with four female bankers. The branch is on Cherootty Road, the district's commercial hub. Sanjeev Kumar, Branch Banking Head South (Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Kerala), stated that the all-women branch is yet another example of the bank's efforts to advance gender and diversity initiatives. Women made up 21.7 percent of the workforce as of March 31, 2022, with the goal of increasing to 25% by 2025.



Assam CM launched 'Vidya Rath – School on Wheels' project :-

The Assam government has launched a school-on-wheels project to bring economically disadvantaged children into the mainstream of education. According to official sources, the "Vidya Rath: School on Wheels" planned to provide such children with elementary education for ten

months. According to the sources, the government will then integrate them into the traditional educational system. Students will receive free mid-day meals, uniforms, and textbooks as part of the project.



17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 To Be Held At Indore :-

The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 will take place in Indore in January of the following year. According to a tweet from External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, Secretary, Consular, Passport and Visa Division Ausaf Sayeed and Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Iqbal Singh Bains signed a Memorandum of Understanding for hosting the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas. Every year on January 9th, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.



GoI Grants GI Tag To Bihar's Mithila Makhana :-

Mithila Makhana has recently received Geographical Indication (GI) status from the Government of India, adding to its popularity. According to a PTI report, this

step is taken to help makhana cultivators get "the maximum price for their premium produce". Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently took to Twitter to announce the news and wrote, "Mithila Makhana registered with GI Tag, farmers will get profit and it will be easier to earn." According to the certificate, the GI was registered in the name of Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh.



Minister Bhupesh Baghel has launched an initiative to establish such units to provide income-generating opportunities.



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Govt To Set Up Country's First Night Safari In Lucknow :-

Chhattisgarh Government To Set Up 300 Rural Industrial Parks In The State :-

The Chhattisgarh government will establish rural industrial parks in the state in an effort to strengthen the rural economy and make the "gauthan" (cattle shed) a source of income. There will be 300 such parks in the project's first year. In keeping with Mahatma Gandhi's vision of gramme swaraj, which promotes cottage industries to strengthen the rural economy, Chief

Lucknow, the state capital of Uttar Pradesh, will soon have India's first night safari, designed to the tunes of Singapore. Lucknow's Kukrail forest area would be developed into a world-class night safari and bio-diversity park. The Yogi government intends to channelize the Kukrail River here and build an attractive riverfront. The forest minister of Uttar Pradesh, Jaiveer Singh, announced that 350 acres of land in the Kukrail area, spread over 2027.47 hectares, would be developed to the tunes of the world's first night safari in Singapore.

18: Summits & Conferences



Jammu Film Festival To Begin From September 3 :-

According to officials, the second edition of the Jammu Film Festival will begin on September 3 and will feature films from 54 countries screened over two days. The first international film festival was held in Jammu, the Union Territory's winter capital, in September 2019. The event was in cold shelf for the last two years due to COVID pandemic. The panel of judges includes prominent actor Lalit Parimoo, Geetiyam fame director Raahul Sharma,

Iranian filmmaker Alimohammad Eghbaldar, producer Kapil Mattoo, and storyboard writer and critic Amit Singh.



Amit Shah Inaugurated Conference On Drug Trafficking :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah opened the two-day NCB national conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security at Punjab Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh. Several development projects were also launched by Shah. NCB has destroyed thousands of kilogrammes of drugs at its various facilities as part of the conference. The drug destruction was televised via video conferencing at the conference. As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations for the 75th anniversary of independence, the NCB pledged to burn 75,000 kg of drugs.



India To Host Special Meeting Of UN SC Counterterrorism Committee :-

India has invited all members of the UN Security Council to a high-level special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in New Delhi and Mumbai in October, with the goal of highlighting the increased use of new technologies by terrorists and discussing how to effectively deal with this threat. India is currently the Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for the year 2022, and will host diplomats from the 15-nation UN body, including the US, China, and Russia, for a special counter-terrorism meeting in October.



IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 To Be Held In New Delhi :-

The World Dairy Summit 2022 will take place in Delhi from September 12 to September 15 at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, National Capital Region (Delhi - NCR), India. The IDF World Dairy Summit is an annual dairy industry gathering that draws approximately 1500 participants from around the world. The participant profile includes CEOs and employees of dairy processing companies, dairy farmers, dairy suppliers, academics, government representatives, and others.



CoinDCX Announces To Host UNFOLD 2022, A Web 3.0 Event :-

CoinDCX, a cryptocurrency exchange, announced that they would host a web3 meet-up in Bengaluru from August 26 to August 28. The 'UNFOLD 2022' Web3 event would bring together developers, investors, as well as many Web3 start-ups and regulators, to discuss how India can leverage its crypto talent. The event also includes BuidlersTribe and Devfolio. The purpose of the aforementioned event is to demonstrate and discuss how India can leverage its Web3.0 talent and knowledge to become a global leader.



Sweden And Finland Approved To Join NATO By US Senate :-

The US Senate overwhelmingly approved Sweden and Finland's accession to NATO, with the resolution gaining the support of 95 senators. US President Joe Biden has strongly supported Finland and Sweden's NATO membership and referred the issue to the Senate for consideration in July. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Sweden and Finland applied to join the Western defence alliance. Until now, the two countries have been close allies but not NATO members.



PM Modi Chairs 7th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meet :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the seventh Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog at New Delhi's Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre. The agenda for the Niti Aayog meeting includes, among other things, achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses, agri-communities, the National Education Policy, and crop diversification. The Governing Council of Niti Aayog is made up of all chief ministers, lieutenant governors of union territories, and several Union ministers. The PM's office previously stated that the meeting will usher in a new era of collaboration between the Centre and the states.



12th Edition Of Defence Expo To Be Held In Gandhinagar, Gujarat :-

The 12th edition of the Defence Expo, India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval, and Homeland Security systems, will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, according to the Ministry of Defence. The event will take place from October 18 to October 22, 2022. This edition's theme is 'Path to Pride,' which evokes nationalistic pride and encourages citizens to participate in nation-building by establishing a capable indigenous defence industry. The exhibition is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of achieving self-reliance in defence and \$5 billion in exports by 2025.



Maharashtra Governor Inaugurates The 22nd 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' :-

The 22nd 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' was inaugurated at Mumbai's Rabindra Natya Mandir by Maharashtra Governor Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The five-day drama festival (held from August 9 to August 13, 2022) was organised in the city by the Union Ministry of Culture and the P.L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi to honour our freedom fighters. The Maharashtra Governor, speaking on the occasion, stated that theatre is an important medium for spreading joy, raising awareness, and protecting our rich heritage and culture.



Kolkata To Host 23rd Edition Of India International Seafood Show(IISS) :-

The 23rd India International Seafood Show (IISS) will be held in Kolkata from February 15-17, next year. The event will take place at the Biswa Bangala Mela Prangan in the city. The event will feature over 350 stalls spread across 7,000 square metres, showcasing a wide range of products based on automated and IT-aided technology, as well as energy-efficient systems for value addition. The show is being organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in collaboration with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Against which of the following disease the government has invited expression of interest to develop a vaccine?

- A) Ebola
- B) Monkeypox
- C) Nipah
- D) Zika

2. What is the India's growth forecast for FY23 according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) report?

- A) 6.5%
- B) 7.2%
- C) 7.4%
- D) 8.0%

3. To Manufacture Green Hydrogen which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Greenko ZeroC Private Limited (Greenko)?

- A) Bharat Petroleum Limited
- B) Hindustan Petroleum Limited
- C) ONGC
- D) Power Grid Corporation of India

4. Which city is set to host the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games?

- A) Tokyo, Japan
- B) Los Angeles, US
- C) London, United Kingdom
- D) Beijing, China

5. Who among the following has recently announced retirement from all forms of cricket?

- A) Meghna Singh
- B) Karuna Jain
- C) S Meghana
- D) Yastika Bhatia

6. To set up a joint venture for manufacturing high-speed trains in India which of the following company has partnered with Talgo India Private Limited?

- A) BF Infrastructure Limited
- B) GMR Infrastructure Limited
- C) Larsen & Toubro Ltd
- D) Reliance Infrastructure Limited

7. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is planning to set up the first ever India House at the Paris Olympics in 2024 with which of the following company?

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

8. Sahitya Akademi Award-winning and veteran litterateur Atulananda Goswami has passed away recently. In which year he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his short story collection?

- A) 2004
- B) 2005

- C) 2006
- D) 2007

9. When the World World Hepatitis Day was observed?

- A) 26 July
- B) 27 July
- C) 28 July
- D) 29 July

10. 44th Chess Olympiad is being hosted by which of the following country?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Malaysia
- D) Uzbekistan

11. Which state has signed an MoU with the Telangana government's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation to set up all women-run cooperative bank?

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

12. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) located?

- A) Amman and Gaza
- B) Geneva
- C) Jerusalem
- D) Paris

13. Which of the following Indian economist has been appointed the chief economist of World Bank?

- A) Viral Acharya
- B) Urjit Patel
- C) Raghuram Rajan
- D) Indermit Gill

14. The Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove, which were recently announced as new 'Ramsar Sites', are located in which of the following state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Kerala

15. To which of the following leader Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award was recently presented?

- A) Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Joe Biden
- D) Jacinda Ardern

16. From which of the following country the Indian Navy recently received two MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters?

- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) Germany
- D) Australia

17. To promote palm oil the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) has signed

an MoU with which country's Palm Oil Council?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Singapore
- C) Thailand
- D) Malaysia

18. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently imposed restrictions on withdrawal of funds from which of the following co-operative bank?

- A) Urban Co-operative Bank
- B) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- C) Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank
- D) Both A & C

19. Which of the following company secured first rank for Most Chosen FMCG Brands in India for the 10th consecutive year?

- A) Tata Consumer Products
- B) Parle
- C) Clinic Plus
- D) Britannia

20. In which of the following city Google Maps recently launched its "Street View" service?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Mumbai
- D) All of the above

21. In which of the following sports Jeremy Lalrinnunga won Gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games?

- A) Badminton

- B) Shooting
- C) Tennis
- D) Weightlifting

22. In view of their deteriorating financial condition which of the following Co-operative Urban Bank was recently received restrictions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank
- B) Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank
- C) Durga Co-operative Urban Bank
- D) All of the above

23. To reduce its carbon emission by 42% which of the following company has recently partnered with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG)?

- A) Tata Steel
- B) Steel Authority of India
- C) JSW Steel
- D) Hindalco Industries

24. LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) has approved the appointment of _____ as an additional Director (Independent) on the company's board.

- A) Ishraq Ali Khan
- B) Rajesh Kumar
- C) Ravi Kishan Takkar
- D) Soma Sankara Prasad

25. To commemorate the victory of Indian Armed Forces (IAF) in "Operation Vijay 1999", the Point 5140 at Drass, in Kargil sector was renamed as _____.

- A) Vijay Hill
- B) Victory Hill
- C) Gun Hill
- D) Fire Hill

26. To boost Self-Reliance in key Technologies which of the following Institute has signed an MoU with the Indian Navy?

- A) IISc- Bengaluru
- B) IIT- Kharagpur
- C) IIT- Madras
- D) NIT- Tiruchirappalli

27. Who among the following will lead the task force set up by the Center to monitor the status of monkeypox virus in India?

- A) RK Paul
- B) SK Paul
- C) TK Paul
- D) VK Paul

28. Savitri Jindal (India) became the richest woman in Asia as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, surpassing which of the following?

- A) Yang Huiyan
- B) Kartini Muljadi
- C) Gina Rinehart
- D) Fan Hongwei

29. Fidel Valdez Ramos former president of which of the following country has passed away recently?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Thailand

- C) Philippines
- D) Indonesia

30. Who among the following authored a book titled "Amphibians of the Northern Western Ghats"?

- A) Satish Pande
- B) Madhav Gadgil
- C) Erach Bharucha
- D) Bidhan Kanti Das

31. Who among the following was appointed as the new chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited?

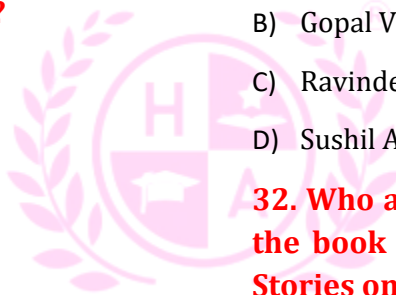
- A) Balesh Sharma
- B) Gopal Vittal
- C) Ravinder Takkar
- D) Sushil Agarwal

32. Who among the following is the author of the book titled "The Dolphin and the Shark: Stories on Entrepreneurship"?

- A) Namita Thapar
- B) Radhika Agarwal
- C) Suchi Mukherjee
- D) Vani Kola

33. After the announcement of seven new districts by the West Bengal government, the total number of districts in the state has increased to what?

- A) 35
- B) 30
- C) 29
- D) 23



34. Who among the following took charges as the new Delhi Police commissioner?

- A) Rakesh Asthana
- B) Rakesh Sharma
- C) Sanjay Arora
- D) Sanjay Sharma

35. When the World Lung Cancer Day was observed?

- A) 4 August
- B) 3 August
- C) 2 August
- D) 1 August

36. Who among the following was awarded with the 2022 Global Energy Prize?

- A) Ajeet Peter Dungdung
- B) Hrudeep P Janardhanan
- C) Indrajeet Mahatha
- D) Kaushik Rajashekara

37. Who among the following took charges as the new Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police?

- A) Sujoy Lal Thaosen
- B) Satya Narayan Pradhan
- C) Manvinder Singh Bhatia
- D) Homkar Amol Vinukant

38. In which country will the multinational air combat exercise "Pitch Black 2022" to be held in August 2022, in which the Indian Air Force will also participate?

- A) Australia
- B) Singapore

- C) United Arab Emirates
- D) United States

39. To further deepen the ties between the two nations India and which of the following country inked six agreements?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Indonesia
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) The Maldives

40. Which of the following country's women's lawn bowls team clinched a gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games?

- A) South Africa
- B) Malaysia
- C) India
- D) Italy

41. The leader of which of the following terrorist organization Ayman al-Zawahri has been confirmed by the US to have been killed in a recent drone strike?

- A) LeT
- B) JeM
- C) ISIS
- D) Al-Qaeda

42. Which of the following became the First Bank to list its Payment Gateway platform on the Tax Information Network (TIN) 2.0 platform?

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

D) ICICI Bank

43. "Through The Rear View Mirror" an autobiography of_____ was recently released by Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the former Governor of West Bengal.

- A) K.R.A. Narasiah
- B) Chitra Ramkrishna
- C) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- D) Amitava Kumar

44. Which of the following country will host the Special meeting on counter-terrorism of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee?

- A) US
- B) Russia
- C) India
- D) France

45. Which of the following state's Langat Singh College's 106-year-old astronomical observatory has been included in its list by UNESCO?

- A) UP
- B) MP
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

46. For his contribution to the publishing collaboration between India and France who among the following received the 'Chevalier Award of France'?

- A) Kannan Sundaram
- B) Karunakaran
- C) S. Hareesh

D) Santhosh Echikkanam

47. Which of the following country launched its first-ever lunar mission named 'Danuri' by the SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket?

- A) UAE
- B) South Korea
- C) China
- D) Indonesia

48. For the skill development in youths which of the following state has signed 4 MoUs with HCL, Walmart, and Flipkart?

- A) Assam
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

49. Which of the following state government has recently launched Panchamrut Yojana for farmers?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh

50. How much foreign exchange has ISRO earned by launching satellites of foreign countries?

- A) \$350 million
- B) \$300 million
- C) \$279 million
- D) \$250 million

51. Which nation and India participate in Exercise Vajra Prahar 2022, a joint special forces exercise?

- E) Russia
- F) Sri Lanka
- G) Singapore
- H) United States

52. Who was selected by the International Cricket Council as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2022?

- E) Prabath Jayasuriya
- F) Mohammad Nawaz
- G) Abdullah Shafique
- H) Kasun Rajitha

53. Where was the Asia and Oceania Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held in 2022?

- E) Singapore
- F) Jakarta
- G) New Delhi
- H) Muscat

54. Which big tech company in the world joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) first?

- E) Google
- F) Microsoft
- G) Meta
- H) Apple

55. Which nation took home the gold medal in the 44th Chess Olympiad's open division?

- E) India
- F) Ukraine
- G) Uzbekistan
- H) Russia

56. On a pilot basis in 11 states and UTs which ministry launched a Web-Based "Common Registration Facility" for Ration Cards?

