

Monthly Current Affairs

JULY – 2022



**Shankar
School of
Banking**

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Tamil Nadu.**

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NATIONAL NEWS

'RAMP' Scheme

- ★ On 30 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme with an outlay of around ₹6,000 crore.
- ★ The scheme aims to scale up implementation capacity and coverage of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the states, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.
- ★ PM Modi launched the scheme at the 'Udyami Bharat' programme at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ★ MSME sector accounts for almost one third of India's economy. The role of MSME is very significant for India's exports to increase.

MHI Sign MoU with MSDE

- ★ The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a collaborative ecosystem for imparting skill development training in the capital goods sector.
- ★ The partnership is aimed at facilitating training in several engineering trades through Qualification Packs (QPs) developed by MHI-related Sector Skill Councils under the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector Phase II.
- ★ Under this initiative, MHI shall provide 100% funding support to MHI Sector Skill Councils.
- ★ MHI shall provide linkage between Industry associations and SSCs for imparting skilling to more than 70,000 individuals over a period of three years.

World's Largest Innovation Centre

- ★ The Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrashekhar Rao inaugurated the Phase-2 of T-Hub (Technology Hub) in Hyderabad, Largest Innovation Centre.
- ★ The facility will support over 2,000 startups under one roof making it the world's largest innovation campus.
- ★ T-Hub will provide young Indians to launch their startups with a collaborative innovation ecosystem.
- ★ The first T-Hub was launched in 2015 on the campus of IIT-Hyderabad, under the name of Catalyst.
- ★ The startup ecosystem in Telangana was ranked among top 10 global ecosystems in affordable talent and among top 15 in Asia in terms of attracting funds.

Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator

- ★ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the Maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from the Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga in Karnataka.
- ★ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment in Bengaluru.
- ★ The aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, waypoint navigation and a smooth touchdown. This aircraft is powered by a small turbofan engine.
- ★ It is a major achievement toward autonomous aircraft and will pave the way for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in terms of critical military systems.

India's Largest Floating Solar Project

- ★ NTPC has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project.
- ★ NTPC Ltd has declared the Commercial Operations Date (COD) of the last part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project in Telangana.
- ★ Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project is India's largest Floating Solar Plant commissioned by NTPC.
- ★ With the successful commissioning of the last part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana is declared on Commercial Operation with effect from 01 July 2022.
- ★ With the addition of 42.5MW, the total commercially operational power generation capacity of Ramagundam floating solar project had reached 80 MW in March.
- ★ Now the last 20 MW of the capacity has been commissioned by the state-run power major.
- ★ According to the ministry, the total installed capacity of NTPC is 69,134.20 MW having 23 coal based, seven gas based, one Hydro, 19 renewable energy projects.

UP Government to Issue Family Cards

- ★ In a major step towards eradicate unemployment in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government is going to issue cards to each and every family.
- ★ With the help of Family cards, the government will identify the families who do not have any government job or any kind of employment.
- ★ The government will try to provide job, employment or self-employment to at least one member of such families.
- ★ Distributing a loan of 16 thousand crore rupees to 1.90 lakh artisans and small entrepreneurs in a function held in Lucknow, the Chief Minister Yogi announced that the government is with an action plan to connect one person from every family with a job, employment or self-employment.

‘EV Mitra’ Mobile App

- ★ The Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCO has developed EV Mitra mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in Bengaluru.
- ★ The user-friendly app can be used by electric vehicle users to book in advance a slot in the station.
- ★ BESCO had earlier introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal as a joint initiative of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom.
- ★ The web portal gives state specific information on the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support mechanisms and initiatives of the state government regarding electric mobility.
- ★ BESCO has started 136 charging stations in Bengaluru and another 152 such stations will be started soon. Under the Public Private Partnership model, tenders have been invited to establish 1000 charging stations across the state.

Digital India Week 2022

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 in Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- ★ During the programme, he will launch multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living and giving a boost to startups.
- ★ The theme for Digital India Week is ‘Catalyzing New India’s Techade’.
- ★ Mr Modi will launch ‘Digital India Bhashini’ which will enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help the creation of content in Indian languages.
- ★ Prime Minister will also launch ‘Digital India GENESIS’ - a National Deep-tech Startup Platform, to discover, support, grow and make successful startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities of India with an outlay of 750 crore rupees.

AAI and Government of Uttar Pradesh

- ★ Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an Operation & Management agreement for operationalization of five airports owned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for a period of 30 years.
- ★ These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Muirpur and Shravasti.
- ★ As per the agreement, AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services.
- ★ Communication Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) services will also be provided by AAI, for which State Government will enter into a separate agreement.

MSDE Launches DBT Scheme

- ★ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced that National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will be a part of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme, providing direct government benefits to all apprentices.

- ★ With the launch of the DBT scheme, the government will directly transfer its contribution to bank accounts of apprentices through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), 25% of the stipend payable up to ₹1500 per month.
- ★ National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched on August 19, 2016, to promote apprenticeship training in the country and to provide financial support to establishments undertaking apprenticeship.

Rajasthan Signs MoU with NTPC

- ★ NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Rajasthan for the development of a 10 GW (10,000 MW) Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park (UMREPP) in Rajasthan.
- ★ The company has set a target of 60 GW of Renewable energy capacity by 2032.
- ★ Besides, NTPC REL is developing a UMREPP of 4.75 GW capacity in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ★ The total installed capacity of NTPC is 69,134 MW including 23 coal-based, seven gas-based, one Hydro and 19 renewable energy projects.
- ★ Under the joint venture, NTPC has nine coal-based, four gas-based, eight hydro and five renewable energy projects.

Journalist Welfare Scheme

- ★ The Central Government has approved a proposal of the Journalist Welfare Scheme Committee to provide financial relief to the families of 35 journalists who have lost their lives.
- ★ The Journalist Welfare Scheme, JWS Committee headed by Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Apurva Chandra also recommended assistance to two journalists suffering from permanent disability and to five journalists for their medical treatment of major ailments as per the JWS guidelines.
- ★ The families will be provided with the assistance of up to five lakh rupees.
- ★ The committee approved total assistance of one crore and 81 lakh rupees during the meeting.

'Naari Ko Naman' Scheme

- ★ The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur launched Naari Ko Naman's scheme at the Government College Auditorium in Dharamshala in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ★ It aims to provide 50 percent concession to the women passengers in fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses.
- ★ Also, the government will sanction 25 new posts of women drivers in the 'Ride with Pride' government taxi service, an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens.
- ★ Seema Thakur is the first female driver in Himachal Pradesh.