- A) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

57. To test the resilience of satellite-based communication networks which of the following exercise was recently conducted by the Indian Army?

- A) Yudh Abhyas
- B) SkySat
- C) Shakti
- D) Skylight

58. Which of the following city is the first city of India to officially release the Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google?

- A) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- C) Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- D) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

59. To boost startups in the maritime sector which of the following institute recently signed an agreement with Cochin Shipyard Limited?

- A) IIM Lucknow

- B) IIM Indore
- C) IIM Bangalore
- D) IIM Kozhikode

60. Which of the following Small Finance Bank has appointed Inderjit Camotra as its MD & CEO?

- A) Unity Small Finance Bank
- B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- C) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- D) Capital Small Finance Bank

61. Which of the following company recently launched a cross-border payments platform named "Global Pay"?

- A) American Express
- B) Capital One
- C) Discover Financial Services
- D) MasterCard

62. To lend Rs 50 crore for start-ups which of the following bank recently signed an MoU with the SRM University, Andhra Pradesh?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Bank of Maharashtra
- C) Central Bank of India
- D) Indian Bank

63. Which of the following company is set to replace Paytm as the title sponsor for the BCCI?

- A) VIVO
- B) Mastercard
- C) Dream11
- D) BYJU'S

64. India won how many medals in Commonwealth Games 2022?

- A) 41
- B) 51
- C) 61
- D) 71

65. When the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples was observed?

- A) 11 August
- B) 09 August
- C) 08 August
- D) 05 August

66. In which of the following city the '12th DefExpo-2022' will be held?

- A) Chandipur
- B) Gandhinagar
- C) Haldia
- D) Mumbai

67. To support the startup ecosystem which of the following bank partnered with LetsVenture Technologies?

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

68. James Marape has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which of the following country?

- A) Brunei
- B) East Timor

- C) Papua New Guinea
- D) Vanuatu

69. Which of the following country's remote sensing satellite, Khayyam, was recently launched by Russia?

- A) UAE
- B) Pakistan
- C) Israel
- D) Iran

70. Which of the following organization recently published a field guide titled "Field Guide, Birds of India"?

- A) Zoological Survey of India
- B) Wildlife Institute of India
- C) Forest Survey of India
- D) Botanical Survey of India

71. To provide enhanced digital services which of the following bank recently partnered with IBSFINtech?

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

72. Who among the following was recently appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India?

- A) UU Lalit
- B) Sanjay Kishan Kaul
- C) Indira Banerjee
- D) Hemant Gupta

73. In which of the following city India's first underwater metro will be inaugurated?

- A) Bangalore
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Kolkata
- D) Pune

74. In New Delhi who among the following inaugurated the National Conference of Rural Cooperative Banks?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Nitin Gadkari
- C) Amit Shah
- D) PM Narendra Modi

75. _____ approved as booster dose in India for people above 18 years of age.

- A) Sputnik V
- B) Covishield
- C) Covaxin
- D) Corbevax

76. In the Commonwealth Games 2022 Achinta Sheuli bags gold medal in which of the following sport?

- A) Boxing
- B) Lawn Bowls
- C) Table Tennis
- D) Weight lifting

77. When the Muslim Women's Rights Day was observed in India?

- A) 05 August
- B) 03 August

- C) 01 August
- D) 31 July

78. For a large-scale transformation in school education which of the following state signed an MoU with NITI Aayog?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) West Bengal

79. Which of the following Ministry implements the 'Saksham Anganwadi' scheme?

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- C) Ministry of Health
- D) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

80. Which of the following state launched the 'Cheerag' scheme?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Haryana
- C) Odisha
- D) Telangana

81. Which of the following countries have agreed to build 'Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network'?

- A) India-Nepal
- B) India-Bangladesh
- C) China-Nepal
- D) China-Bangladesh

82. When the World Organ Donation Day was observed?

- A) 14 August
- B) 13 August
- C) 12 August
- D) 11 August

83. The SMILE-75 initiative was recently launched by which of the following ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of MSME
- C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- D) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

84. For two more years in Bangladesh which bank will manage the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC)?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) HDFC
- D) SBI

85. When the World Biofuel Day was observed?

- A) 09 August
- B) 10 August
- C) 07 August
- D) 06 August

86. Where is the 1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League Under-16 being held?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Gurgram
- D) Bhubaneswar

87. In which following year will the first edition of Women's Indian Premier League be held?

- A) 2024
- B) 2023
- C) 2022
- D) 2021

88. A conference on drug trafficking and national security was inaugurated by which of the following Union Minister?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Smriti Irani

89. To tackle the soaring inflation which of the following country has launched gold coins recently?

- A) Zimbabwe
- B) Sudan
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Ghana

90. When the World Breastfeeding Week 2022 was observed?

- A) 4-10 August
- B) 3-9 August
- C) 2-8 August
- D) 1-7 August

91. _____ became the world's first country to approve Omicron Vaccine.

- A) China
- B) Russia

- C) UK
- D) USA

92. On Independence Day 2022 which organisation unfurled Indian Flag 30 kilometers above the Earth?

- A) Spectra Academy
- B) Space Zone India
- C) Space Kidz India
- D) ISRO

93. As its fifth Elephant Reserve which of the following state has recieved Agasthiyamalai Elephant Reserve?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

94. Who among the following recently received France's Highest Civilian Award - Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Mukesh Ambani
- D) S. Jaishankar

95. When was Durand Cup 2022 started?

- A) 21 August
- B) 19 August
- C) 18 August
- D) 16 August

96. Along with the IMD and the UNDP which of the following country launched a Joint Project to Accelerate Climate Action in India?

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

97. When the World Elephant Day was observed?

- A) 12 August
- B) 11 August
- C) 10 August
- D) 09 August

98. From August 18 which of the following International Airport in India launched DigiYatra Programme?

- A) Chennai International Airport
- B) Cochin International Airport
- C) Goa International Airport
- D) Hyderabad International Airport

99. To which of the following neighbouring country India has gifted Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Maldives
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

100. Who among the following launched India's first Companionship Startup for the senior citizens?

- A) Azim Premji
- B) Gautam Adani
- C) Mukesh Ambani
- D) Ratan Tata

101. Which of the following Indian freedom fighter's south London home got honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque?

- A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- B) Lala Lajpat Rai
- C) Motilal Nehru
- D) Surendranath Banerjee

102. When the National Javelin Day India was celebrated?

- A) 07 August
- B) 05 August
- C) 04 August
- D) 03 August

103. Which of the following state is set to host the 2nd edition of the North East Olympics?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Manipur
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Mizoram

104. Which of the following state has appointed cricketer Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Haryana
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Uttarakhand

105. To Facilitate the Adoption of Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) which of the following bank partnered with SellerApp?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank

- C) IDBI Bank
- D) YES Bank

106. Which of the following bank launched India's first dedicated branch to support start-ups?

- A) SBI
- B) PNB
- C) Indian Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

107. Who among the following was recently appointed as the Managing Director of NaBFID?

- A) KV Kamath
- B) Partha Pratim Sengupta
- C) Rajkiran Rai
- D) S Krishnan

108. Kevin O'Brien of which of the following country has announced his retirement from international cricket recently?

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) Ireland
- D) West Indies

109. Which of the following ministry recently launched the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme?

- A) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs

110. India's First Gold and Silver Fund Scheme was recently launched by which of the following Mutual Fund company?

- A) Axis Mutual Funds
- B) Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- C) HDFC Mutual Funds
- D) SBI Mutual Funds

111. To promote digital payments in India which company has partnered with leading badminton stars like Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy?

- A) MasterCard
- B) Google Pay
- C) DigiCash
- D) Amazon Pay

112. In which of the following state BRO will build Steel Slag Road?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Manipur
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

113. _____ has signed a climate change and healthcare bill of 750 billion dollars.

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) New Zealand
- D) US

114. The birth anniversary of which of the following former Prime Minister of India is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas?

- A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- B) Indira Gandhi
- C) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D) Rajiv Gandhi

115. _____ organized its first hackathon "Bima Manthan 2022".

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

116. Due to inadequate capital and no earning prospects the RBI has recently cancelled the licence of which of the following co-operative bank?

- A) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- B) Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank
- C) Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank
- D) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank

117. '#PlayForOurHeroes' campaign was recently launched by which of the following life insurance company?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) Birla Sun Life Insurance
- C) Aegon Life Insurance
- D) Exide Life Insurance

118. A new book titled "Madam Sir: The Story of Bihar's First Lady IPS Officer" is the autobiography of_____.

- A) Aparajita Rai
- B) Manjari Jaruhar
- C) Merin Joseph
- D) Vimal Mehra

119. When the World Humanitarian Day was observed?

- A) 16 August
- B) 17 August
- C) 18 August
- D) 19 August

120. To helping it determine lending risk and deliver hyper-personalized customer experiences which of the following companies has partnered with Five Star Bank?

- A) Wipro
- B) TCS
- C) Mahindra & Mahindra
- D) Infosys

121. _____ chaired the 9th governing body meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

- A) Sanjeev Kumar Balyan
- B) Parshottam Rupala
- C) Narendra Singh Tomar
- D) L. Murugan

122. India's first Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was launched at which of the following Indian Naval Ship (INS)?

- A) INS Dega
- B) INS Karna
- C) INS Vikramaditya
- D) INS Virbahu

123. Who among the following was appointed as the Secretary to the President Droupadi Murmu?

- A) Rajesh Verma
- B) Joseph Antony
- C) Jagannath Srinivasan
- D) Ajay Bhadoo

124. A book titled "NETAJI: Subhas Chandra Bose's Life, Politics and Struggle" was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Banarsi Das
- B) Kailash Joshi
- C) Chowdhury Shankar Roy
- D) Krishna Bose

125. To Develop 'District Good Governance Portal' which of the following state government has collaborated with the Government of India (GoI)?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Kerala
- D) Maharashtra

126. India's 1st indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell bus was recently launched in which of the following city?

- A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- B) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Pune, Maharashtra
- D) Surat, Gujarat

127. 'Mithila Makhana' of which of the following state has recently got GI-tag?

- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Odisha
- D) Uttar Pradesh

128. After which of the following freedom fighters, Punjab & Haryana government agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport?

- A) Udham Singh
- B) Bhai Parmanand
- C) Bhagat Singh
- D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

129. Which of the following ministry launched the 'Badhe Chalo' Campaign?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Culture
- C) Ministry of Tourism
- D) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

130. To ease access to financial information which of the following organisation recently joined the RBI's Account Aggregator (AA) framework?

- A) NABARD
- B) RBI
- C) SEBI
- D) SIDBI

131. Which state or UT in India introduced the Parivar Kalyan Card (PKC) Program?

- E) Bihar
- F) Uttar Pradesh
- G) Karnataka

H) Madhya Pradesh

132. In 2022, who has been chosen to lead the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)?

E) Samir V Kamat

F) K Sivan

G) Mayilsamy Annadurai

H) Tessy Thomas

133. Which nation was affected by Tropical Cyclone Ma-On?

E) China

F) Japan

G) Philippines

H) Indonesia

134. Which economist from India has been chosen to serve as India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

E) Urjit Patel

F) K Subramanian

G) Viral Acharya

H) Anantha Nageswaran

135. The "Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022" have been released by which Union Ministry?

E) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

F) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

G) Ministry of External Affairs

H) Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs

136. Government of India has nominated which of the following dance form to be inscribed as UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list?

A) Bhangra

B) Garba

C) Ghoomar

D) Lavani

137. _____ is the India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier.

A) IAC Arihant

B) IAC Vikrant

C) IAC Viraat

D) IAC Vishal

138. The Indian wrestling team won how many medals at the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022?

A) 20

B) 16

C) 15

D) 14

139. Who among the following was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to UK?

A) Akhilesh Mishra

B) Vikram Doraiswami

C) Manoj Kumar Bharti

D) Prashant Pise

140. In which of the following state Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Haryana

141. _____ bank opened its first all-women branch in Kozhikode, Kerala.

- A) YES Bank
- B) South Indian Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

142. To set up a large solar equipment manufacturing facility which company has signed an MoU with the NHPC Limited?

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

143. Who among the following will be awarded the Liberty Medal award in October 2022?

- A) Volodymyr Zelensky
- B) Sauli Niinisto
- C) Nancy Pelosi
- D) Kamala Harris

144. Rating agency ICRA projected how much India's GDP growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal year?

- A) 13%
- B) 15%
- C) 18%
- D) 20%

145. Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of Heads up for Tails?

- A) Disha Patani
- B) Kiara Advani
- C) Kriti Sanon
- D) Shraddha Kapoor

146. Along with the Tata Neu App which of the following bank launched two co-branded credit card variants?

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

147. Which of the following Financial Solutions company launched a co-branded RuPay credit card 'Yoddha'?

- A) Aditya Birla Finance Limited
- B) Bajaj Finance Limited
- C) BOB Financial Solutions Limited
- D) HDB Finance Services Limited

148. TVS Motor Company acquired how much stake in Narain Karthikeyan's Two-Wheeler Start-up DriveX?

- A) 48.27 %
- B) 54.17 %
- C) 64.78 %
- D) 74.19 %

149. For inviting nominations for all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies which of the

following portal was launched by the Union government?

- A) India Puraskar
- B) Rashtriya Puraskar Portal
- C) Saphalata Puraskar
- D) Upalabdhi Puraskar

150. Book “Lies Our Mothers Told Us: The Indian Woman’s Burden” was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Ismat Ara
- B) Nilanjana Bhowmick
- C) Shireen Dalvi
- D) Yashica Dutt

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: B

The government has invited expression of interest (EOI) in developing a vaccine against monkeypox virus. This comes after several cases of monkeypox have been reported in India.

2. Correct Answer: C

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its July update of the World Economic Outlook (WEO) has lowered India’s growth forecast for the current year by 80 basis points to 7.4 per cent.

3. Correct Answer: C

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Greenko ZeroC Private Limited, to jointly pursue opportunities in renewables, green hydrogen, green Ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen.

4. Correct Answer: B

The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States.

5. Correct Answer: B

India women’s cricketer and wicketkeeper-batter Karuna Jain has announced her retirement recently.

Karuna featured for India in five Tests, 44 ODIs, and nine T20Is between 2005 and 2014.

6. Correct Answer: A

BF Infrastructure, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge, has partnered with Talgo to set-up a joint venture which will engage into manufacturing of high-speed passenger trains.

7. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has signed a long-term partnership with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which will see the country host its first Olympic House at Paris 2024.

8. Correct Answer: C

Sahitya Akademi Award-winning litterateur Atulananda Goswami passed away at the age of 87. Goswami was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 2006 for his novel “Seneh Jorir Ganthi”.

9. Correct Answer: C

World Hepatitis Day is Observed on July 28 every year, the day aims to raise awareness among people about this viral disease.

10. Correct Answer: B

The 44th International Chess Olympiad, organised by Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), was started on July 28, 2022, in Chennai, India.

11. Correct Answer: B

The first all women-run financial institution in the cooperative sector is coming up in Rajasthan following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the Telangana government's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation.

12. Correct Answer: A

UNRWA Headquarters are located in Amman and in Gaza. The Agency maintains a field office in each of its areas of operations - Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

13. Correct Answer: D

World Bank has appointed Indian national Indermit Gill as its Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics.

14. Correct Answer: B

The 5 new Ramsar sites in India include Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, Pala Wetland in Mizoram and Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

15. Correct Answer: A

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has presented Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award.

16. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Navy has recently received two MH 60R multi-role helicopters from the United States at the Cochin International Airport. The delivery of all 24 MH 60R helicopters will be completed by 2025.

17. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) and the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further cooperation between the two organisations to promote the use of palm oil.

18. Correct Answer: D

In the wake of deteriorating financial position two Uttar Pradesh-based cooperative banks Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank and Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Sitapur, the Reserve Bank of India said it has imposed several restrictions, including on fund withdrawals.

19. Correct Answer: B

For record 10 years in a row, Parle Products has topped the rankings for most chosen FMGG brands, according to a report by Kantar India.

20. Correct Answer: D

The "Street View" service of Google has gone live in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.

21. Correct Answer: D

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a gold in the men's 67kg category at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

22. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank has imposed several restrictions on Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Basmatnagar, Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank, Solapur, Durga Co-operative Urban Bank, Vijayawada.

23. Correct Answer: C

JSW Steel has announced that it has partnered with US-based Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to meet its decarbonisation goals of reducing its carbon emission by 42 per cent by 2029-30 versus base year 2005.

24. Correct Answer: C

The Board of Directors of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) approved the appointment of Ravi Kishan Takkar, former MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as an Additional Director (Independent) on the company's board.

25. Correct Answer: C

In order to commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed forces and pay homage to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in 'Operation Vijay' during the Kargil War, Point 5140 at Drass in Kargil Sector was renamed as 'Gun Hill'.

26. Correct Answer: A

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and the Indian Navy to work together to boost Self-Reliance on aviation research and development.

27. Correct Answer: D

Centre has formed a task force headed by Dr VK Paul in the wake of Monkeypox cases in India to monitor and provide guidance to the government on the expansion of diagnostic facilities.

28. Correct Answer: A

China's Yang Huiyan was surpassed in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index by India's Savitri Jindal as Asia's richest woman.

29. Correct Answer: C

Fidel Valdez Ramos, Former President of the Philippines has passed away recently. He was 94.

30. Correct Answer: A

Tata Power, in association with Ela Foundation, has released the fourth book in a series on "Amphibians of the Northern Western Ghats". The book has been

authored by Satish Pande with inputs from Vivek Vishwasrao and Gram Purohit.

31. Correct Answer: C

Vodafone Idea's board of directors have appointed the company's Managing Director and chief executive officer (CEO) Ravinder Takkar as the company's new chairman.

32. Correct Answer: A

Leading businesswomen and 'Shark Tank India' judge Namita Thapar will make her debut as an author with the upcoming book "The Dolphin and the Shark: Stories on Entrepreneurship".

33. Correct Answer: B

Earlier there were 23 districts in Bengal, now it has been increased to 30. The seven new districts include Sunderban, Ichhamati, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Jangipur, Behrampur, and one more district will be named in Basirhat.

34. Correct Answer: C

Sanjay Arora, a senior IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, took charge as the new commissioner of Delhi Police.

35. Correct Answer: D

World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1 every year.

36. Correct Answer: D

Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin professor of engineering at the University of Houston, has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize 2022.

37. Correct Answer: A

Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaoson took over the additional charge of Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police in New Delhi.

38. Correct Answer: A

Pitch Black Air Combat Exercise will be conducted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) starting August 19 to September 6. Almost 2,500 personnel from over 17 countries including India will engage in combat drills.

39. Correct Answer: D

India and Maldives inked six agreements to facilitate cooperation in capacity building, cyber security, housing, disaster management and infrastructure development in the Maldives.

40. Correct Answer: C

The Indian women's lawn bowls team defeated South Africa 17-10 to win a historic gold medal in the Commonwealth Games.

41. Correct Answer: D

The US has killed the leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in a drone strike in Afghanistan, President Joe Biden has confirmed.

42. Correct Answer: B

Federal Bank has become India's first bank to list its Payment Gateway platform on the income tax department's TIN 2.0 platform.

43. Correct Answer: A

Author and historian K.R.A. Narasiah's autobiography "Through The Rear View Mirror" was recently launched by former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

44. Correct Answer: C

India will host 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) on October 29 for a special meeting on counter-terrorism with focus on three significant areas including use of technology for spreading terror.

45. Correct Answer: D

UNESCO has added a 106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's Muzaffarpur on its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world.

46. Correct Answer: A

The French government has announced that it would confer the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite, the Knight of the Order of the Merit, on Kannan Sundaram, for his contribution to the publishing collaboration between India and France.

47. Correct Answer: B

South Korea became the seventh country in the world to launch a mission to the Moon named 'Danuri' as its orbiter hitched a ride on SpaceX Falcon-9.

48. Correct Answer: A

The Assam government partnered with HCL, Walmart, and Flipkart for a number of initiatives, including youth skill development, local product exports, and the development of skills for the e-commerce supply chain.

49. Correct Answer: D

Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Panchamrut Yojana' to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income through the introduction of cost-effective technical measures.

50. Correct Answer: C

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has earned \$279 million in foreign exchanges (USD and Euros) by launching foreign countries' satellites.

51. Correct Answer: D

Exercise Vajra Prahar 2022 is the 13th iteration of the biennial India-US Joint Special Forces exercise. This joint exercise is a significant step in strengthening the

traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both Nations.

52. Correct Answer: B

Prabath Jayasuriya, a spinner for Sri Lanka, has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2022. Jayasuriya beat England batter and June's Player of the Month winner Jonny Bairstow, and French sensation Gustav McKeon for the coveted monthly award, after a brilliant start to international cricket in the longest format.

53. Correct Answer: C

The Ministry of Communication, Government of India, sponsored the Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for the Asia and Oceania region of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on August 8, 2022, in New Delhi, as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

54. Correct Answer: B

Microsoft has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce, becoming the first major global tech company to do so (ONDC). An innovative open network for digital commerce is being developed as part of the ONDC project by the Indian government.

55. Correct Answer: C

In the Open division of the 44th Chess Olympiad held in Chennai, the Uzbekistan team took home the gold medal, while Armenia and India-2 took home the silver and bronze, respectively, according to the International Chess Federation (FIDE). Ukraine took home the gold, Georgia the silver, and top seed India-1 the bronze in the women's division.

56. Correct Answer: D

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launched a common registration facility in 11 states and UTs to enable homeless people,

destitutes, migrants and other eligible beneficiaries to apply for ration cards.

57. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Army conducted 'Skylight' exercise to test and validate its entire satellite-based communication network to ensure operational readiness in case of a conflict in the future.

58. Correct Answer: C

Aurangabad has become the first city to publish the "Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google.

59. Correct Answer: D

Indian Institute of Management, IIM Kozhikode and Cochin Shipyard have signed an agreement to boost startups in the Maritime Sector.

60. Correct Answer: A

Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) has appointed Inderjit Camotra, as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

61. Correct Answer: A

American Express has announced the launch of a cross-border payments platform for small to medium-sized businesses called Global Pay.

62. Correct Answer: D

Indian Bank signed an MoU with SRM University, Andhra Pradesh to Lend up to 50 Crores for Start-ups in state.

63. Correct Answer: B

Mastercard is all set to replace Paytm as the title sponsor for all international and domestic cricket matches organised by BCCI.

64. Correct Answer: C

India's Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign ended with 61 medals - the fourth-best country in the standings in Birmingham.

65. Correct Answer: B

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

66. Correct Answer: B

The 12th edition of DefExpo - India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems - will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022.

67. Correct Answer: B

IDFC FIRST Bank and LetsVenture Technologies have announced a partnership to explore synergies and support the startup ecosystem by offering curated products and solutions to startups, founders and investors.

68. Correct Answer: C

James Marape has been re-elected unopposed as prime minister of Papua New Guinea.

69. Correct Answer: D

Iranian remote sensing satellite Khayyam, named after the 11th Century Persian poet and philosopher Omar Khayyam, was launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Kazakhstan base.

70. Correct Answer: A

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published a field guide titled "Field Guide, Birds of India".

71. Correct Answer: D

YES Bank and IBSFINtech has partnerd to explore untapped opportunities emerging out of digitization of corporate finance.

72. Correct Answer: A

Supreme Court's senior-most judge Justice UU Lalit has been appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI).

73. Correct Answer: C

The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation is set to complete the country's first underwater tunnel for metro connectivity under the Hooghly River between Howrah and Kolkata.

74. Correct Answer: C

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a one-day National Conference of Rural Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.

75. Correct Answer: D

The Centre has approved Biological E's Corbevax as a precaution dose after completion of six months from the date of administration of the second dose for the population above 18 years.

76. Correct Answer: D

Achinta Sheuli added to India's remarkable show in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games 2022 by winning a gold medal - in the men's 73kg final.

77. Correct Answer: C

Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.

78. Correct Answer: A

The Arunachal Pradesh government inked a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NITI

Aayog and an organisation for a large-scale transformation in school education.

79. Correct Answer: A

Ministry of Women and Child Development has implemented schemes like Saksham Anganwadis, Poshan 2.0 to benefit women and children of the nation.

80. Correct Answer: B

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's government recently launched the "Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)" scheme.

81. Correct Answer: C

China and Nepal have agreed to build the so-called Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

82. Correct Answer: B

Every year, August 13 is celebrated as World Organ Donation Day to create awareness about organ donation.

83. Correct Answer: D

Recognizing the persisting problem of destitution and beggary the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has launched the SMILE-75 initiative.

84. Correct Answer: D

The State Bank of India (SBI) will manage the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh for two more years.

85. Correct Answer: B

World Biofuel Day is commemorated on 10 August every year to raise awareness about the use of non-fossil fuel as an alternative to conventional fossil fuel.

86. Correct Answer: A

The first Khelo India Women's Hockey League Under-16 is being organized at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, New Delhi from 16th to 23rd of this month.

87. Correct Answer: B

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has set aside a window for the first-ever edition of women's Indian Premier League (IPL) in March 2023.

88. Correct Answer: A

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day-long NCB national conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security at Punjab Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh.

89. Correct Answer: A

Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to tackle the soaring inflation in the country. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the country's central bank announced the move and also distributed 2,000 coins to commercial banks.

90. Correct Answer: D

World Breastfeeding Week is observed every year to emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies. This year the Breastfeeding week observed from August 1 to August 7.

91. Correct Answer: C

The UK became the world's first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine 'bivalent' for both the Omicron variant and the original coronavirus strain.

92. Correct Answer: C

Space Kidz India, an organization that is known for promoting space science to children sent the Indian tricolor to the edge of the space and about 30 kilometers above the planet earth.

93. Correct Answer: D

Tamil Nadu Government has notified its 5th Elephant Reserve in the state at Agathiyamalai in Tirunelveli district.

94. Correct Answer: A

Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has received France's Highest Civilian Award Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

95. Correct Answer: D

The 131st edition of the Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament, kicked off at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on 16 August.

96. Correct Answer: B

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action and climate-resilient development in 10 states/UT across the country.

97. Correct Answer: A

Every year on August 12, World Elephant Day is observed with an aim to acknowledge Elephants' significance in our ecosystem

98. Correct Answer: D

The GMR Hyderabad International Airport, which operates the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport rolled out the DigiYatra platform from Aug 18 for three months.

99. Correct Answer: D

India gifted a Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka towards strengthening the maritime security of the island nation.

100. Correct Answer: D

Industrialist Ratan Tata launched India's first companionship startup for senior citizens, Goodfellows, in a bid to encourage intergenerational friendships.

101. Correct Answer: A

The south London home where Dadabhai Naoroji, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain's first Indian parliamentarian has been honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque.

102. Correct Answer: A

India celebrated August 7 as National Javelin Day across the country to commemorate one of the greatest moments in the country's sporting history, Neeraj Chopra's Olympic gold medal in Tokyo.

103. Correct Answer: C

Meghalaya is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from October the 30th to November the 6th in Shillong.

104. Correct Answer: D

Rishabh Pant has been appointed Uttarakhand's 'State Brand of Ambassador.' Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made this announcement on Twitter.

105. Correct Answer: D

In order to encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC), Yes Bank announced their partnership with SellerApp, a seller-centric intelligence platform.

106. Correct Answer: A

The State Bank of India (SBI) will soon open up its first premium dedicated branch for start-ups in the country in Bengaluru. The bank said that the new branch will facilitate and support start-up companies in the city.

107. Correct Answer: C

Rajkiran Rai has been appointed as the new managing director (MD) of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

108. Correct Answer: C

Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien confirmed his retirement from international cricket after a career that spanned 16 years.

109. Correct Answer: A

Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

110. Correct Answer: B

Edelweiss Mutual Fund is scheduled to launch India's first scheme that offers exposure to gold and silver via a single fund on August 24.

111. Correct Answer: A

Mastercard has partnered with leading badminton stars Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty to promote Digital Payments in India.

112. Correct Answer: D

The Border Road Organization (BRO) has planned to build Steel Slag Road in Arunachal Pradesh on a Pilot project basis.

113. Correct Answer: D

US President Joe Biden signed the \$750 billion health care, climate, and tax bill known as the Inflation Reduction Act into law recently.

114. Correct Answer: D

The birth anniversary of India's Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated as 'Sadbhavana Diwas' or 'Harmony Day' on 20 August.

115. Correct Answer: A

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recently organized its first hackathon named "Bima Manthan 2022" with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'.

116. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India has announced that the licence of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank, Karnataka, has been cancelled as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

117. Correct Answer: C

To celebrate 75 years of India's independence, Aegon Life Insurance, digital India's life insurance company, has launched '#PlayForOurHeroes'.

118. Correct Answer: B

Manjari Jaruhar, one of the first five women police officers in India and the first from the state of Bihar, was selected for the IPS in 1976 and has held positions in the state governments of Bihar and Jharkhand.

119. Correct Answer: D

World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on August 19 each year to honor the dedicated aid workers who help to care for millions of people affected by disasters worldwide.

120. Correct Answer: B

Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Five Star Bank to helping it determine lending risk and deliver hyper-personalized customer experiences.

121. Correct Answer: B

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) conducted its 9th Governing Body meeting in New Delhi. Shri. Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying chaired the meeting.

122. Correct Answer: B

A first of its kind, Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, at INS Karna, on 18 August 2022.

123. Correct Answer: A

Odisha cadre IAS officer Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu, the government said in a statement.

124. Correct Answer: D

Krishna Bose, an eminent member of the Bose family and pioneering Netaji researcher has authored a book titled "NETAJI: Subhas Chandra Bose's Life, Politics and Struggle".

125. Correct Answer: A

The Central government has planned to collaborate with the Arunachal Pradesh government to develop a "district good governance portal".

126. Correct Answer: C

The country's first hydrogen fuel cell bus developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune was recently unveiled by the Union Minister of State, Jitendra Singh.

127. Correct Answer: A

The government has recently awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Bihar's Mithila Makhana.

128. Correct Answer: C

Punjab and Haryana agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

129. Correct Answer: B

With an objective to instill a deeper sense of patriotism among the youth, the Ministry of Culture has launched 'Badhe Chalo' Campaign under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

130. Correct Answer: C

In a big push for India's lending ecosystem, the market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has joined the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Account Aggregator framework.

131. Correct Answer: B

The Family ID programme of the Uttar Pradesh government is called Parivar Kalyan Card. It was declared that a thorough database of the state's family units would be created to determine who would benefit from its numerous programmes. Each family will receive a special 12-digit ID number from the PKC.

132. Correct Answer: A

Dr. Samir V. Kamat, a veteran scientist, has been chosen to lead the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). He succeeds Dr. G Satheesh Reddy, who will take over as the Union Defense Minister's scientific advisor.

133. Correct Answer: C

The major island of Luzon in the Philippines has suffered damage because of the tropical cyclone Maon. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of the nation reports that the cyclone has resulted in at least three fatalities and four injuries.

134. Correct Answer: B

K Subramanian, a former chief economic adviser, has been named the executive director for India at the IMF. The remainder of Subramanian's tenure is set at three years or until further instructions. Surjit S. Bhalla, an economist, will only serve as the IMF's ED for India through October 31, 2022.

135. Correct Answer: A

The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 were released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and

Climate Change. Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 will be replaced by new regulations to ensure responsible management of used batteries.

136. Correct Answer: B

After the inclusion of Durga Puja on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage representative last year, India has now nominated dance form Garba for 2022.

137. Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission the country's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant on September 2.

138. Correct Answer: B

Indian wrestlers finished with 16 medals at the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

139. Correct Answer: B

Vikram Doraiswami, presently Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the UK.

140. Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre to the nation in Punjab's Mohali district.

141. Correct Answer: D

To enhance gender diversity in banking sector, HDFC has opened its first all-women branch with four women bankers in north Kerala region in Kozhikode.

142. Correct Answer: B

NHPC signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a large capacity solar equipment manufacturing facility.

143. Correct Answer: A

The 2022 Liberty Medal will be awarded in a ceremony in October to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

144. Correct Answer: A

India's GDP growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal year will reach double digits to 13% according to an ICRA report.

145. Correct Answer: C

Petcare brand Heads up for Tails has announced the appointment of Kriti Sanon as its first brand ambassador.

146. Correct Answer: C

Tata Group and HDFC Bank announced a partnership to launch co-branded credit cards. The card will be launched in two variants: Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card.

147. Correct Answer: C

'Yodha' a co-branded RuPay credit card for Indian Army personnel has been introduced by BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a fully owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB).