National Conference on Food and Nutrition Security

- ★ The Department of Food and Public Distribution will organize a National Conference on - Food and Nutrition Security in India in New Delhi.
- ★ The conference is aimed at facilitating cross learning, disseminating best practices for schemes under Public Distribution System and strengthening the focus on nutritional security.
- ★ The key highlights of the conference will include the discussion on the Food Fortification, Diversification of Food basket, Crop Diversification, Reforms in PDS and Storage sector.
- ★ Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal will address the one-day conference.

NINL Ownership Handed Over to Tata Group

- ★ Finance Minister announced that the privatisation of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) was completed on 04 July 2022.
- ★ It was handed over to Tata Group firm TSLP.
- ★ NINL is the second successful privatisation by the current government.
- ★ Tata Steel Long Products (TSLP) emerged as the winning bidder, putting in bids worth ₹12,100 crore for loss-making NINL.
- ★ MMTC was the largest shareholder in NINL holding 49.78 per cent stake, NMDC (10.10 per cent), BHEL (0.68 per cent), and MECON (0.68 per cent). Besides, 2 Odisha government PSUs held 20.47 per cent and 12 per cent respectively, in NINL.
- ★ NINL Strategic Disinvestment transaction has been completed today with the transfer of 93.71 per cent shares of the joint venture partners to the Strategic Buyer.

Greenko Partners with IIT Hyderabad

- ★ Renewable energy major Greenko and IIT Hyderabad have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to launch India's first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology.
- ★ 'Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology' (GSSST) aims to plug the rising research, education, and skills gaps caused by the imperatives of sustainable development.
- ★ The school will be advancing knowledge in the areas of climate change mitigation, artificial intelligence and space technology, energy transition and industrial transformation, circular and regenerative economy among others.
- ★ GSSST will open towards the end 2022 and by June 2023, it will include students for MTech and Ph.D. in sustainable science and technology.

Indian Naval Ships to Visit Singapore

- ★ As part of the deployment to South East Asia, Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kadmatt under the Command of Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, visited Singapore from 01 July to 03 July, 2022.
- ★ INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built multi-role stealth Frigate and INS Kadmatt is an indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette.

- ★ During the visit, the Indian crew participated in professional interactions with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) towards enhancing mutual cooperation and interoperability.

India's First Autonomous Navigation Facility

- ★ Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology inaugurated India's first Autonomous Navigation facility, TiHAN at the IIT Hyderabad campus.
- ★ TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation) is a multidisciplinary initiative that will make India a global player in 'smart mobility' technology.
- ★ It was developed at a budget of ₹130 crores by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ★ TiHAN Testbed will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level.

India Extends Deadline for Duty Free Cotton Imports

- ★ India has extended the deadline for duty free cotton imports from earlier announced September 30 till October 31.
- ★ The government has extended the deadline as the sowing of the fibre crop delayed in some regions due to patchy monsoon rainfall.
- ★ India, which is the world's biggest cotton producer had allowed duty free imports in April after local prices went up to a record high due to drop in production and rally in global prices.
- ★ India mainly imports cotton from the United States, Egypt and Brazil.

MyGov Gujarat

- ★ MyGov, the world's largest citizen engagement platform was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ★ On 06 July 2022, MyGov Gujarat- the 18th MyGov state instance has been launched.
- ★ **The citizen centric platform has been launched with 4 key objectives:**
 - Discussion Forum on Saving rainwater and sharing water saving tips.
 - Discussion Forum on Ease of Living through e-Governance.
 - Poll on Swachhtha Abhiyaan.
 - Blogs on Digital Seva Setu.
- ★ It is the idea of bringing the Government closer to the common man. MyGov has evolved into a platform that allows citizens to contribute ideas and suggestions and make participative governance a reality.

Western Railway Opened Its Longest Skywalk

- ★ The Western Railway's (WR) longest skywalk from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus has been opened for the passengers to reach the platforms to board trains easily.
- ★ The skywalk measures 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide.

- ★ The platform connecting the two stations is also connected to the other platforms of Bandra Terminus Station.
- ★ The construction of the skywalk was carried out at a cost of around ₹14 crore.
- ★ The skywalk will help connect the various foot over bridges (FOBs) of the railway station of the Bandra Terminus.

PM Modi to Unveil Statue in Andhra Pradesh

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju celebrating his 125th birth anniversary.
- ★ The statue was installed in the Municipal Park at ASR Nagar in Bhimavaram, commemorating with Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence.
- ★ Alluri Sitarama Raju, popularly known as 'Manyam Veerdu' led the attack on British forces.

Indian Air Force Father-Daughter to Create History

- ★ Indian Air Force fighter pilots Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and Flying Officer Ananya Sharma have created history by becoming the first father and daughter in the IAF to fly together on a sortie.
- ★ They flew in a formation of British-origin Hawk-132 advanced jet trainers in Karnataka.
- ★ Air Commodore Sharma has commanded a Mig-21 Squadron and frontline fighter station.

Google Launched Startup School India

- ★ Google launched the 'Startup School India' initiative which aims to gather relevant information on startup building into a systematic curriculum to help 10,000 startups in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ★ It also aims to organize accumulated knowledge into a structured curriculum to enable startups in small cities to overcome various challenges.
- ★ It will be a nine-week virtual programme and will involve chats between Google leaders and collaborators from across the startup ecosystem.
- ★ Topics covered will include fintech, language, social media and networking, job search and business-to-business and business-to-consumer e-commerce.

Remote Pilot Training Centre

- ★ Rashtriya Raksha University at Gandhinagar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Private Limited.
- ★ They signed MoU for setting up a Remote Pilot Training Centre for imparting drone flying skills in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ★ This training will be imparted to the Police and security force personnel and citizens at RRU Campus near Gandhinagar.
- ★ It will be set up under the Public-Private Partnership model.

- ★ The training is primarily designed for personnel of Armed Forces, Paramilitary and Police Force, but also offers programmes for citizens willing to acquire the skill.

Tamil Nadu Government Partners with IGSS Ventures

- ★ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd to construct a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park.
- ★ It would be constructed with an investment of 2560 crores rupees.
- ★ The project is anticipated to directly employ more than 5,000 people over the next five years.
- ★ IGSS Ventures will contribute to Project Surya and the India Semiconductor Mission, both of which aim to reduce air pollution and global warming, by cooking with renewable energy.

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi on implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- ★ It was organized by the Ministry of Education in association with University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University from 07 July to 09 July 2022.
- ★ Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam provides a platform to discuss NEP 2020.
- ★ It will provide a platform for academicians and policy makers to share their experiences and discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of the NEP 2020.

Chhattisgarh Government Approves Electric Vehicle policy

- ★ Bhupesh Baghel cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Electric Vehicle (EV) policy in 2022 to help boost EV adoption in the state.
- ★ The aim of this policy is to create a robust charging infrastructure, ease the conversion of existing vehicles into hybrid or electric models and incentivize manufacturing.
- ★ This announcement makes Chhattisgarh the 21st state in the country to announce its EV policy.
- ★ The government has set a target of five years to have a minimum of 15 per cent of new registrations with the rapid adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles—individual use or commercial purpose as EVs till 2027.

Nokia Partners with IISc

- ★ Nokia announced a collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in order to facilitate research in the areas of networked robotics.
- ★ The research lab will promote inter-disciplinary research involving robotics and advanced communication technologies in 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ★ The CoE will also develop research across industrial automation, agriculture and disaster management.

CBSE Launches Pariksha Sangam portal

- ★ The CBSE Board has created a website named “Pariksha Sangam” to consolidate board examination results, sample papers, and other information in a single window.
- ★ The recently developed Pariksha Sangam portal would unify numerous examination-related operations to be carried out by the school’s regional offices and the Headquarters of the CBSE Board.
- ★ The Pariksha Sangam is split into three primary sections: the head office (Ganga), regional offices, and schools (Saraswati).
- ★ All of the operations linked to the CBSE Board Result 2022 for classes 10th and 12th will be streamlined through the Pariksha Sangam platform.

8th Meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers

- ★ The 8th Meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers was held in virtual mode under the presidency of China.
- ★ Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, participated in the meeting and highlighted achievements of India in the field of ICT.
- ★ He also underlined the reforms undertaken by Government in Telecom sector.
- ★ The Ministers decided to work in the field of ICTs in areas identified at the 14th BRICS Summit held on 23-24 June 2022.

India’s First Right-To-Health Bill in 2022

- ★ The Rajasthan government will introduce the Right to Health Bill, the first of its kind in India in the Rajasthan Assembly.
- ★ It aims to provide quality and affordable health care services by government and private healthcare providers.
- ★ Rajasthan has ensured the health and security of every family by providing free treatment up to ₹10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- ★ Along with this, accident insurance of up to ₹5 lakh is being given to the families registered in the scheme.
- ★ Recently, the chief minister approved ₹117 crore for the expansion of the facilities in Mahila Chikitsalaya (women’s hospital) at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Natural Farming Conclave at Surat

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a Natural Farming Conclave held at Surat in Gujarat virtually.
- ★ Guided by this vision of the Prime Minister as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Surat District undertook a concerted and coordinated effort to sensitize and motivate different stakeholders and institutions like farmer groups, elected representatives, Cooperatives and Banks to help farmers in adoption of Natural Farming.

- ★ Consequently, at least 75 farmers were identified in each Gram Panchayat and were motivated and trained to undertake Natural Farming.
- ★ The farmers were trained in 90 different clusters resulting in training of more than 41 thousand farmers across the district.

Mission Kushal Karmi Program

- ★ Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia launched Mission Kushal Karmi for upskilling the construction workers in the city in collaboration with Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.
- ★ It is to provide on-the-job skill development training to over 2 lakh registered construction workers in industry demand-driven job roles in the construction sector in a year.
- ★ Under these 15 days special training program, workers will undergo upskilling which will boost their incomes in the future.
- ★ The program will be conducted by the DSEU along with Simplex, the National real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), and India Vision Foundation.

Agreement to Ease Travel for Tourists

- ★ The governments of West Bengal and Sikkim have signed an agreement to help tourists travel between the two neighbouring states with ease in a bid to boost tourism.
- ★ The agreement will allow West Bengal-registered commercial vehicles to drop tourists at their hotels in different destinations of Sikkim.
- ★ There were restrictions on West Bengal-registered vehicles in the Himalayan state.
- ★ With the signing of the agreement, these restrictions would be lifted.
- ★ The agreement was signed between West Bengal transport minister Firhad Hakim and Sikkim tourism minister Sanjit Kharel.
- ★ The agreement will strengthen the relations between the two neighbouring states.

First-Ever AI Exhibition

- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will launch India's first-ever 'Artificial Intelligence in Defence' (AIDef) symposium.
- ★ The exhibition was organised by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.
- ★ The Artificial Intelligence in Defence (AIDef) symposium will feature an exhibition to showcase the cutting-edge AI-enabled solutions developed by the services, research organisations, Industry and start-ups and innovators and the launch of AI products for the market.
- ★ 75 newly developed AI products and technologies, having applications in defence, will be launched during the event.

India's first-ever Animal Health Summit

- ★ The first India Animal Health Summit 2022 was hosted at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.

- ★ The main objective of the summit is to understand the importance of animal health to the country's food and nutrition security, rural income and prosperity and overall economic growth.
- ★ The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Group are hosting the India Animal Health Summit 2022.
- ★ Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying urged for wider usage of Ayurveda to ensure better animal health at the First India Animal Health Summit 2022.
- ★ The two-day event will feature a wide variety of panel talks on subjects including the Business environment and investment prospects in the Animal Health industry and Animal Health policy initiatives.

Centre of Excellence in AI Launched in India

- ★ The Minister of Electronics and Information Technology has inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI). The centre was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ★ The IAF Centre of Excellence for AI under the aegis of UDAAN was inaugurated at Air Force Station Rajokri, New Delhi.
- ★ It will handle all aspects of analytics, machine learning, natural language processing, neural networks and deep learning algorithms.
- ★ New technologies have the potential to transform societies and facilitate transparency and efficient governance.
- ★ The CoE in AI has been established to improve the quality of services and their delivery to Indian citizens.

Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture

- ★ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver the first Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture (AJML) at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi
- ★ He will also address the crowd at various points during the event.
- ★ The opening keynote address of the first AJML will be delivered by Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore, on the theme "Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth".
- ★ Arvind Panagariya and OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann will take part in a panel discussion following the presentation (Professor, Columbia University).
- ★ The inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture was given in recognition of the former union minister's tremendous services to the nation.

Declaration Of Intent to Combat Human Trafficking

- ★ Women and Child welfare representatives from 6 Indian states Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons.