148. Correct Answer: A

TVS Motor Company has announced an investment of Rs 85.41 crore for a 48.27% stake in Narain Karthikeyan's start-up Drive X.

149. Correct Answer: B

The Union Government has launched Rashtriya Puruskar Portal to bring together all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies of the government under one platform.

150. Correct Answer: B

Independent journalist Nilanjana Bhowmick has authored her first non-fiction book, "Lies Our Mothers Told Us: The Indian Woman's Burden".



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

Centre raises Fair Prices for Sugarcane Harvest



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October – September) at ₹305 per quintal.

What is FRP?

- A sugarcane control order from 1966 sets the FRP.
- It is the bare minimum that sugar refineries are required to give farmers.
- The State Agreed Price (SAP), which is typically higher than the FRP, is instead set by the individual states.

Factors considered for FRP:

- The amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for fixation of FRP of sugarcane having regard to the following factors:
 1. cost of production of sugarcane;
 2. return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
 3. availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;

4. price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers;
5. recovery of sugar from sugarcane;
6. the realization made from the sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse, and press mud or their imputed value;
7. reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.

Who determines Sugarcane prices?

Sugarcane prices are determined by the Centre as well as States.

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is presided over by the Prime Minister, announces Fair and Remunerative Prices, which are decided upon on the suggestion of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP).
2. Important states that produce sugarcane publish State Advised Prices (SAP), which are typically higher than FRP.

Minimum Selling Price (MSP) for Sugar

- The market determines sugar's price, which is influenced by supply and demand.
- However, since 2018, the idea of MSP of sugar has been adopted in an effort to safeguard the interests of farmers.
- The Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and the lowest conversion cost of the most effective mills were taken into consideration when determining the MSP for sugar.

Basis of price determination

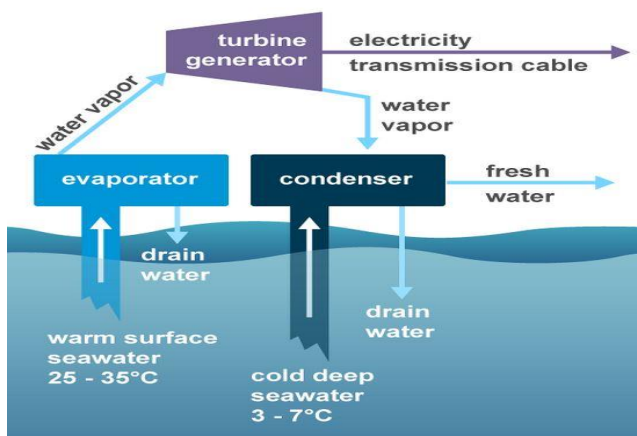
- The idea of the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane in 2009–10 as a result of an amendment to the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices' recommendations serve as the foundation for the Central Government's determination of the cane price (CACP).
- The State Governments are consulted on this, and comment from associations in the sugar sector is also gathered.

- Surface water can be significantly warmer than deep water in tropical areas.
- Ocean water can be desalinated and power can be generated using this temperature difference.

How do they work?

- The OTEC technology produces clean, renewable electricity by taking advantage of the temperature difference between the warm surface saltwater (25°C) and the chilly water in the deep sea (5°C).
- The temperature differential between the surface and deep oceans must be at least 20°C for the technology to work.
- Pumped through an evaporator with a working fluid is warm surface water. The evaporated substance powers a generator/turbine.
- In a condenser that is cooled by cold ocean water pumped from deeper in the ocean, the vaporised fluid is transformed back into a liquid.
- Condensed water from OTEC systems that use saltwater as their working fluid can be used to create desalinated water.

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant in Lakshadweep

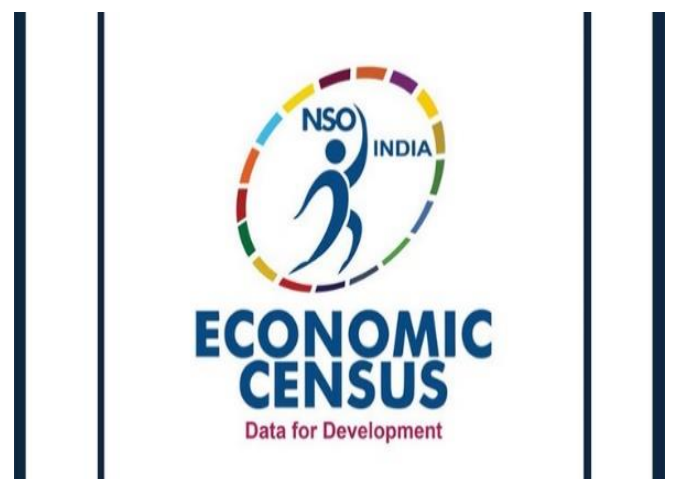


The National Institute of Ocean Technology is establishing an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant with a capacity of 65 kilowatts (kW) in Kavaratti, the capital of Lakshadweep.

What is OTEC Plant?

- A method or technique known as ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) uses the temperature differences (thermal gradients) between ocean surface waters and deep ocean waters to generate electricity.
- Ocean surface waters are warmed by solar energy.

States holding up results of Economic Census: Centre



The Centre has blamed the States for a prolonged delay in releasing the findings of the Seventh Economic Census, a critical compendium of formal and informal non-farm enterprises operating across the country, in a submission to the Parliament.

What is National Economic Census?

- Economic Census and Surveys is a planning initiative that the GoI introduced in 1976.
- The Indian economy is being counted by all entrepreneurial entities operating there that are engaged in any economic activities, whether in the agricultural or non-agricultural sectors, and who produce and/or distribute goods and/or services for purposes other than their own consumption.
- It offers thorough details on operational and other features, such as the number of businesses, the number of people employed, the funding source, the kind of ownership, etc.
- This data is used to examine how different economic sectors contribute to the GDP and for micro-level, decentralised planning.

Censuses till date

- There have been a total of six economic censuses (EC) performed to date.
- In cooperation with the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the States/UTs, CSO conducted the First Economic Census in 1977.
- The Second EC took place in 1980, while the Third EC happened in 1990. The fifth EC was conducted in 2005, while the fourth edition happened in 1998.
- In 2013, the Economic Census' sixth iteration was carried out.

In news: Ongole Cattle Breed



Ongole breed of cattle had remained indispensable for all farm operations for centuries in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh in view of their draught power.

Ongole Cattle

- In the state of Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam District, the ongole breed of cow first appeared.
- The name of the breed comes from Ongole, the breed's birthplace.
- Because it is believed that the Ongole breed of cattle, *Bos Indicus*, is resistant to both foot-and-mouth illness and mad cow disease, it is in high demand.

What's so special about this breed?

- Bulls' fighting prowess is used by cattle breeders to choose the strongest and most pure breeding stock.
- Ongole cattle are renowned for their hardiness, quick development, innate resistance to tropical heat, and resistance to disease.
- It was possibly the first breed of cattle from India to become well-known abroad.
- Milk from ongole is high in A2 (allele of Beta Casein).
- They bring in a premium price of more than 150 per litre since they help people develop immunity to viral and other infections.

Global Prominence

- America, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Indonesia, the West Indies, Australia, Fiji, Mauritius, Indo-China, and the Philippines are just a few of the places where Ongole bulls have travelled.
- The Brahmana bull found in America is an Ongole offspring.
- There are reportedly millions of Ongole offspring living in Brazil.

Super Vasuki: India's longest train



The Railways conducted a test run of its longest freight train, Super Vasuki, with 295 loaded wagons carrying over 27,000 tonnes of coal.

Super Vasuki

- The 3.5-km-long freight train travelled the 267 kilometres between Rajnandgaon in Nagpur and Korba in Chhattisgarh.
- The South East Central Railway operated it (SECR).
- In order to avoid fuel shortages in power plants, the Railways intends to adopt this arrangement—longer freight trains—more frequently, particularly while transporting coal during the period of highest demand.

Feats achieved

- The Indian Railways' longest and heaviest freight train has ever been this one.
- The duration of the train to cross a station is roughly four minutes.
- The Super Vasuki carries enough coal to run a 3,000 MW power plant for a whole day.
- This is three times as much coal as can be transported on a single journey by the 90-car, 100-ton rail rakes that are now in use.

Centre raises thresholds for prosecution under Customs Act



The government has raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act to ₹50 lakh from ₹20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage, and from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore for cases involving commercial fraud.

What is Custom Duty?

- The charge levied on products as they are carried across international boundaries is referred to as a customs duty.
- It is, in the simplest words, the tax imposed on commodities that are imported and exported.
- The Customs Act of 1962 defines custom duty in India, and the Central Board of Excise & Customs oversees all aspects pertaining to it (CBEC).

- This obligation is used by the government to increase income, protect domestic industries, and control the flow of commodities.
- The place of manufacture and the material used to make the goods affect the customs duty rate.

Types of custom duty

- **Basic Customs Duty (BCD):** It is the duty imposed on the value of the goods at a specific rate at a specified rate of ad-valorem basis.
- **Countervailing Duty (CVD):** It is imposed by the Central Government when a country is paying the subsidy to the exporters who are exporting goods to India.
- **Additional Customs Duty or Special CVD:** It is imposed to bring imports on an equal track with the goods produced or manufactured in India.
- **Protective Duty:** To protect interests of Indian industry
- **Safeguard Duty:** It is imposed to safeguard the interest of our local domestic industries. It is calculated on the basis of loss suffered by our local industries.
- **Anti-dumping Duty:** Manufacturers from abroad may export goods at very low prices compared to prices in the domestic market. In order to avoid such dumping, ADD is levied.

Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras for toll collection



In light of congestion at toll plazas, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry is now moving ahead with a plan to replace toll plazas with cameras that could read number plates, also known as Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras.

ANPR cameras

- National highways will no longer have toll booths; instead, ANPR cameras will read licence plates and automatically deduct tolls from the associated bank accounts of car owners.
- The model is straightforward: Toll will be deducted based on cameras at the entrance and exit of toll roads that can scan licence plates.

Can all number plates be read by the cameras?

- Only number plates that were installed after 2019 will be detected by the cameras because not all number plates in India can be read.
- In 2019, the government established a rule requiring company-fitted number plates for passenger vehicles. Only these number plates can be read by cameras.
- The administration intends to devise a plan to replace outdated licence plates.
- This programme is now being tested, and legislation is being moved to make the changeover easier and to punish drivers who avoid toll booths and refuse to pay.

Why such move?

- Congestion at toll plazas on national highways continues to impact commuters despite 97 per cent of tolling happening through FASTags.
- Apart from ANPR helping to ease congestion, the government is also looking at GPS technology as one of the options for toll collection.

Are there issues with ANPR?

- The development of an ecosystem that is compatible with the needs of the camera is essential for the success of ANPR cameras.
- The largest issue during the testing is when additional information, such as "Govt of India/Delhi," is inscribed on licence plates beyond the nine-digit registration number.
- Truck number plates pose another challenge for ANPR cameras because they are frequently obscured, dirty, etc.

Dams in news: Vishnugadh Project



An independent panel of the World Bank is considering a plea by residents of some village to investigate environmental damage from the under-construction Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP).

Vishnugadh Project

- The Tehri Hydropower Development Corporation (THDC), a largely State-owned company, is constructing the 444-MW VPHEP.
- In the Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, it is being built on the Dhauliganga River.
- The World Bank provides the majority of the funding for the project, which was approved in 2011. June 2023 is the projected completion date.
- A little over 40% of the project's \$792 million budget (about 64,000 crore) has already been spent.

Why in news now?

- Residents claim that the nearby Lakshmi Narayan Temple, which is considered to be of historical and cultural significance, is in danger due to muck dumping from the dam.
- They also bemoaned the low water supply, claiming that only two hours of water were provided to 70 out of 92 houses each day.
- They were able to easily access water prior to the project's development.

Environment & Diversity

Wildlife Protection Bill gets LS nod



The Lok Sabha passed the Wildlife (Protection), Amendment Bill, with no significant modifications to the version of the Bill presented in the House for discussion.

What is the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

- In order to preserve the safety of the environment and the ecological system, WPA provides for the protection of the nation's wild animals, birds, and plant species.

- It calls for the creation of a nationwide network of biologically significant protected areas as well as the conservation of a number of recognised species of animals, birds, and plants.
- It allows for a variety of protected places, including national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- Taxidermy, or the preservation of a dead wild animal as a trophy, or in the form of rugs, preserved skins, antlers, horns, eggs, teeth, and nails, is also prohibited by the law.
- The act also prohibits disturbing or harming a wild bird's or reptile's eggs.
- The statute was revised in 2006 with the intention of enhancing the protection of tigers and other endangered animals through the prosecution of crimes against them by a specialised Crime Control Bureau.

- The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the largest reef system in the world, spanning 2,300 km, and has about 3,000 distinct reefs.
- It supports 4,000 distinct types of molluscs, 1,500 species of fish, and 400 different forms of coral.
- Even though they only cover 1% of the ocean floor, coral reefs are responsible for nearly 25% of marine biodiversity.
- Global fishing enterprises are further fueled by the marine life that coral reefs nourish.
- Additionally, through commerce in goods and services as well as tourism, coral reef systems contribute \$2.7 trillion to the global economy each year.

What does the new report say?

- Between August 2021 and May 2022, 87 reefs in the GBR were surveyed for the current report.
- The increase in the amount of hard corals is used to calculate coral cover.
- The northern GBR had a 36% hard coral cover, whereas the centre region had a 33% hard coral cover.
- In the southern region, coral cover levels decreased from 38% in 2021 to 34% in 2022.
- The analysis revealed that the fast-growing Acropora corals, a prevalent form in the GBR, were a major contributor to the recovery's unprecedented levels of growth.

Great Barrier Reef's recovery and Vulnerability to climate threats



The highest levels of coral cover, within the past 36 years, has been recorded in the northern and central parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

About Great Barrier Reef

Threats found

- Acropora corals are also the most susceptible to environmental pressures such as rising temperatures, cyclones, pollution, crown-of-thorn starfish (COTs) attacks which prey on hard corals and so on.

Does this mean the reef is out of the woods?

- The lack of tropical cyclones and reduced heat stress in 2020 and 2022 compared to previously are the primary causes of the reef's recent recovery in some areas.
- Scientists believe that heat stress brought on by climate change, which causes coral bleaching, poses the greatest threat to the health of the reef, surpassing predatory attacks and tropical cyclones.
- The recent ten years have shown an increase in the spatial proximity of major bleaching occurrences, which is concerning.
- When the sea surfaces heated up in 1998 due to the El Nio weather pattern, it resulted in the first major bleaching event, which led to the death of 8% of the world's coral.
- The second incident happened in 2002.

Species in news: Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*)



A study carried out by researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, undertook to characterise urbanisation in the region and also to understand where the rock agama reside in and around Bengaluru specifically.

Why in news?

- The study examined several environmental factors that could affect the presence of the lizard and revealed that they are found mainly in rocky places and warm spots.
- Thus, the inference is that conservation efforts must point towards retaining rocky patches even while reviving landscapes by planting trees.

Peninsular Rock Agama

- Southern India has a significant population of the Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*), a form of garden lizard.
- This lizard is a huge creature with eye-catching orange and black colouring.
- They need to find external sources of heat, such a heated rock or a sunny area on the wall, as they cannot produce their own body heat.
- They are crucial to ecology in a variety of ways, including the ability to identify which urban areas are warming and the ability to quantify changes in the food chain.
- The animal's presence in urban areas has been impacted by habitat loss and other aspects of urbanisation.

Why study them?

- A healthy environment depends on insects because they provide a wide range of functions, including pollination.
- Therefore, even while rock agamas are fascinating in and of themselves, they also serve as a useful model system for analysing other facets of the ecosystem.
- There is a great deal of vegetation and fauna that is quickly disappearing in cities like Bengaluru.
- One such species, the rock agama, is reliant on rocky scrub environments that are being transformed into structures and crops.

Have coastal ecosystem norms been violated?



The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India tabled a report in Parliament on whether steps taken by the Union Environment Ministry to conserve India's coastal ecosystems have been successful.

Why in news?

- The CAG frequently undertakes 'performance audits' of government programmes and ministries.

Centre's obligations on conserving the coastline

- The government has issued notifications under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**, to regulate activities along India's coasts particularly regarding construction.
- The **Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ), 2019** implemented by the Ministry, **classifies the coastal area into different zones** to manage infrastructure activities and regulate them.