- ★ The first-of-its-kind agreement focuses on joint efforts on intelligence gathering and sharing legal and witness protection and rehabilitation and care for survivors.
- ★ The declaration will be called the 'Hyderabad Declaration'.
- ★ The two-day Southern Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking was hosted by the Telangana Government in collaboration with the nonprofits Prajwala and Shakti Vahini concluded with the signing of this declaration.
- ★ The US Consulates General in Hyderabad and Kolkata supported the conference.

PM Modi Unveils Development Projects in Deoghar

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various developmental projects worth 16,800 crores rupees in Deoghar.
- ★ He also inaugurated Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand on 12 July 2022. Jharkhand is getting its second airport.
- ★ It has been constructed at cost of ₹401 crore.
- ★ He also inaugurated the revamped Baba Baidyanathdham temple area under PRASAD scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

Dwarka Expressway to Be First Elevated Highway in India

- ★ Dwarka Expressway is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India.
- ★ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that Dwarka Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana will be operational in 2023.
- ★ It is being developed at a total cost of ₹9,000 crore and is a 16-lane access-controlled highway with the provision of a three-lane service road on both sides.
- ★ Dwarka Expressway is India's first elevated urban expressway. It also includes India's longest and widest urban road tunnel.

IS4OM for Safe and Sustainable Space Environment

- ★ In the presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization Mr. Somanath launched the IS4OM.
- ★ According to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), the IS4OM system was built with a complete approach to ensure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the advantages of sustainable use of space for national development.
- ★ India has improved its capacity to safeguard its space assets independently with the aid of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM).

'Earn with Learn' for Dropout Students

- ★ The Tripura government has launched a new scheme, 'Earn with Learn' as part of the Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan (Let's go to school) to bring back those who had dropped out of schools following the outbreak of Covid-19.

- ★ The government would pay ₹500 per admission to each college student as an honorarium for identifying and bringing back such dropouts to school again and an estimated 10,000 volunteers would be required to implement the scheme.
- ★ The third-year college students who are interested in voluntarily taking part in the survey may register their names in their respective colleges.

Department Of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare and IRRI

- ★ A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare (DA&FW) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) today on commencement of Phase -2 activities of IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC).
- ★ It is to scale up the existing partnership for food and nutrition security in the South Asian region.
- ★ ISARC also set up a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) that includes a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw.
- ★ This plays a crucial role in transferring important traits to popular Indian rice varieties in a shorter time.

The Longest Double-Decker Bridge in Nagpur

- ★ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Maharashtra Metro built the longest double-decker viaduct in the world, measuring 3.14 km in Nagpur.
- ★ The longest viaduct with a flyover for a roadway and piers supporting a single column for a metro line.
- ★ The Asia Book of Records and the India Book of Records both list the number of metro stations that have been built on double-decker viaducts.

Adani Group Gets LoI for 5G Services

- ★ The Adani group has secured a letter of intent (LoI) from the department of communications (DoT) to provide telecom services in the Gujarat circle.
- ★ The Unified license will allow the group to provide long-distance call and internet facilities in Gujarat circle.
- ★ In July, Adani Sportsline, the sports arm of the Adani group inked a long-term sponsorship deal with Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ★ The company has already stated to participate in the 5G spectrum auctions on July 26 to build a private network for its data usage.

E-NAM Platform to Promote Agricultural Trade

- ★ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare organized a two-day National Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers in Bengaluru.
- ★ This conference will focus on farmers' accessibility digitally to multiple numbers of markets, buyers and service providers and to bring transparency in trade transactions.

- ★ The technical session will cover nine thematic areas includes Digital Agriculture, Pradhanmantri Fasal Bhima Yojan, Natural Farming, FPO, e-NAM, Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, National Food Security Mission, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and New Technology by ICAR.
- ★ With the introduction of Platform of Platforms farmers will be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders.

India's NSCS Hosts Meeting of BIMSTEC

- ★ The National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India organized a two- day Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation on 14 July and 15 July 2022, in New Delhi.
- ★ The Meeting is based on the agreement made during the meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs held at Bangkok in March 2019.
- ★ During the meeting, the BIMSTEC Expert Group will formulate an Action plan to deal with Cyber Security challenges in the BIMSTEC Region.
- ★ It is being chaired by the National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt General Rajesh Pant.

Uttarakhand Becomes the First State to Implement NEP

- ★ Uttarakhand became the first state in India to initiate the process of implementing the Center's New Education Policy at the pre-primary level.
- ★ The Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendra to strengthen the pre-primary education system across Uttarakhand.
- ★ The implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country focusing on the overall personality development of students.
- ★ It offers children an opportunity to pursue choice-based education.
- ★ By 2030, the New Education Policy will be fully implemented in Uttarakhand.

India's First Monkeypox Reported in Kerala

- ★ India reported its first monkeypox case in Kerala after a traveller from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) tested positive for the virus.
- ★ His samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune which confirmed the disease by 14 July.
- ★ Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox.

RIL Partners With AFI

- ★ The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced a long-term partnership with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
- ★ The partnership aims to discover, nurture and develop Indian athletes from across the country and provide them with world-class facilities, coaching and sports science and medicine support by leveraging the Reliance Foundation ecosystem.

- ★ The Reliance Foundation ecosystem includes the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Center and Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital.
- ★ This partnership will have a special focus on girl athletes and aim to bridge the gender divide and enable them to achieve their dreams.

APSI Sushruta Film Festival

- ★ Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of AIIMS, Delhi in collaboration with Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSI) will organize 'APSI Sushruta Film Festival' (ASFF 2022) to observe 12th National Plastic Surgery Day on 15 July.
- ★ The film festival is organized on the theme of Changing lives with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.
- ★ The festival will help in changing the public perception of plastic surgery and its various domains and to promote the best works done by plastic surgeons across the country.

India's First E-Waste Eco-Park

- ★ India's first e-waste Eco- Park is set to be developed in Holambi Kalan in Delhi.
- ★ The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) is the implementing agency for the project.
- ★ A 11-member steering committee has been formed for the construction of the park in an area of about 21 acres.
- ★ Every year the capital city produces over two lakh tonnes of e-waste, which is about 9.5 percent of the total amount produced in India.
- ★ Delhi is now the fifth-largest producer of e-waste in India. However, only 5 per cent of the generated e-waste is properly recycled.

Cabinet Approves Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road

- ★ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs CCEA today approved Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road new rail line in Gujarat and Rajasthan to provide connectivity and improve mobility.
- ★ The rail line is constructed by the Ministry of Railways at an estimated cost of ₹2798.16 crore and will be completed by 2026-27.
- ★ The total length of the new rail line will be over 116 kilometres.
- ★ The rail line will increase connectivity to Ambaji Shaktipeeth and Ajitnath Jain Temple.
- ★ The new railway route will benefit the people of Rajasthan and Gujarat in many ways as it will create speedy transportation of agricultural and local products.

Cultural and Tourism capital of SCO

- ★ Varanasi will be the first city in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) region to be granted the rotating title of 'Cultural & Tourism capital of SCO' during India's SCO Presidency from September 2022 to September 2023.
- ★ India will take over as SCO chair from Uzbekistan at the Samarkand summit in September 2022.

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed many initiatives of culture for SCO including SCO Food Festival and SCO Film Festival.

STEMROBO Partners with AIC IIT Delhi

- ★ Edtech startup STEMROBO Technologies has partnered with AIC IIT Delhi.
- ★ It is to provide training in the latest cutting-edge technologies by announcing the launch of a Tech Entrepreneurship Program in association with AIC IIT Delhi for 8-18 years of age group.
- ★ Through the CIC (Consumer – Innovator – Creator) approach, this program is focused on embedding skills like Robotics, 3D printing, the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Coding and Blockchain.
- ★ This program will be a technology-based learning and entrepreneurship designed to assist students in turning their ideas and interests into profitable businesses.

Delhi Government Tie-up with UNICEF

- ★ The Delhi government has launched a new pilot initiative with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) which would give students of the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) access to employment prospects.
- ★ “Career Awareness Sessions” for students have been launched by DSEU and UNICEF.
- ★ Its goal is to increase the reach of young job seekers on the new generation of job portals.
- ★ Beginning on July 20, the pilot will operate at the Ambedkar DSEU Shakarpur-I campus.

INS Sindhudhvaj Decommissioned

- ★ The Navy’s Kilo-class submarine, INS Sindhudhvaj was decommissioned from service at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service.
- ★ Commissioned into the navy in 1987, Sindhudhvaj, was one of the 10 kilo-class submarines that India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000.
- ★ It was the only submarine to be awarded the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) rolling trophy for innovation by PM Modi.
- ★ With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.
- ★ Sindhudhvaj was the flag bearer of indigenisation and Indian Navy’s efforts towards achieving Atmanirbharta in the Russian built Sindhughosh class submarines throughout her journey in the navy.

First State to Have Its Own Internet Service

- ★ According to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala is the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service.
- ★ Kerala has now become the first state in India to have its own internet service, which is called the Kerala Fiber Optic Network.
- ★ It was announced when the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd received the Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Department of Telecommunications.

- ★ The KFON scheme is envisaged to provide free internet to BPL families and 30,000 government offices.

National Rail and Transportation Institute Upgraded

- ★ The National Rail and Transportation Institute has been transformed into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, becoming a major university.
- ★ The institution now goes by the name Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.
- ★ The Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is expected to play a crucial role in advancing the transportation industry, which is strategically important for India's economic development.
- ★ To assist the transport sector's ambitious expansion and modernization, the university's focus will be expanded beyond the railways to include the whole industry.

NTPC Ties up with Indian Oil

- ★ NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd signed an agreement for the formation of a joint venture (JV) company for meeting the power requirements of upcoming projects of Indian Oil refineries.
- ★ Indian Oil plans to meet the additional power requirement of its refineries using round-the-clock renewable energy to the tune of 650MW by December 2024 through this JV.
- ★ NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, will form the JV Company for supply of RE-RTC power to Indian Oil.
- ★ NGEL will be an umbrella company for consolidating NTPC's total renewable energy businesses.

NAMASTE scheme

- ★ Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore announced that the Government has formulated a National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank.
- ★ The scheme is a joint venture of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ★ It aims to achieve zero fatalities in sanitation work in India, no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.
- ★ This scheme will be rolled out from 16 August 2022 across the 500 cities in India.

'Mobile Electric Charging' App and 'Phy-gital'

- ★ Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane launched 'Repos Pay – a 'Mobile Electric Charging' platform and 'Phy-gital' - a Fintech Platform at 'Fuelling India 2022' event in Mumbai.
- ★ 'Repos Pay' is a platform where one can order a Mobile Electric Charging Vehicle on app and charge their vehicles. Repos Pay is an innovative financial platform that offers new ways for citizens to get involved in delivering clean energy to doorsteps.

- ★ 'Phy-gital' is a Fintech Platform that will bring credit to fuel consumers (Buy Now Pay Later) through Technology. The energy fintech platform will facilitate fuel on credit solution for bulk consumers.

UIDAI Launched 'AadhaarFaceRd'

- ★ A new smartphone app named "AadhaarFaceRd" was launched by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It contains a facial authentication function.
- ★ Aadhaar card users are no longer required to physically attend an enrollment center to get their iris and fingerprints scanned for authentication.
- ★ The UIDAI has begun employing facial authentication to verify an Aadhaar holder's identity.
- ★ Downloading the UIDAI RApp, which can be used for different Aadhaar Authentication Apps including Jeevan Praman, PDS, Scholarship programs, COWIN, and Farmer Welfare schemes, allows residents to access the Aadhaar Face Authentication function.
- ★ Technology for Aadhaar Face Authentication was created internally by UIDAI.

First 100% Landlord Major Port of India

- ★ Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model.
- ★ JNP is one of the leading container ports of the country and is ranked 26th among the top 100 global ports as per Lloyds List top 100 Ports 2021 report.
- ★ Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced this project will improve the utilization in crane and berth productivity of the terminal.
- ★ The total handling of JNPT will increase to 1.8 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from the present handling capacity of 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21.

Centre Forms Committee on MSP

- ★ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced that a committee has been constituted to make Minimum support price (MSP) more effective and transparent for the farmers.
- ★ The committee will also aim to promote changing crop patterns and Zero-budget based farming, considering the changing needs of the country.
- ★ Sanjay Agrawal, a former secretary for Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare, will be the chairman of the committee. Ramesh Chand, a member of the NITI Aayog and renowned Agricultural Economist will be a member of the committee.
- ★ The committee will consider Suggestion for programmes and schemes for value chain development, protocol validation and research for future needs and support for area expansion under the Indian Natural Farming System.

India's First Digital Lok Adalat

- ★ Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Uday Umesh Lalit launched India's First AI-powered end-to-end digital Lok Adalat in Rajasthan.