Why did the CAG undertake this audit?

- The CAG is required by law to look into and provide reports on initiatives that receive public funding.
- The "pre-audit studies" the CAG conducted revealed widespread CRZ violations in the coastal sections.

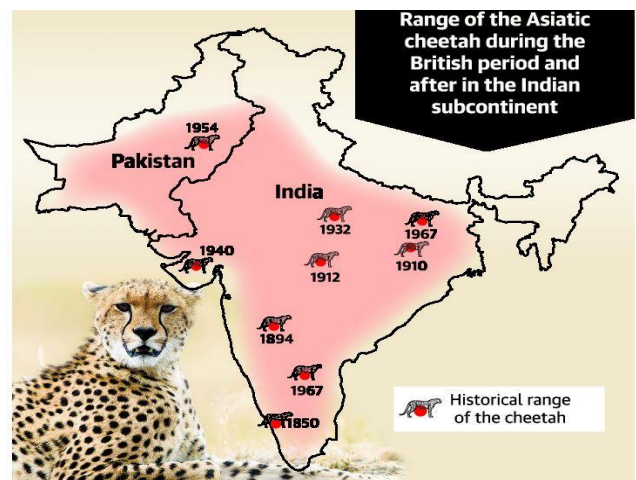
- The media had been reporting on instances of illegal construction operations (which reduce coastal space) and wastewater emissions by local governments, businesses, and aquaculture farms, which spurred it to launch a thorough inquiry.

What did the recent audit find?

The audit pointed out **various categories of violations**.

- There have been cases where the Expert Appraisal Committees, who assess a project's viability and potential environmental effects, were absent from project discussions.
- There were other times when the EAC's membership during the discussions was less than half of its full complement.
- Karnataka had not yet reconstituted the SCZMA, while Goa, Odisha, and West Bengal had not yet done so either.
- Local traditional communities were absent from Tamil Nadu's DLCs. DLCs were not even established in Andhra Pradesh.
- Despite deficiencies in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports, there have been instances of projects getting approved.

African cheetahs still stuck in transit



India's ambitious project to translocate African cheetahs has missed an unofficial deadline of August 15.

Asiatic Cheetah

- The cheetah, the world's swiftest land mammal, was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- The Asiatic cheetah, which is believed to solely exist in Iran, is listed as a "critically endangered" species on the IUCN Red List.
- It was expected that it would be reintroduced into the country after the Supreme Court lifted limits on its reinstatement.

Distribution of cheetahs in India

- In the past, there were many Asiatic cheetahs living in India.
- 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, there are credible reports of their being everywhere.
- The majority of the data is distributed along a band from Gujarat through Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
- There have also been a number of reports from southern Maharashtra that have reached parts of Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- The entire subcontinent was within the cheetah's vast geographic range. They showed there in a big quantity.
- Despite possessing a wide variety of habitats, the cheetah favoured the more open ones, including scrub forests, dry grasslands, savannahs, and other arid and semi-arid open environments.

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
- The Mughal Emperor Akbar is claimed to have kept 1,000 cheetahs in his menagerie and amassed as many as 9,000 cats throughout his fifty-year rule from 1556 to 1605.
 - Even if their prey base and habitat remained for a very long time, towards the end of the 18th century, the number of cheetahs was drastically decreasing.
 - Reliable accounts claim that the cat was sighted up until about 1967, despite the fact that it is known that the last cheetahs were slain in India in 1947.

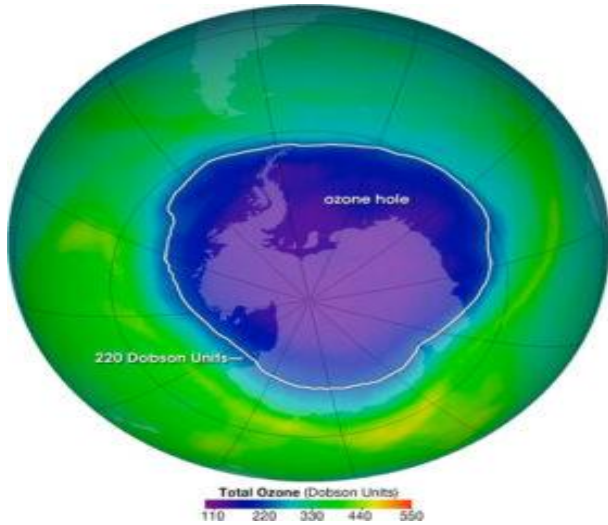
Conservation objectives for their re-introduction

- Given the available information, it is unreasonable to assume that the decision to import the African cheetah to India is based on science.
- An ideologically driven conservation goal seems to be supported by science.
- This also refutes socioeconomic constraints, a Supreme Court decision, intellectual rigour, and environmental concerns.
- An informed discussion of the subject is necessary.

Issues in re-introduction

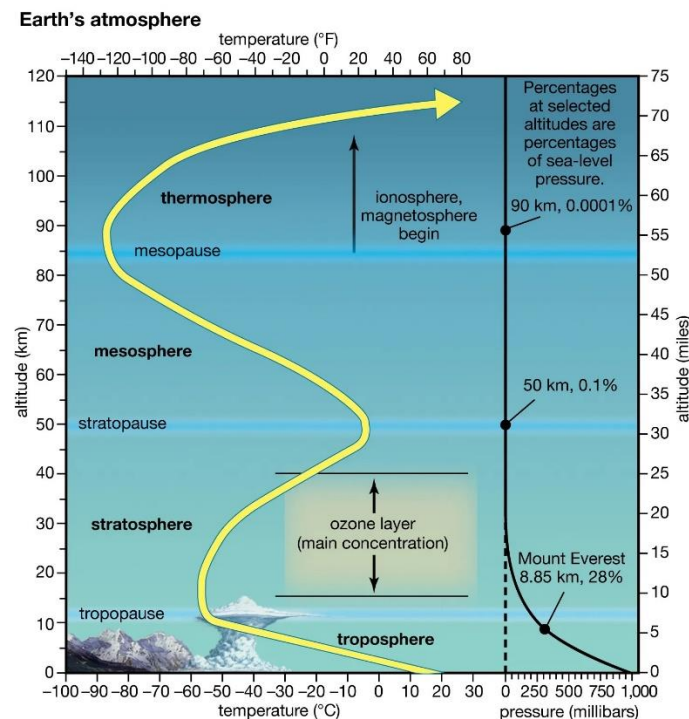
- When it comes to the amount of prey, experts are unsure whether African cheetahs would find the sanctuary to have a favourable climate.
- Cheetahs require their habitat in order to maintain a genetically healthy population.

Recovery of Ozone Layer achieves significant milestone



The concentration of ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere has reduced to reach a significant milestone this year.

What is Ozone and Ozone Layer?



- The oxygen we breathe, O₂, makes up 21% of the atmosphere, but an ozone molecule has three oxygen atoms instead of the typical two.
- Despite being present in the atmosphere in very small amounts (less than 0.001%), it has significant impacts.
- Ultraviolet (UV) energy from the Sun interacts with oxygen (O₂) molecules to produce ozone molecules.
- The majority of ozone is formed in the stratosphere, giving rise to what is known as the "ozone layer," since UV light is more powerful at higher altitudes when the air is thinner.
- Over 90% of the ozone in the atmosphere is found in the ozone layer, which has an altitude range of roughly 10 to 40 km and reaches its height peak in the stratosphere at around 25 km.

Why need Ozone Layer?

- Because it has the ability to block UV-B radiation, which has a wavelength between 280 and 315 nanometers and is the most harmful type of UV radiation, the ozone layer is crucial for the survival of life on Earth.
- The stratospheric temperature inversion is caused by UV radiation heating the air around it as it is absorbed by ozone in the stratosphere.

What caused an ozone hole in the tropics?

- Cosmic rays have been proposed as a second cause of ozone depletion by studies.
- It is commonly known that CFCs contribute to the ozone layer's thinning.
- Low temperatures of 190–200 Kelvin were seen in the tropical stratosphere (K).
- This may help to explain why the tropical ozone hole develops seasonally.

Significance of the finding

- Given the risks involved, the tropical ozone hole, which accounts for 50% of the Earth's surface, could be of worldwide concern.
- In tropical areas, it is likely to have a deleterious impact on ecosystems and human health, including the development of skin cancer and cataracts.

Governance

What rules govern Disposal of Seized Narcotics?



The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has destroyed 30,000 kg of seized drugs at four locations – Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Guwahati — in the virtual presence of Union Home Minister.

Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drugs

- After obtaining the necessary samples, investigational authorities are permitted to destroy confiscated substances under Section 52-A of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.
- The substance that is to be destroyed must be thoroughly inventoried by the concerned officials.
- The local magistrate, the director/superintendent or representative of the area NCB, the area SSP, and two other members

with ties to the legal and law enforcement communities make up the five-person committee.

- The chemical is subsequently burned fully or completely destroyed in an incinerator, leaving no trace of the substance behind.

Exact procedure that is followed

- A local court must first give the agency permission to dispose of the seized drugs.
- These compounds are subsequently transported to the specified location for disposal while being closely watched.
- The presiding officer adds the material brought to the location to the inventory prepared in the storehouse.
- Both photos and videos of the entire operation are taken.
- Then each package or gunny bag containing the chemical is placed one at a time into the incinerator.
- It is against the rules for committee members to leave until all of the drugs that were confiscated have been destroyed.

Which agency is authorized to carry out such an exercise?

- Every law enforcement agency competent to seize drugs is authorized to destroy them after taking prior permission of the area magistrate.
- These include state police forces, the CBI and the NCB among others.

Why destroy seized drugs?

- Among the factors that force agencies to destroy narcotic medications or psychotropic substances are their hazardous nature, their susceptibility to theft and substitution, and the lack of adequate storage space.
- There have been cases where drugs that were seized were stolen from the warehouse.
- Authorities attempt to destroy narcotics that have been seized as soon as the necessary samples have been taken from the seized substances in order to prevent such occurrences.

Centre launches 'Ration Mitra' Portal to register for Rations



The Centre has launched a common facility to register names in ration cards on a pilot basis for 11 States and Union Territories.

Ration Mitra

- The National Food Security Act's eligible beneficiaries are intended to be identified and verified by these States via the Ration Mitra' Portal.
- This software, known as Ration Mitra, was created by the National Informatics Centre and can be used to enrol citizens of any State.

- The portal makes it possible for States and UTs to finish their NFSA inclusion exercise.
- In the nation, 81.35 crore people are covered by the NFSA for their food security. There are currently 79.74 crores of NFSA coverage.

About National Food Security (NFS) Act

- Aiming to supply subsidised food grains to around two-thirds of India's 1.2 billion inhabitants, the NFS Act, 2013 was passed.
- It transforms into legal entitlements for the Government of India's ongoing food security programmes.
- It consists of the Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, and Midday Meal Program (PDS).
- The NFSA 2013 also recognises parental entitlements.
- While the PDS will reach roughly two-thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas), the Midday Meal Scheme and the ICDS are universal in nature.
- Daily free cereals are available to pregnant women, breastfeeding moms, and specific groups of kids.

Key provisions of NFSA

- The NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to receive foodgrains at a subsidised price.
- It includes rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg — under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These are called central issue prices (CIPs).

SMILE-75 scheme to rehabilitate Beggars



The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities as a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence.

SMILE Scheme

- Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise, or SMILE, is the abbreviation.
- Under the "Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging," this programme is a sub-program.
- Additionally, it emphasises recovery, the provision of medical resources and assistance, counselling, education, skill development, and connections to the economy for transgender people.
- It includes welfare measures for individuals who are begging among other comprehensive measures.
- The programme places a strong emphasis on recovery, the provision of medical services, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic relations, and other areas.

Its implementation

- The State/UT governments, local urban bodies, nonprofit organisations, community-based organisations (CBOs), institutions, and others would assist the implementation of the plan.
- The plan calls for the use of the current shelter homes offered by the State/UT Governments and Urban Local Bodies to assist in the rehabilitation of beggars.
- If there are no available existing shelter homes, the implementing agencies must build new, dedicated shelter homes.

History of the PIN code, which turns 50 this I-Day

456001

Region in India
Sub-region
Sorting district
Post office

The 75th Independence Day coincides with another milestone in the country's history — it was on August 15, 1972, that the Postal Index Number (PIN) was introduced in India.

As the PIN code turns 50 on Monday, we look at its history and evolution.

Why was the PIN code introduced?

- At the time of Independence, India had 23,344 post offices, the most of which were located in urban areas.
- However, the nation was expanding quickly, and the postal system needed to keep up.
- The PIN number was created to make sorting and delivering mail easier in a nation where many locations share the same or similar names

and where letters are written in a wide range of languages.

How does the PIN code work?

- Six digits make up the PIN.
- Northern, Eastern, Western, and Southern postal regions are denoted by the first number, whereas the Army Postal Service is denoted by number 9.
- A subregion is indicated by the second number, and the sorting district is indicated by the third number.
- The remaining data further reduces the geographic scope to the precise delivery post office.

Who was the person behind the initiative?

- Shriram Bhikaji Velankar, a senior member of the Posts and Telegraphs Board and additional secretary in the Union Ministry of Communications, was the person in charge of the endeavour.
- Additionally, Velankar was a distinguished poet in Sanskrit who received the President's Award for Sanskrit in 1996, three years before he passed away in Mumbai.
- He had founded the Dev Vani Mandiram, a cultural organisation that promoted Sanskrit in both India and other nations, in Mumbai.
- Additionally, Velankar served as the chairman of the World Philatelic Exhibition, or Indipex, which featured 120 nations and was held in New Delhi in 1973.
- On December 31, 1973, he ceased serving in the government.

What are some parallel systems followed world over?

- Globally, the US Postal Service's Nationwide Improved Mail Service plan, which was created to increase the speed of mail delivery, saw the

introduction of the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) code on July 1, 1963.

- Letters went through around 17 sorting stops under the previous system; the new method would take much less time because it would use newer, more mechanical processes.

Is the PIN code still relevant?

- With the spread of the Internet, when people are sending fewer letters, it is easy to question the relevance of the PIN code.
- But try to order food delivery or a parcel over online shopping and the importance of Velankar's work in India will become evident.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

The case file

- Nov. 30:** Lawyer Rahul Mehra files petition in the Delhi HC seeking a stay on the IOA elections pending amendment to its constitution in accordance with the National Sports Code 2011
- Dec. 17:** Delhi HC orders moving AGM scheduled for December 19 from Guwahati to Delhi, stays elections; approves six-member ad-hoc committee
- April 22:** Delhi HC stays Special General Body Meeting (GBM) called by Narinder Batra on April 25
- August 17:** The Delhi HC orders forming a Committee of Administrators for IOA; directs holding elections within 16 weeks
- August 18:** Supreme Court stays the Delhi HC order on forming CoA, maintains status quo

The Supreme Court has ordered status quo on the implementation of a Delhi High Court order to hand over the affairs of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to a Committee of Administrators (CoA).

Why in news?

- The FIFA had recently gone ahead and suspended the AIFF, citing "third party interference", leaving an air of uncertainty on the prospect of India hosting the Under-17 Women's World Cup in October.

- The governance of the AIFF had similarly been transferred to a CoA by the Supreme Court.

Delhi HC case

- The high court had passed the order on a petition seeking a direction for redrafting of the IOA constitution in accordance with the National Sports Code, 2021.

Controversy with IOC

- According to IOC rules, if any national body is governed by a non-elected body, it is seen as interference by a third party.
- The moment the CoA takes charge, there is 99 per cent chance that India and our sportspersons will get suspended from all international events and Olympic Games.

Olympics and India

- India took part in the Olympics for the first time in Paris in 1900.
- Norman Pritchard, an Anglo Indian who was vacationing in Paris at the time, represented the nation.
- India's participation in the Olympics in 1920 and 1924 planted the seeds for the establishment of an organisation to direct the Indian Olympic movement.
- At the time, Sir Dorabji Tata proposed the creation of a national sports organisation to promote Olympic sport in the united India.
- Following the 1920 Games, the committee responsible for selecting the team for these Games convened and, on Sir Dorabji Tata's recommendation, added Dr. A.G. Noehren (Physical Education Director of YMCA India) to their group.