- ★ The AI-based Lok Adalat was launched during 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet. It was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ★ The digital Lok Adalat has been designed and developed by the technology partner Jupitice Justice Technologies of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RLSA 22).
- ★ The Digital Lok Adalat will help in disposing off the pending disputes or disputes which are at the pre-litigation stage.

Syngenta Launches Unique Biodiversity Sensor Project

- ★ Syngenta, a global agri-business major has launched a unique biodiversity sensor project to study the behavior of insects around farms, particularly bees and butterflies.
- ★ It claimed to be the first such project in India.
- ★ This project will monitor to identify and quantify insect life around farms to get real-time data on biodiversity through a sensor.
- ★ Syngenta has launched this project in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, Punjab (IIT-R).
- ★ The biodiversity monitoring will be done by a modem-like sensor that has cameras to capture real-time images of the bees and butterflies.

First State in Country to Connect VLTD Vehicles with ERSS

- ★ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- ★ These vehicles can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD.
- ★ More than 9,423 vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS. Now it will be monitored by both the police and the transport department.
- ★ Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally inaugurated the system at a program organized at Peterhof, in Shimla.
- ★ He also introduced the facility of panic button for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.
- ★ When the panic button is pressed, a signal would be received through satellite to 112 and the person in distress would be connected and alert the police.

Microsoft Introduces Workplace Social App

- ★ Microsoft (MSFT) introduces a new social workplace app named Viva Engage, a new app in Teams that helps build community and connection along with providing tools for personal expression.
- ★ Microsoft Viva Engage, part of the company's Viva employee collaboration platform features through which leaders can share news and insights, answer questions and facilitate two-way conversations.

- ★ It is built on the foundations of Yammer, Microsoft's existing enterprise social networking platform, Viva Engage is available through Microsoft Teams and Outlook as part of the company's Microsoft 365 software suite.

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to Resolve Old Border Dispute

- ★ According to the chief ministers of both states, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have taken a step toward settling their seven-decade-old boundary dispute by signing the Namsai Declaration.
- ★ Following their third round of discussions on the matter, the Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and his Assam colleague Himanta Biswa Sarma signed the declaration in Namsai.
- ★ The 804-km long shared border between the two states. Although there was initially no conflict, claims that citizens of one state were encroaching on the territory of the other have resulted in arguments and even violence.
- ★ There were 123 border settlements that were in contention earlier. They have now decided to limit that to 86 villages.
- ★ Additionally, they have decided to remedy the problem by 15 September 2022.

'Swanirbhar Naari' Scheme in Guwahati

- ★ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'Swanirbhar Naari' scheme in Guwahati, Assam.
- ★ The scheme is to empower indigenous weavers of the state and provide financial support to their families.
- ★ Under the Swanirbhar Naari scheme, the Assam government will procure handloom items directly from the weavers through specially-developed web portal.
- ★ The portal will reduce the gap between the weavers and the buyers in the state.
- ★ Altogether, 31 hand-woven textile items have been covered under the scheme belonging to various communities in the state.

National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions

- ★ Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched the national standards for civil service training institutions, aimed at elevating their quality and capacity.
- ★ With this India became the first country in the world to come out with a unique model to create standards for civil service training institutions at the national level.
- ★ "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions" (NSCSTI) was developed by Capacity Building Commission (CBC).
- ★ The minister also inaugurated a web portal and approach paper for the national standards, as part of the launch event in presence of over 103 participants consisting of 25 central training institutions, 33 state-level administrative training institutions and other civil service training institutions.

Flipkart Partners with Bihar

- ★ E-commerce marketplace Flipkart has inked a pact with the Bihar State Skill Development Mission (BSDM) to launch the initiatives of the Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) in Bihar.
- ★ The objective is to create a pool of skilled supply chain operations talent and impart relevant industry training and knowledge.
- ★ Flipkart has expanded “Supply Chain Operations Academy to accelerate skill building in Bihar for the e-commerce logistics sector
- ★ The program involves a 60-day skilling initiative, it entails 15 days of digital classroom training and 45 days of on-the-job apprenticeship at Flipkart supply chain facilities, for which the qualified candidates will be paid a stipend of ₹17,500.

India’s First 5G Private Network

- ★ At the Bosch Automotive Electronics facility in Bengaluru, Bharti Airtel successfully tested the country’s first 5G private network.
- ★ The trial takes place in the middle of a dispute between telecom and IT companies over the distribution of airwaves for private networks, ahead of a 5G spectrum auction.
- ★ Airtel developed two industrial-grade use cases at Bosch’s facilities for operational effectiveness and quality improvement using the government-allocated trial spectrum.
- ★ The firm stated in a statement that automated processes were driven by 5G technology including mobile broadband and ultra-reliable low-latency communications.
- ★ The quantity of wired IT infrastructure will be significantly reduced and operational efficiency will increase with the adoption of 5G.

NTPC Signs Statement of Intent with NITI Aayog

- ★ NTPC Ltd signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with NITI Aayog to develop the Net Zero GHG emissions Roadmap for NTPC.
- ★ The SoI seeks to formalize a framework of cooperation between the parties to facilitate NTPC to strategies on diversification of its generation mix to eventually reduce its carbon footprint and support India’s endeavor towards achieving net zero by 2070.
- ★ NTPC would be able to utilize the expertise of NITI Aayog’s energy team for the development of Net Zero GHG emissions Roadmap for NTPC to align with Government of India’s ‘Panchamrit’ goals.

COP 26 President and NITI Aayog

- ★ NITI Aayog today launched two significant initiatives — E-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India’s Transportation) mobile application to raise awareness on electric mobility and the Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India.
- ★ These are launched by COP 26 President Alok Sharma during his visit to India.
- ★ NITI Aayog has been collaborating with the UK Government in the areas of e-vehicles, charging infrastructure and battery storage.

- ★ India is the fifth largest and fastest growing vehicle market in the world, providing massive potential for electric vehicle uptake.

Scheme for Cashless Medical Benefit

- ★ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scheme to provide cashless medical facilities to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners and their dependents.
- ★ Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme, eligible people will get cashless medical facilities at government-run institutions, medical colleges and hospitals without any financial limit.
- ★ Cashless medical facilities up to ₹5 lakh will be available at hospitals empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- ★ A state health card will be provided for the state employee and pensioners.

Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021

- ★ Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the Tourism Policy 2021 for the state in New Delhi.
- ★ CM Soren also announced that National Geographic India has been roped in for an upcoming documentary series to boost the state's tourism sector.
- ★ Under the policy, the government would provide single window system, Capital investment subsidy at 20-25% up to a limit of ₹10 crore and reimbursement of 75% of net GST paid for a period of five years to the investors in state's tourism sector.

The First 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified District

- ★ Burhanpur also known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' in Madhya Pradesh becomes the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district in the country.
- ★ Burhanpur is the only district in the country where people from each of 254 villages have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' as all people in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps.
- ★ Only 37,241 rural households (36.54%) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections at the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August 2019.
- ★ Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) has been formed in all the 254 villages. VWSC is responsible for operation, maintenance and repair of water supply infrastructure developed under 'Har Ghar Jal' programme.

Second Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam

- ★ The Assam government has approved the setting up of a second wildlife sanctuary in the state's Barak Valley, with the name of Barak Bhuban Wildlife sanctuary which is home to a multitude of birds and mammals.

- ★ The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary will be spread over an area of 320 sq km between the Barak River and the Sonai River.
- ★ The area has eight recorded species of primates namely slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, phayre's leaf monkey and hoolock gibbon.
- ★ The Barak Valley also houses the Borail Wildlife Sanctuary.

CSL Signs Agreement with IIM-Kozhikode

- ★ The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and the Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (IIMK) have signed an agreement to boost start-ups in the maritime sector.
- ★ IIM-Kozhikode will provide incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) plan to augment initiatives to develop an ecosystem for supporting the startups in maritime sector from the technical, regulatory, financial and marketing points of view by bringing the stakeholders together.
- ★ Under this initiative, starts-ups can get up to ₹50 lakh as seed grants, ₹one crore as prototyping grants and equity funding for start-ups at the scale up stage.

NIRMAN Accelerator Program

- ★ The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has launched the NIRMAN Accelerator Program.
- ★ It was supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India where 15 start-ups will be selected and given the opportunity to accelerate their product journey from 'lab to market'.
- ★ The programme will focus on the manufacturing startups engaged in healthcare and agriculture domains to help them overcome the challenges from their prototype-to-market journey.
- ★ The best-performing startups among the cohort of 15 startups will receive a cash award of up to ₹1 million.

India's First Brain Health Clinic

- ★ Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar inaugurated India's first brain health clinic in Bengaluru.
- ★ It has been launched to diagnose, treat and follow up patient with common neurological disorders.
- ★ It was launched under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative at Jayanagar General Hospital.
- ★ It aims to train doctors to diagnose brain health issues.

Tripura Signs MoU with North-East Space Application Centre

- ★ Tripura's Department of Science, Technology and Environment (DSTE) and North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

- ★ The main objective of the MoU is for extensive utilization of Space Technology along development planning in various sectors across the state.
- ★ The MoU was also signed for satellite mapping for resources mobilisation and utilisation including for early-warning systems for natural disasters.
- ★ 21 projects were proposed by DSTE to the NESAC while 20 innovative projects worth ₹4.23 crore have been approved under various departments of Tripura.
- ★ These 20 projects will be completed within three years next.

SAP Labs India Partners with NeGD

- ★ SAP Labs India has partnered National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ★ The aim is to launch SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG) in Bengaluru for improving digital government capabilities in the country.
- ★ It will focus on capacity building, programme management and implementation of Digital India's projects and initiatives undertaken by the ministries and their departments both at central and state levels.
- ★ The collective initiative of National e-Governance Division and SAP will support innovation and capacity building to enable the next wave of Digital India's inclusive and transformational initiatives.

Five New Ramsar Sites

- ★ On 26 July 2022, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav announced that India has designated five new wetlands of international importance.
- ★ The new sites are Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, Pala wetland in Mizoram and Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ With this, there are now a total of 54 Ramsar sites in the country.
- ★ The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty aims at the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, the convention was signed in 1971.

ONGC Ties Up with Greenko

- ★ State-run ONGC signed a memorandum of understanding with Greenko Group, to enhance opportunities in renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen.
- ★ Under the partnership, the companies will jointly develop a 1-MMTPA green ammonia production and storage facility in the country for export purpose.
- ★ The green ammonia produced from the project is intended to be sold at international markets where there is high demand for alternative molecules derived from green energy as the source.

Bal Raksha Mobile App

- ★ Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Bal Raksha mobile app at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- ★ App is aimed at creating awareness of paediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents. The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.
- ★ Mr Sonowal also inaugurated 'Vaccination Centre for children' at the All -India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- ★ The All India Institute of Ayurveda, an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Ayush, aims at bringing synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern tools and technology.

'Smart e-beat' System for Gurugram Police

- ★ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched an app-based system for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel in Gurugram.
- ★ He also launched the 'Smart E-Beat' system.
- ★ This app-based system has been introduced in Gurugram under the 'Smart Policing Initiative' (SPI) and it will help policemen to mark their attendance and in monitoring of their rides.
- ★ The 'Smart E-Beat' system would cover the area of all the 33 police station located in the urban area of Gurugram.

Center Modifies Flag Code of India 2002

- ★ As the federal government launches its Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the Ministry of Home Affairs changed the Flag Code of India 2002 to allow the flying of the national flag even at night.
- ★ Previously, the flag could only be flown from dawn till sunset.
- ★ The flag may be flown day and night when it is exhibited in the open or on a member of the public's home which replaced clause XI of paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code.

Bharat Forge Arm Partners with Talgo India

- ★ BF Infrastructure Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge Ltd and Talgo India Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spanish manufacturer Patentes Talgo have signed an agreement.
- ★ The agreement is to set-up a joint venture for manufacturing high-speed passenger trains.
- ★ This collaboration is expected to contribute to the Union government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. It will help bring state-of-the-art and high-speed rail technology and solutions.
- ★ The proposed collaboration will focus on setting-up manufacturing, maintenance and life cycle support hub for new generation, energy efficient, lightweight aluminium high-speed trains.

Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle to Indian Army

- ★ Tata group's arm for aerospace and defence, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has delivered an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium (QRFV) to the Indian Army.

- ★ The vehicle will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army in future conflicts and war-like situations.
- ★ Indian Army had earlier inducted Ultra Long-Range Observation System.

e-FIR system in Gujarat

- ★ Union home minister Shri Amit Shah has launched an e-FIR filing system in Gandhinagar, Gujarat which will enable the citizens to file FIRs online without visiting the police stations.
- ★ Through the e-FIR online service, the citizens of Gujarat will not need to go to the police station to file a complaint and the time of the citizens will be saved and the complaints will be disposed of quickly.
- ★ The e-FIR service has been coordinated with the Gujarat State Police CCTV Command and Control.
- ★ After the e-FIR will be registered, if the vehicle passes through the road, the vehicle number will be immediately flashed at the CCTV command and control through which the crime of theft can be detected immediately.