'Kerala Savari': India's first online taxi service as a public option



Kerala has soft launched 'Kerala Savari', the country's first online taxi service owned by a State government, to ensure fair and decent service to passengers along with fair remuneration to auto-taxi workers.

What is Kerala Savari?

- The Kerala Savari, which is run by the Motor Workers Welfare Board under the auspices of the Labour Department, guarantees secure transportation for the general public at "government approved tariffs" without "surge pricing."
- The "Kerala Savari" software will soon be made publicly accessible on online platforms, as Google is now investigating it.

Why such initiative?

- The alleged unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights by private app-based cab aggregators have come as a major concern for governments.

What are the main attractions of 'Kerala Savari'?

- There will be **no fluctuation in fares** on Kerala Savari irrespective of day or night or rain.
- But Kerala Savari **only 8% service charge** in addition to the rate set by the government, whereas the private cab aggregators charge up to 20 to 30% service charge.

What are the security-related features of 'Kerala Savari'?

- According to its promoters, Kerala Savari is a secure and trustworthy internet resource for women, kids, and senior persons.
- When building apps and registering drivers, this factor was given consideration.

- Along with receiving the necessary training, drivers joining the programme must also have a police clearance certificate.
- In the app, a panic button mechanism has been added.

History

Women heroes of India's freedom struggle, mentioned by PM in his I-Day speech



In his Independence Day address to the nation the Prime Minister paid tributes to women freedom fighters for showing the world the true meaning of India's "nari shakti". A look at the women he named in his speech:

Rani Laxmibai

- Rani Laxmibai, the monarch of the princely state of Jhansi, is well-known for her participation in the First War of Indian Independence in 1857.
- She married the king of Jhansi in 1835 after being born Manikarnika Tambe.
- Prior to the king's passing, the couple adopted a son, who the British East India Company rejected as the legitimate heir and chose to annex Jhansi.

- The queen, who had previously refused to cede her land, chose to reign on behalf of the heir in 1857 and eventually joined the insurrection.
- She fled from the Jhansi fort after being cornered by the British. She was injured in battle close to Phool Bagh in Gwalior, where she subsequently perished.

Jhalkari Bai

- She started out as a soldier in Rani Laxmibai's Durga Dal, the women's army, and eventually ascended to become one of the queen's most trusted advisors.
- She is renowned for jeopardising her own life to protect the queen.
- The people of Bundelkhand still remember the tale of her bravery, and she is frequently portrayed as a symbol of Bundeli identity.

Durga Bhabhi

- Revolutionary Durgawati Devi, also referred to as Durga Bhabhi, joined the armed resistance to colonial rule.
- She assisted Bhagat Singh in escaping from Lahore in disguise following the 1928 murder of British police officer John P. Saunders as a member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.

- Rajguru pretended to be Durgawati and Bhagat Singh's servant while they pretended to be a married couple on the ensuing train ride.
- In retaliation for the subsequent hangings of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, she later launched a failed attempt to assassinate Lord Hailey, the former governor of the Punjab.

Rani Gaidinliu

- Rani Gaidinliu was a Naga spiritual and political leader who opposed the British. She was born in 1915 in what is now Manipur.
- She joined the Heraka religious organisation, which later evolved into an anti-British movement. She demanded that others follow her lead and revolted against the Empire by refusing to pay taxes.
- The British started a manhunt, but she eluded capture by hopping between villages.
- At the age of 16, Gaidinliu was finally apprehended and given a life sentence in 1932. In 1947, she was allowed to go.
- Gaidinliu was later referred to as the "daughter of the hills" and given the title of "Rani" for her bravery by PM Nehru.

Rani Chennamma

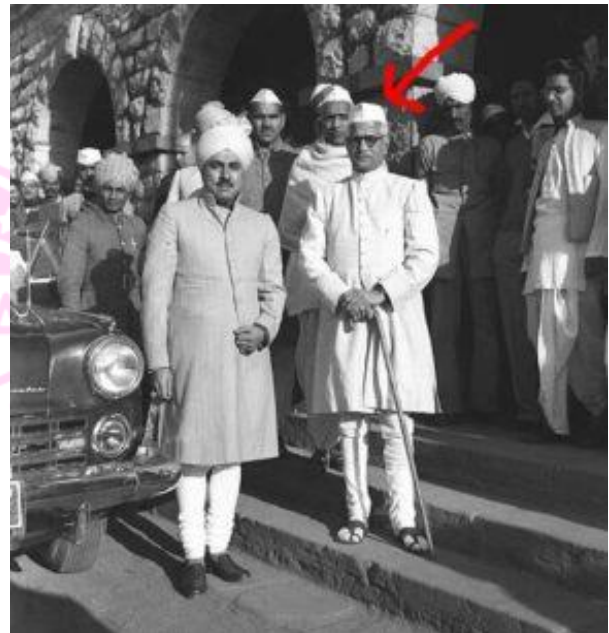
- Rani Chennamma, the queen of Kittur, was one of the first monarchs to organise an armed uprising against British rule.
- In the modern-day state of Karnataka, Kittur was a princely state.
- After the death of her little son in 1824, she retaliated against the attempt to take control of her domain. Raja Mallasarja, her spouse, had passed away in 1816.
- She is regarded as one of the few leaders of the day who comprehended the British government's colonial plans.

- In her initial uprising, Rani Chennamma overthrew the British, but the East India Company's second attack resulted in her capture and imprisonment.

Begum Hazrat Mahal

- After her husband, Nawab of Awadh Wajid Ali Shah, was exiled after the 1857 revolt, Begum Hazrat Mahal, along with her supporters, took on the British and wrested control of Lucknow.
- She was forced into a retreat after the colonial rulers recaptured the area.

Who was Kakasaheb Gadgil?



The Gadgil Wada of Pune was recently lighted into tricolour for the 75th anniversary of Independence.

Kakasaheb Gadgil

- Gadgil was an Indian politician and liberation fighter from Maharashtra.
- He was a writer as well. He authored in English and Marathi.

- Gadgil earned his law degree in 1920 after graduating from Fergusson College in Pune in 1918.
- Liberation leaders Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel had an influence on Gadgil in pre-independence India.
- As soon as he received his law degree in 1920, he joined the Indian National Congress and began actively taking part in the national freedom fight.
- Eight times, the governing British government imprisoned him for his involvement.

Notable work during freedom struggle

- Gadgil served as the secretary of the Poona District Congress Committee (1921–25) and the president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee during the pre-independence era of India (1937–45).
- In 1934, he won a seat in the national Legislative Assembly.
- In Maharashtra in the 1930s, Gadgil was a pioneer in social reform efforts.

Service after India's independence

- Gadgil held the position of minister in India's first central cabinet from 1947 to 1952.
- He was in charge of the Public Works, Mines, and Power portfolios.
- As part of India's participation in the 1947 Indo-Pakistan War, he started the project to build a military-caliber road from Pathankot to Srinagar via Jammu in Kashmir during his first year in the central Cabinet.
- He also started the crucial construction projects for the Bhakra, Koyna, and Hirakund dams while serving as a cabinet minister.
- From 1952 until 1955, he served on the Congress Working Committee.

Authorship

- Gadgil wrote several books and articles on politics, economics, law, and history.
- The following are some of Gadgil's books:
 1. Pathik (autobiography)
 2. Rajya Shastra Wihar
 3. Shubha Shastra
 4. Wakrutwa Shastra
 5. Gyanbache Arthashastra
 6. Government from Inside
 7. Shikhancha Itihaas (history of Sikhs)

Who was Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India who partitioned Bengal in 1905?



The 119-year-old Curzon Gate in Bardhaman in West Bengal is at the centre of a political row.

Who was Lord Curzon?

- Curzon, a British conservative politician born in 1859, attended the prestigious schools of Eton and Oxford for his education.
- Before being named Viceroy of India in 1899, he held the positions of Under-Secretary of State for India (1891–1892) and for Foreign Affairs (1895–1898).
- His reign as viceroy was renowned for its frenzied activity and focus on effectiveness.
- "Efficiency of administration is, in my view, a synonym for the contentment of the governed," he said in his budget speech in 1904.

Rise to infame

- Curzon is arguably the Viceroy of India who has drawn the greatest criticism since he partitioned Bengal in 1905, sparking a wave of Bengali nationalism that helped fuel the larger Indian national movement.
- He was also one of the more outspokenly imperialist viceroys, and he believed that Britain's control of India was essential to the continued existence of the empire.
- Curzon famously said in 1900, "If we lost India, our sun would drop to its setting, yet we could lose all other [white settler] dominions and still exist."

His works

- Curzon formed a separate police force, despatched a British expedition to Tibet, and created a Muslim-majority province inside the North-West Frontier Province.
- He had a key role in creating the Archaeological Survey of India, which was created to research and preserve ancient sites.
- Early in his tenure, Curzon received appreciation from his colonial subjects for intervening in a number of notorious racist incidents involving Indians and Europeans.

- He chastised 9th Lancers soldiers for fatally beating an Indian cook in Sialkot in 1902; in 1899, he punished white soldiers for raping a woman in Rangoon.
- He had made failed attempts to have the meagre punishment meted out to an Assam tea manager for killing a "coolie" changed by the Calcutta High Court.

Why was he disliked then?

- The burgeoning nationalism movement in India both irritated and incensed Curzon, who wanted to stifle the rising aspirations of the educated middle class in India.
- He was a fervent supporter of imperialism and made a number of exceedingly unpopular actions, such as adopting the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act in 1899.
- In the Calcutta Corporation, he reduced the number of elected representatives.
- Other acts that restricted journalistic freedom included the Indian Universities Act (1904), which put Calcutta University under government administration, and the Indian Official Secrets Amendment Act (1904).
- Ironically, though, his boldest and most despised choice—to split Bengal in 1905—was what sparked a surge in nationalist feeling and revived the Congress.

How and why did the partition of Bengal take place?

1905
THE PARTITION OF BENGAL
TOOK PLACE



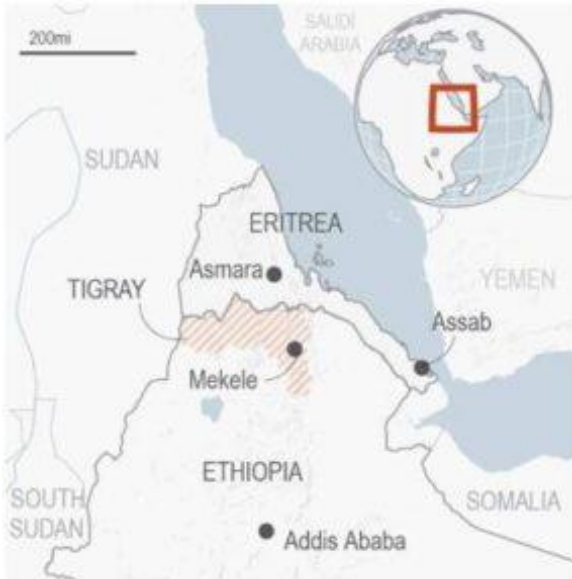
- The capital of the British Raj was Calcutta, and Bengal Presidency, one of India's largest

provinces, with a population of more than 78 million.

- It was a vast region that included what is now West Bengal, Bangladesh, Bihar, and portions of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Assam.
- The British had long argued that Bengal was too big to effectively govern and manage, and they also thought that with Calcutta serving as the hub of the educated nationalists, resistance to colonial rule would only get stronger.
- Bengal is a strength when it is united, but Bengal divided will tug in many different directions, as Home Secretary H H Risley noted in 1904.

International Relations

Tigray Crisis in Ethiopia



The director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), described the Tigray crisis region as the “worst humanitarian disaster on earth”.

What is the news?

- A civil conflict has been looming in Ethiopia.

- Abiy Ahmed, the country's prime minister, declared war on the Tigray area on November 4, 2020.
- The Tigray People's Liberation Front is in charge of the Tigray area (TPLF).
- The attack on the Tigray military facility by the TPLF prompted the declaration of war.

Tigray Crisis: A backgrounder

- The Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, which lasted from 1998 to 2000, is thought to be the cause of the hostility between Tigrayans and Eritreans.
- It took place about twenty years ago, was incredibly brutal, and killed thousands of men.
- This dilemma has its origins in Ethiopia's political structure. Ethiopia has a federal structure in place since 1994, where various ethnic groups govern the affairs of 10 regions.
- This system was developed with the help of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

- Since the military regime was overthrown in 1991, it has served as the head of a coalition of four parties that has ruled Ethiopia.
- Ethiopia improved its stability and prosperity under the partnership, but issues with democracy and human rights were frequently brought up.

- Due to this, it was unable to provide Tigrayans with humanitarian, financial, or medical aid.

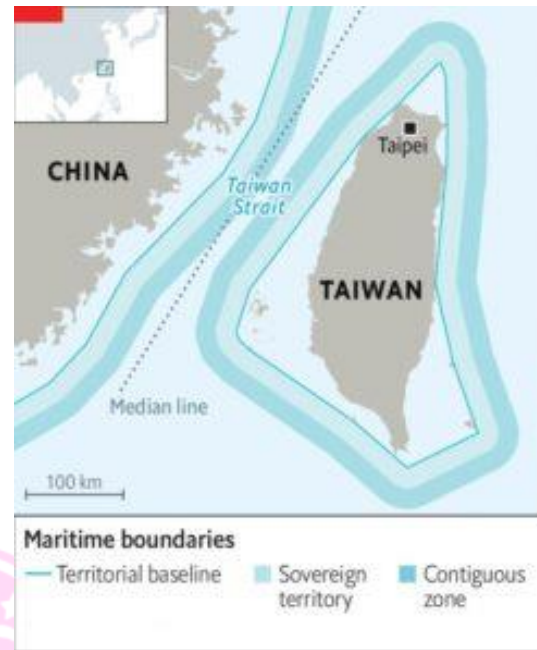
How did it escalate into a crisis?

- Eventually, the unhappiness turned into a demonstration, which prompted a change in the government and the appointment of Mr. Abiy as PM.
- Abiy opened up politics, founded a new party (the Prosperity Party), and ousted important figures from the Tigrayan government who were suspected of corruption and repression.
- In the meantime, Abiy resolved a protracted territory dispute with neighbouring Eritrea, winning him the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.
- These actions brought Abiy widespread praise but disquiet among Tigrayan detractors.
- The leaders of Tigray saw Abiy's reforms as an effort to consolidate power and undermine Ethiopia's federal structure.

How bad is the humanitarian situation?

- Starvation is a problem in Tigray and the areas nearby.
- There are no medical facilities, no access to their own money because financial services are shut off, racial and physical violence, and military raids.
- In June of last year, the government established a blockade on Tigray in an effort to disarm the TPLF despite their humanitarian ceasefire declaration.

Places in news: Taiwan Strait



India has for the first time referred to what it called “the militarization of the Taiwan Strait”, marking a rare instance of New Delhi appearing to comment on China’s actions towards Taiwan.

What is the news?

- Two American warships have recently sailed very close to China through Taiwan Strait.
- This has intimidated the China which is already fuming due to the visit of Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan Strait

- The Taiwan Strait, which is 180 kilometres wide, divides mainland China from the island of Taiwan (and Asia of course).
- The strait joins the East China Sea to the north and is a portion of the South China Sea.

- It is 130 kilometres broad at its narrowest point.

Issues over Taiwan Strait

- The political status of the Taiwan Strait itself is at the centre of an international conflict.
- In place of considering the Taiwan Strait to be international seas, China asserts that it has sovereignty, sovereign rights, and control over it.
- This indicates that no foreign vessel is allowed to freely navigate the strait according to the Chinese authorities.
- The western world has voiced considerable opposition to this position.

India's change of stance

- Since recognising the PRC in 1949, India has adhered to the "One China policy," exclusively maintaining diplomatic, commercial, and cultural ties with Taiwan.
- Up until 2008, India frequently reaffirmed its position; but, following that, it stopped doing so in formal declarations.
- China typically makes this demand of the majority of nations in formal announcements.

Why is India shifting its stance?

- China often make provocative statements claiming Arunachal Pradesh.
- It often moves to issue "stapled visas" to Indian citizens in Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal.

Polity

PM and President's photos in Govt Ads: Judicial Interpretation



The Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to include the photographs of the President of India and Prime Minister in advertisements on the 44th Chess Olympiad underway in Chennai.

Why in news?

- The HC relied on a 2015 Supreme Court ruling that issued guidelines on government spending on advertisements.

How can we classify Govt Ads with other political ads?

The primary cause of government advertisement is to use public funds:

- To inform the public of their rights, obligations, and entitlements
- To explain Government policies, programs, services and initiatives.

2015 Supreme Court's Ruling

- The Supreme Court attempted to control the amount of money spent by the government on advertisements in *Common Cause v. Union of India*.
- It effectively regulated the Government of India's 2007 New Advertisement Policy.

- The petitioners claimed that the government arbitrarily spends money on advertisements.
- The accusations included anything from using public funds for political gain to using marketing to sway the media.
- A committee was formed to offer suggestions for a better course of action by a three-judge bench that included the then-chief justice, P Sathasivam, and Justices Ranjan Gogoi and N V Ramana.

What are the guidelines?

- **No endorsement:** Patronization of any particular media house must be avoided and award of advertisements must be on an equal basis to all newspapers who may, however, be categorized depending upon their circulation.
- The Government Advertisements (Content Regulation) Guidelines 2014 have five broad principles:
 1. Advertising campaigns are to be related to government responsibilities
 2. Materials should be presented in an objective, fair manner and designed to meet objectives of the campaign
 3. Advertisements must not directed at promoting political interests of a party
 4. Campaigns must be justified and undertaken in a cost-effective manner
 5. Advertisements must comply with legal requirements and financial regulations

What did the Supreme Court rule?

- It largely accepted the committee report except on a few issues:
 1. The appointment of an ombudsman to oversee the implementation of the guidelines

2. A special performance audit of government spending
3. An embargo on publication of advertisements on the eve of elections
 - The ruling mandated that government advertisements will **not contain a political party's symbol, logo or flag.**
 - They are required to be politically neutral and must refrain from glorifying political personalities.

What about photographs in advertisements?

- The Supreme Court endorsed the committee's recommendation that only images of the President, Prime Minister, or Governor or Chief Minister be used for official communications.
- The then-attorney general had objected to the idea, claiming that since the prime minister is "first among equals," his cabinet members should also have the same rights if the PM's picture can appear in the commercial.
- The court included the image of the Chief Justice of India to that list of exceptions while limiting the recommendation to the images of the President and Prime Minister.

What are the takeaways from the SC and HC verdicts?

- The Supreme Court's decision entered the field of policymaking and content regulation, both of which are aspects of the right to free speech and expression.
- This sparked concerns about the court intruding on executive branch authority.
- The SC judgement merely forbids the publication of images of elected officials other than the President, PM, CJI, CM, and Governor, not the publication of the President and PM's photograph.

- Excluding the PM's images is viewed as a political gambit in a state like Tamil Nadu that is governed by the opposition.
- The HC stated that the "excuses offered by the state" cannot be accepted in light of the "national interest" in the matter.

- The State governments have the authority to establish new districts, change existing districts, or abolish existing districts.
- Either an executive order or a bill passed by the State Assembly can accomplish this.
- Numerous States favour the executive method, which involves merely publishing a notification in the official gazette.

How are Districts created?



The West Bengal cabinet has approved the creation of seven new districts in the state.

What are Districts?

- The districts of India are regional administrative subdivisions left over from the British Raj.
- Typically, they are the level of local government that lies immediately beneath the subnational states and territories of India.
- A Deputy Commissioner/Collector is in charge of a district and is accountable for the overall management of the district as well as the upkeep of law and order.
- District Collector could be an IAS (Indian Administrative Service).
- Depending on the geography, districts are frequently divided into smaller administrative divisions called tehsils, talukas, or mandals.

How are new districts carved?

How does it help?

- States argue that smaller districts lead to better administration and governance.
- For example, in 2016, the Assam government issued a notification to upgrade the Majuli sub-division to Majuli district for "administrative expediency".

Does the Central government have a role to play here?

- In the modification or formation of new districts, the Center has no involvement. The choice is up to the state.
- When a State wants to modify the name of a district or a railroad station, the Home Ministry is involved.
- Other departments and organisations, including the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences, and the Railway Ministry, are provided the state government's request for approval.
- After reviewing their responses, a no-objection certificate may be granted.

Jagdeep Dhankhar is new Vice-President

National Democratic Alliance candidate and former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the 14th Vice-President of the country.

About Vice President of India

- The VP is the deputy to the head of state of the Republic of India, the President of India.
- His/her office is the **second-highest constitutional office** after the president and ranks second in the order of precedence and first in the line of succession to the presidency.



Qualifications

- As in the case of the president, to be qualified to be elected as vice president, a person must:
 1. Be a citizen of India
 2. Be at least 35 years of age
 3. Not hold any office of profit
- Unlike in the case of the president, where a person must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha, the **vice president must be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.**
- This difference is because the vice president is to act as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Roles and responsibilities

- The vice president determines whether a bill in the Rajya Sabha is a money bill or not.
- He must recommend a bill to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha if he believes it to be a money bill that was introduced in the Rajya Sabha.
- In India's central universities, the vice president also serves as chancellor.

Election procedure

- The procedure for choosing the vice president is outlined in Article 66 of the Indian Constitution.
- The members of an electoral college, which consists of the members of both Houses of Parliament and NOT the members of state legislative assemblies, indirectly elect the vice president.
- Single transferable votes are used to conduct the election in accordance with the proportional representation method.
- The Election Commission of India uses a secret ballot to conduct the voting.
- The 233 Rajya Sabha members, 12 Rajya Sabha nominees, and 543 Lok Sabha members will make up the electoral college for the election.
- The Returning Officer will be chosen as the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.
- Political parties CANNOT provide their MPs any instructions regarding how to vote in the Vice-Presidential election.

Removal

- According to Article 67(b) of the Constitution, the vice president may be dismissed by a Rajya Sabha resolution that is approved by a simple majority in the Lok Sabha and an effective majority (majority of all members in office at the time).
- However, such a resolution cannot be moved without at least 14 days' notice.
- According to Article 122, no Vice President has ever been removed, and the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha cannot be challenged in a court of law.

Manipur House gives nod to National Register of Citizens (NRC)


Bowing to demands from tribal groups, the Manipur Assembly has resolved to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and establish a State Population Commission (SPC).

To date, Assam is the only northeastern State to have implemented the NRC.

What is National Register of Citizens (NRC)?

THE CITIZENSHIP CONUNDRUM

After the first National Register for Citizens (NRC) exercise was carried out in 1951, the wheels were set in motion to update the list in 2005. In 2015, Assam began the task of verifying and updating the NRC list. Out of current 32.9 million applicants to the list, 4 million potentially stare at being rendered 'stateless'.

<p>After the census of 1951, the first NRC list was prepared</p>  <p>May 2005 Tripartite meeting chaired by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is held among the centre, Assam government and the All Assam Students' Union</p>	<p>2009 Assam Public Works, a non-governmental organization, files a writ petition in the Supreme Court for the deletion of illegal migrants' names from the voters' lists in Assam</p> <p>2010 Pilot project to update NRC launched in Kamrup and Barpeta districts, but halted soon after due to law and order problems</p> <p>2011 Assam government sets up cabinet sub-committee to simplify the procedure</p>	<p>May 2013 Supreme Court directs centre to finalize the plan of action by July 2013</p> <p>2014 SC directs centre to resume update of NRC</p> <p>2015 State invites NRC application forms from</p>	<p>May to August 2015 Sep 2015 Verification exercise begins in Assam</p> <p>1 Jan 2018 First draft of NRC released</p> <p>30 Jul Final draft of NRC released</p> 
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- The 2003 modification to the Citizenship Act, 1955, which required the development of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), is a list of every Indian citizen.
- The register was initially created following the 1951 Indian Census.
- Its goal is to compile a list of all of India's legal residents so that illegal immigrants can be located and expelled.
- For the state of Assam, it was put into effect beginning in 2013–2014.

- Although the GoI made plans to adopt it throughout the rest of the nation in 2021, they have not yet been carried out.

NRC and Assam

- Due to its border location and particular issues with illegal immigration, Assam had a register of residents prepared for it in 1951 using information from the census taken in that year.
- However, it wasn't kept up after that.
- The presence of migrants, frequently referred to as "bahiragat" or outsiders, has been a sensitive topic here for decades.

Who is a Foreigner in Assam?

- Anyone who cannot demonstrate that they or their ancestors entered the country before March 24, 1971, at midnight, would be classified as a foreigner and subject to deportation, according to the Assam Accord, which is the definition of illegal immigration used by the National Register of Citizens today.
- On March 25, 1971, the day before the Bangladesh War, anyone who arrived would be labelled a foreigner and deported.
- Because of this, even if you were born in India in 1971 to parents who had entered the country illegally that year, you would still be considered an immigrant even if you were 48 years old.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Uncontrolled Descent of Space Debris



A Chinese booster rocket made an uncontrolled return to earth, leading to US furore against Beijing for not sharing information about the potentially hazardous object's descent.

Yet another Chinese irresponsibility

- The Long March 5B wreckage from a massive Chinese rocket that came to earth over the Pacific and Indian oceans put an end to more than a week of widespread panic and fear.
- Nearby Malaysia, the Sulu Sea was felt.
- The rocket's 22-ton core stage blasted back to earth with uncontrollable force. Its potential impact on a populated area was feared.
- Although it received harsh criticism for the risks associated with its rocket re-entry, China had rejected these worries.

What is an Uncontrolled Re-entry?

- Typically, the core or first stage of a rocket is built up of hefty components that fall back safely along a projected trajectory after liftoff but rarely enter orbit.
- In the event that they do attain orbit, a pricey de-orbit manoeuvre is needed to allow for a guided, controlled return using an engine burn.

- The orbital core stage performs an uncontrolled fall without a deorbit manoeuvre.

Why did it fell back?

- Chinese Long March 5B rocket core stage fragments are known to make such ferocious, chaotic descents back to earth.
- Before exiting the atmosphere, the majority of countries' rockets separate the launcher from the payload.
- The payload is then given one last boost by an additional engine.
- The study notes that China's 5B series, however, does NOT employ a second engine and propels itself directly into orbit.

Why is it difficult to track uncontrolled descents?

- It is challenging to precisely track the re-entry timing and drop zone of rocket debris during uncontrolled descents due to the numerous variables involved.
- The effects of air drag, variations in solar activity, changes in the object's angle and spin, among other things, make this prediction incredibly difficult.
- The final location of the debris could change by hundreds of kilometres if the re-entry time calculation is off by even one minute.
- It's critical to realise that debris re-entry is probably one of the hardest to predict of the ten challenging things we perform in space.

Are there laws regulating space junk?

Yes. The Space Liability Convention of 1972.

- It outlines accountability in the event that a space object causes damage.

- According to the treaty, a launching State is totally obliged to pay damages for harm done to aircraft or the earth's surface by its space objects, as well as for harm caused by its mistakes in space.
- The Convention also outlines processes for the resolution of damage claims.
- However, there is no legislation prohibiting space debris from returning to Earth.
- In two villages in Maharashtra in April of this year, it was thought that Chinese rocket debris had been left behind.

Cases of settlements

- In 1979, a local authority fined NASA \$400 for littering after the 76-ton Skylab's re-entry had left debris over unpopulated areas of Australia.
- The Liability Convention was only used once, in a settlement between the former Soviet Union and Canada about Soviet Cosmos 954's debris landing in a desolate area.
- In accordance with international law, Canada was compensated 3 million CAD for clearing up the mess.

Hellfire R9X missile: The mystery weapon



The US military used its 'secret weapon' — the Hellfire R9X missile – to kill Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri on the balcony of a safehouse in Kabul.

What is the Hellfire R9X missile?

- The Hellfire R9X, also known as the AGM-114 R9X in military circles, is a US-made missile that is renowned for attacking individual targets while causing the least amount of collateral damage possible.
- This weapon, also known as the "Ninja Missile," doesn't have a warhead; instead, it fires a series of incredibly sharp blades at the very end of its attack trajectory.
- This enables it to cut through even thick steel sheets and destroy the target using the kinetic energy of its propulsion without endangering nearby people or the building's stability.
- The missile's blades emerge and dispatch the chosen target, sparing the surrounding area from the severe damage that would result from a missile carrying an explosive warhead.

When did the Hellfire missile enter active service?

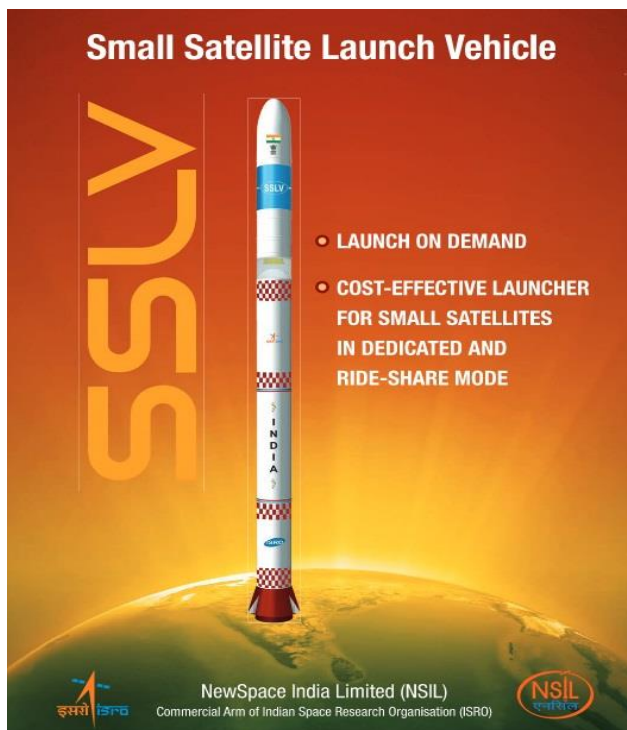
- It is known that the Hellfire 9RX missile has been in use since 2017.
- However, in 2019, the general public learned of its existence two years later.
- It is a modified version of the original Hellfire missile family, which is typically launched from helicopters, ground-based vehicles, and occasionally small ships and swift-moving vessels.
- The Hellfire missile family, which also includes the "Ninja Missile," has been used for several years to arm combat drones.

What is known about the other Hellfire missile variants?

- Hellfire was first created in the US to target tanks from the Apache AH-64 attack helicopters. Hellfire is actually an acronym for Heliborne, Laser, Fire and Forget Missile.

- Later, the use of these missiles spread to a number of additional helicopter variations, as well as ground-based, maritime-based, and drone-based weapons.
- The Hellfire missile, created by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, also comes in "Longbow" and "Romeo" versions in addition to the "Ninja."

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) launched into wrong Orbit



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said that the satellite onboard its' maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle "are no longer usable" after the SSLV-D1 placed them in an elliptical orbit instead of a circular one.

What is SSLV?

- The SSLV is a small-lift launch vehicle being developed by the ISRO with payload capacity to deliver:
 1. 600 kg to Low Earth Orbit (500 km) or
 2. 300 kg to Sun-synchronous Orbit (500 km)

- Small satellites with the potential to handle numerous orbital drops-off could be launched with its assistance.
- Future plans aim for the construction of the Small Satellite Launch Complex (SSLV), a specialised launch site in Sriharikota.
- When finished, a new spaceport being built close to Kulasekharapatnam in Tamil Nadu would handle SSLV launches.
- A group of Indian companies, including NewSpace India Limited, will handle the vehicle's production and launch operations once it enters the operational phase (NSIL).

SSLV vs. PSLV: A comparison

- The SSLV was created with the intention of commercially launching small satellites at a significantly lower cost and more frequently than the Polar SLV (PSLV).
- The anticipated high launch rate is dependent on mainly autonomous launch operation and straightforward logistics in general.
- In contrast, a PSLV launch requires the participation of 600 authorities, whereas the SSLV launch procedures would be overseen by a tiny group of only six persons.
- Instead of taking months, the SSLV's launch readiness time is anticipated to last less than a week.
- While the tried-and-true PSLV can launch satellites weighing up to 1000 kg, the SSLV can only lift satellites up to 500 kg into low earth orbit.
- The entire project will be completed quickly and at a price of only about Rs 30 crore for SSLV.

Punjab bans use of 10 insecticides



Amid reports that several samples of basmati rice contained the residue of certain pesticides above the maximum residue level (MRL), the Punjab government has decided to ban the use of 10 formulations.

Which are the chemicals banned?

- The sale, distribution, and use of Acephate, Buprofezin, Chloropyrifos, Methamidophos, Propiconazole, Thiamethoxam, Profenofos, Isoprothiolane, Carbendazim, and Tricyclazole, among other drugs, were deemed by the State government to be against the interests of basmati rice farmers.
- According to reports, there is a chance that the MRL for basmati rice will be exceeded.

What is the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)?

- When pesticides are used correctly in line with Good Agricultural Practices established by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the MRL is the highest level of pesticide residue that is legally acceptable in or on food or feed (FAO).
- The MRL is often measured through multiple field trials (on the order of 10) during the proper pre-harvest interval or after the withholding period has passed.
- This is set at the Limit of Determination (LOD) for many pesticides because only major pesticides

have been studied and the understanding of the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) is lacking.

Species in news: Tasmanian Tiger



Scientists in the US and Australia have embarked on a \$15-million project to resurrect the thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger, a marsupial that went extinct in the 1930s, using gene-editing technology.

Tasmanian Tiger

- The solely carnivorous marsupial known as the Tasmanian tiger or thylacine (a dog-headed pouched dog) is regarded as extinct.
- It resembles a dog, but may be distinguished by its abdominal pouch, stiff tail, and dark stripes that start at the back of its body and extend to its tail.
- In 1936, at Tasmania's Hobart Zoo, the last recorded thylacine perished in captivity, nearly 80 years ago.
- It might be the sole mammal to have perished in Tasmania since the arrival of Europeans.

Why in news?

- In an ambitious undertaking, the animal will be returned to Tasmania, where it was born, in an effort to restore the ecosystem's lost balance.

- Interestingly, this isn't the first time thylacines have been tried to be revived.
- Dr. Michael Archer, an Australian scientist, tried unsuccessfully in 1999 to clone the animal from a perfectly preserved specimen in a museum in order to bring it back to life.

The resurrection process

- Despite the fact that the last thylacine lived over 86 years ago, numerous embryonic and young thylacine specimens have been preserved.
- The genome sequencing project will make use of DNA taken from a 108-year-old specimen kept at Australia's Victoria Museum.
- To determine all the changes, this genome will be compared to that of the closest living member of the species, the fat-tailed dunnart.
- Scientists will modify the DNA of the living cell where it differs after all the changes have been discovered, basically bringing the extinct species back.
- An Australian mouse-like species known as the fat-tailed dunnart belongs to the Dasyuridae family. They are among the smallest carnivorous marsupials, with an average body length of 2.4 to 3.5 inches.

Criticisms of the move

- Concerns have been expressed by researchers over the technology's viability.
- According to them, de-extinction is science from a fairytale and is more about getting media attention for the scientists than it is about conducting genuine research.

What is 'Mandala' in Art?



Some residents of Liverpool in the UK are marveling over a mandala art the size of one and a half football pitches in length created by artist James Brunt with materials such as leaves and rocks.

What is Mandala Art?

- A mandala art is defined by a geometric structure that typically includes the circular shape in some way. The word "mandala" literally translates to "circle" or "centre" in Sanskrit.
- A centuries-old design used to represent the cosmos, mandala patterns have been altered by artists all around the world, who have each contributed their own interpretation and painted them as their own.
- A mandala pattern is basically continuous, yet it can also be made into a square.

Its origin

- It is thought to have its roots in Buddhism and initially appeared in India in the first century BC.
- The Rig Veda in Hinduism is when the mandala imagery originally arose (1500 – 500 BCE).
- Buddhist missionaries who travelled the Silk Road in the following two centuries spread it to other areas.
- Mandalas were known in China, Tibet, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and China by the sixth century.

The meaning of the motif

- One is said to be directed through the cosmic process of remaking the universe by entering the mandala and progressing towards its centre.
- It shows the change from a state of pain to one of delight.
- The fundamental goal of a traditional Buddhist mandala, a circular drawing created with coloured sand to aid in meditation, is to help its creator find their actual selves.
- A mandala or yantra in Hinduism has a square shape with a circle in the middle.
- The mandala contains a number of components, each of which has a distinct meaning.
- For instance, the sun symbolises the universe, the lotus flower signifies balance, and the eight spokes of the wheel (the dharmachakra) represent the eightfold path of Buddhism.

- A nationwide searchable database of criminal and crime-related fingerprints is the goal of the project.
- The web-based tool collects fingerprint data from all states and Union Territories, acting as a central information repository.
- Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the nation to use NAFIS to identify a deceased individual in April of this year.

Utility of NAFIS

- It enables law enforcement agencies to upload, trace, and retrieve data from the database in real time on a 24x7 basis.
- It would help in the quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of a centralised fingerprint database.

How does it work?

- Each person detained for a crime is given a distinct 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) by NAFIS.
- Different offences reported under various FIRs will be linked to the same NFN using this distinctive ID, which will be utilised for the duration of the person's life.
- According to the 2020 forecast, the ID will include a sequence number after the first two digits of the state code in which the individual detained for a crime is registered.
- The much-needed individual identifier for each person arrested will be made available by NAFIS through the automation of fingerprint collecting, storage, and matching, as well as the digitization of fingerprint data records.
- Due of their backend connections, it will be included to the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems) database.

What is National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)?



The Union Home Minister has inaugurated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS).

What is NAFIS?

- The Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFPB) in New Delhi's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is responsible for developing NAFIS.

Since when has India relied on fingerprinting as a crime-fighting tool?

- Before it expanded to Europe and other parts of the world, a fingerprinting identification system first appeared in colonial India, where it was trialled.
- It was initially utilised for administrative rather than criminal purposes by British colonial administrators.
- In order to decrease fraud and forgeries, William Herschel, the head administrator of the Hooghly district of Bengal, began using fingerprinting in the late middle of the 19th century.
- Then, it sought to confirm that the right individual was approving mortgage bonds, signing land transfer paperwork, and getting government pensions.

Tomato Flu cases found in India



With cases of tomato flu reported from at least four states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Odisha — the Union Health Ministry has issued a set of guidelines on prevention, testing, and treatment of the infection.

Researchers believe that it is a different clinical presentation of hand-foot-and mouth disease (HFMD) caused by a group of enteroviruses (viruses transmitted through the intestine).

What is Tomato Flu?

- Fever, joint discomfort, and red, tomato-like rashes are the hallmarks of tomato flu or tomato fever, which typically affects children under the age of five.
- Along with this, viral fevers can also cause diarrhoea, dehydration, nausea, vomiting, and exhaustion.
- This was believed to be a side effect of the frequent Kerala diseases dengue and chikungunya.

Is it very uncommon?

- Tomato flu may not actually be a viral infection in children, but rather a complication of dengue or chikungunya fever.
- It might potentially be a brand-new strain of the contagious viral disease hand, foot, and mouth, which primarily affects children and adults with impaired immune systems.
- In our textbooks, we have read about HFMD, therefore it is not a brand-new infection. Occasionally, it is reported across the nation, but it is not very frequent.

Why is the infection spreading now?

- There are more cases, perhaps because they genuinely exist or because we are more cautious about viral infections and testing since Covid-19.
- Doctors don't frequently perform tests for the condition because it self-limits.
- Children can contract a variety of viral illnesses, but we are unable to test for each and every one of them, nor is it necessary to do so.

Is there a treatment for the infection?

- There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for the disease.
- Those with the infection are treated symptomatically, such as prescription of paracetamol for fever.

How can the infection be prevented?

- The Centre's advice focuses on prevention in these age groups because it mostly affects youngsters.
- According to the advice, anyone who exhibits symptoms of the infection should stay in isolation for five to seven days.
- It advises that kids should be warned about the infection and told to avoid hugging or touching kids who have fevers or rashes.
- According to the advise, parents should urge their kids to practise good hygiene, cease thumb or finger sucking, and use a handkerchief if they have a runny nose.

Artforms in news: Yakshagana dance



What is Yakshagana?

- In the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga, and the western portion of Chikmagalur in the state of Karnataka, as well as in Kasaragod district in the state of Kerala, yakshagana is a traditional theatre.
- It first appeared during the Vijayanagara Empire, and Jakkula Varu was its performer.
- It has a distinct style and form and mixes dance, music, speech, outfits, make-up, and stagecraft.
- The form of Yakshagana is known as "Thenku Thittu" in the south, from Dakshina Kannada to

Kasaragod in the Tulu Nadu region, and as "Badaga Thittu" in the north, from Udupi up to Uttara Kannada.

- It is also known as "Aata" or "the drama," respectively. Traditionally, yakshagana is performed from twilight to dawn.

Q. Which of the statements given above is/are correct with reference to Manipuri Sankirtana :

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Fruit Fly: Novel method to study Nuclear Matrix

Packaging of the genome

Different cell types have different functions, and in each the genome is packaged differently

- The usual way to study the nuclear matrix is to take the nucleus out and remove the DNA biochemically

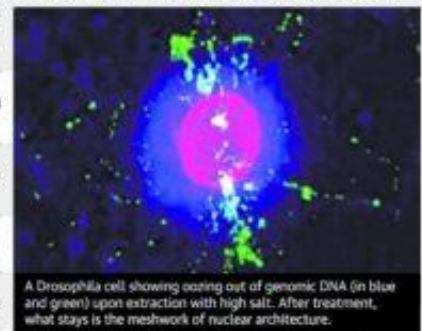
- The nuclear matrix that is left is analogous to a building from which all movables have been sucked out

- The new method treats the nuclei within the embryo itself, known as in situ nuclear matrix preparation

- The researchers collect embryos which are between zero and 16 hours old

- Next is the in situ nuclear matrix preparation using this entire collection of embryos

- Some are in very early developmental stages and made up of nuclei only, or just making a mono layer of nuclei across the embryos or have gone through differentiation



A Drosophila cell showing coming out of genomic DNA (in blue and green) upon extraction with high salt. After treatment, what stays is the meshwork of nuclear architecture.

- On imaging them, the entire array is made available in one single preparation

- This allows the study of the mitotic waves, stages of cell cycle, early dividing embryos

or late embryogenesis

- This opens the field of Drosophila genetics to study nuclear architecture using genetic and cell biology approaches

Now, using a novel method, Indian researchers have established a way of studying the nuclear matrix of the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) without removing the nucleus from the embryo.

Nuclear Matrix of fruit flies

- A copy of an organism's genome can be found in each cell that makes up the body.

- Through the assistance of a structure known as the nuclear matrix, this genome is packaged in unique ways.
- The nuclear matrix gives the nucleus structure and organisation.
- The nuclear matrix of fruit flies, for example, is a well-known structure that has been researched for many years, mostly by isolating it in nuclei that have been removed from fruit fly embryos.
- This advances fruit fly genetics by enabling the comparison of the nuclear matrix in various embryonic cells.
- The journals Nucleus and Molecular and Cell Proteomics have both published two of the most recent studies on this research.

- After that, it is rinsed with a high-salt solution to get rid of any remaining live DNA proteins or protein-protein interactions.
- The nuclear matrix, a fibrous network of proteins, is what is left after that.

Why study them?

- Therefore, it is crucial to study the nuclear matrix in order to have a better understanding of the precise development that takes place each time a new person is born.
- The 220 various cell types that make up our body all have the same genome.
- The same genomic sequence is found in neurons, where it is involved in thinking, the liver, where it is involved in metabolism, and the intestine, where it is involved in digestion.
- Therefore, this information is presented in various ways in various cell types.

What exactly is Nuclear Matrix?

- The nuclear matrix resembles a framework.
- If the nucleus is removed and treated with an enzyme that breaks down all the DNA, this can be done biochemically.

Trivia

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign



The Centre is set to launch a large-scale campaign to encourage Indians to fly the National Flag at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

Also, August 2 marks 146th birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, the designer of Pingali Venkayya.

Har Ghar Tiranga

- A campaign called "Har Ghar Tiranga" is being run by Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to get people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence.
- Between August 13 and August 15, the campaign wants to see residents raise the American flag in their residences.

Why such move?

- We've always had a more official, institutionalised relationship with the flag than a personal one.

- In the 75th year of independence, bringing the flag home as a nation becomes a symbolic act of individual connection to the Tiranga.
- The purpose of the campaign is to instil a sense of patriotism in the public and to raise awareness of the National Flag.

Story of our National Flag

- The Constituent Assembly established our national flag on July 22, 1947.
- The flag that was ultimately selected underwent numerous modifications since it was first created by Pingali Venkayya in 1923.
- In addition to designing the flag, Venkayya fought for freedom.
- He was referred to as Jhanda Venkayya since he wrote a book in 1916 that included 30 flag designs for India.
- His 146th birthday is on August 2, and thanks to this, more Americans will be aware of his role in creating the flag we use today.

How this was made possible?

- First, the Flag Code was modified to improve access to the flag and provide every Indian with the rare opportunity to fly it at home.
- The administration has since implemented a number of measures to guarantee the availability of flags around the nation.
- All of the nation's post offices now sell flags.
- For the purpose of supplying flags, state administrations have partnered with a number of partners.
- The flag will be offered on the GEM (Government E-Marketplace) portal, on e-commerce sites, and with a number of self-help organisations (SHGs).

What is the Flag Code of India?

- A system of rules, customs, and guidelines known as the Flag Code of India govern how the Indian flag should be flown.
- The "Flag Code-India" that had previously been in place was replaced by the Code, which went into force on January 26, 2002.
- In keeping with the honour and dignity of the flag, it allows for the tricolor's unrestrained display.

The Flag Code of India has been divided into three parts:-

- **First Part:** General Description of the National Flag.
- **Second Part:** Display of the National Flag by members of public, private Organisations & educational institutions etc.
- **Third Part:** Display of National Flag by Union or State Governments and their organisations and agencies.

Over 59 lakh cases pending in High Courts: Law Minister

CASES PENDING IN HIGH COURTS		ALL INDIA: 59,57,454	
High Court	Pending cases*	High Court	Pending cases*
Allahabad	10,26,417	Telangana	2,58,932
Rajasthan	6,05,215	Patna	2,20,403
Bombay	5,92,583	Andhra Pradesh	2,35,482
Madras	5,63,595	Calcutta	2,15,859
Punjab & Haryana	4,50,527	Odisha	1,85,567
Madhya Pradesh	4,17,003	Gujarat	1,58,512
Karnataka	2,96,965	Delhi	1,05,814

*As of July 22, 2022

Over 59 lakh cases were pending in the High Courts until July 22, Law Minister said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

What else?

- There are serving women judges in various courts, including 4 in the Supreme Court and 96 in the High Courts, as of July 25.

Indian Judiciary: A Backgrounder

- The nation's moral conscience has been upheld by our judicial system.
- It confronts political authority with the truth, defends citizen rights, settles disputes between Center-states, delivers justice to both the rich and the poor, and on a number of crucial instances, it has even preserved democracy itself.
- Despite its successes, a disconnect between the ideal and reality has been apparent over time.
- The administration of justice is slow, judicial appointments are fraught with controversy, disciplinary procedures are rarely effective, hierarchy over talent is valued, women are disproportionately underrepresented, and constitutional cases can drag on for years at the Supreme Court.
- In order for the courts to be preserved, as Justice Chelameswar stated in his dissent from the NJAC ruling, they must reform.

Challenges to the judicial system

- Lack of infrastructure of courts
- High vacancy of judges in the district judiciary
- Pendency of Cases
- Ineffective planning in the functioning of the courts
- Delay in the delivery of judgements
- Lack of transparency in appointments and transfers.
- Corruption
- Undertrials serving Jail
- Outdated laws ex. Section 124A IPC

What led to the underperformance of the Indian Judiciary?

The primary factors contributing to docket explosion and arrears as highlighted by the Justice Malimath Committee report are as follows:

- Population explosion
- Litigation explosion
- Hasty and imperfect drafting of legislation
- Plurality and accumulation of appeals (Multiple appeals for the same issue)
- Inadequacy of judge strength
- Failure to provide adequate forums of appeal against quasi-judicial orders
- Lack of priority for disposal of old cases (due to the improper constitution of benches)

Recent developments:

Proposal for the creation of National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC)

- To build judicial infrastructure in trial courts, the CJI has proposed creating a National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC).
- He pointed out that the lower judiciary had a substantial infrastructure and amenity gap.
- Trial courts frequently lack courtrooms, lodging, and waiting places for litigants, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas.
- Experience has shown that funding for the state courts frequently runs out since there is no independent entity to oversee and carry out such tasks.
- NJIC is anticipated to fill this gap and address infrastructure-related issue.



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