India's first Passenger Drone "Varuna"

- ★ India's first passenger drone Varuna, was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ★ According to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the present administration has used technology including drones to guarantee last-mile service delivery.
- ★ This was shown in his presence by Sagar Defence Engineering, the company that created the indigenous "Varuna" drone without a pilot.
- ★ Varuna, the first drone in India that can transport people, has a 25-kilometer range.
- ★ The drone has 25–33 minutes of flying and a payload capacity of 130 kg.

India's First All Women-Run Cooperative Bank

- ★ The first all-women-run financial institution in the cooperative sector will be organized in Rajasthan following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that has been signed with the Telangana government's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation.
- ★ The new body will promote women's empowerment by supporting their enterprises.
- ★ It will strengthen the women's self-help groups in the State by extending timely loan facilities for their enterprises.
- ★ The institution will be operated entirely by women and will act as a complementary body to the formal banking system.

First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant

- ★ On 28 July 2022, India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant handed over to Indian Navy which was built by the Cochin Shipyard.

- ★ The Commanding Officer Designate of Vikrant, Commodore Vidyadhar Harke and the Chairman and Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Madhu S Nair signed the documents relating to the delivery of the vessel.
- ★ The name of India's first Aircraft Carrier was also INS Vikrant which played a vital role in the 1971 war.
- ★ INS Vikrant plays an important role towards enhancing maritime security.

First State to Launch Semiconductor Policy

- ★ Gujarat Government has become the first state in the country to launch semiconductor policy named 'Gujarat Semiconductor policy for 2022-2027'.
- ★ The policy will facilitate effective and timely execution of the eligible projects for setting up a robust semiconductor and display fabrication ecosystem.
- ★ The policy aims to generate about two lakh jobs in the next five years.
- ★ It also proposes to develop a 'Semicon city' that will be developed in the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), for a dedicated manufacturing hub of semiconductors and display fab sector.
- ★ Eligible projects will get a 75 per cent subsidy on procurement of first 200 acres of land in the SIR, while additional land for upstream or downstream projects will get a 50 per cent subsidy on land cost.

Cabinet Approves MoU Between NIRD & PR and UoR

- ★ The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and University of Reading (UoR), United Kingdom (UK).
- ★ They have collaborated in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries. The MoU was signed in March 2022.
- ★ This MoU will help NIRDPR faculty in acquiring and widening their knowledge, and develop an international professional network in agriculture, nutrition and rural development.
- ★ NIRDPR has been involved with University of Reading in various research activities in the field of rural development like improvement of nutrition assessment by measuring energy expenditure, use of sensor-based devices in agricultural livelihoods research in low- and middle-income countries.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions

- ★ The National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and World Resources Institute India (WRI India) launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS).
- ★ It was launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.

- ★ 'India Forum for Nature-based Solutions' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI Indija) under the Cities4Forests initiative.
- ★ It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of United Kingdom and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).
- ★ It is fast emerging sustainable ways to address climate change induced challenges.

Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors

- ★ The 12th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security was held virtually.
- ★ Yang Jiechi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, chaired the meeting in Beijing, China.
- ★ National security advisers and high representatives of the national security of South Africa, Brazil, Russia, and India attended the event.
- ★ In 2022, China is the chair of the BRICS grouping and India was represented by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- ★ The meeting of BRICS NSAs is an important platform for BRICS countries to enhance political and security cooperation.

India Sign MoU with Armenia

- ★ The 8th session of the India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) was held in Yerevan.
- ★ The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Shri Sanjay Verma.
- ★ India and Armenia also signed MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia with financial and technical assistance from India.
- ★ A Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium was later inaugurated at the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) along with Dr. Armen Muradyan, Rector of the University.

New Zealand Declares Equal Pay for Cricketers

- ★ New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced an agreement that Male and female cricketers in New Zealand will now earn equal pay.
- ★ It is a 5-year agreement between NZC and the New Zealand Cricket Players Association and will be effective from 01 August 2022.
- ★ According to the agreement, women's players will be paid the same match fees as men in all forms and events at both the domestic and international levels.

Accession Protocols for Finland and Sweden

- ★ Member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) signed the Accession Protocols for Finland and Sweden at NATO Headquarters.
- ★ The next step will be the approval of the two countries' membership in the legislative institutions of each member state.
- ★ The 30-member NATO group seeks to promote collective security among its members.
- ★ At the Madrid Summit, Allied leaders agreed to invite Finland and Sweden to join NATO following the agreement of a trilateral memorandum between Türkiye, Finland, and Sweden.

First Campus-Based IT Business Incubator

- ★ In a major step towards boosting the startup sector in Bangladesh, the first campus-based IT business incubator was opened at Chattogram, Bangladesh.
- ★ It was opened at the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology.
- ★ The facility named 'Sheikh Kamal IT Business Incubator' was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- ★ The facility has been built over an area of 4.7 acre with a cost of Taka 113 crore.
- ★ The incubator will provide a complete and innovative eco-system for startups in Bangladesh.
- ★ An Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab, a machine learning lab, an optical fibre backbone, a substation and a solar panel are also being set up.
- ★ The incubator will also provide assistance to university graduates to develop themselves as entrepreneurs.

India Elected to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee

- ★ India has been elected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for four years (2022-2026) cycle.
- ★ The elections for the Intergovernmental Committee took place during the 9th General Assembly of the 2003 Convention held at UNESCO headquarters, Paris from 05 July to 07 July 2022.
- ★ The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention consists of 24 members.
- ★ The announcement to this effect was made by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER G.K Reddy.
- ★ As a member of the intergovernmental committee, India will have the opportunity to closely monitor the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

China Launches Global Naming Event

- ★ The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has initiated a global name collection for the country's newest solar observatory, which will be launched into a sun-synchronous orbit in October 2022.
- ★ The 888-kilogram observatory has a half-tonne precursor, "Xihe", a Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE), named after the sun goddess in ancient Chinese mythology.

- ★ It was launched to study the violent and sudden physical processes behind solar flares.
- ★ The newest Chinese solar observation satellite, the Advanced Space-Based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), is to help solar physicists study the relationships between the solar magnetic field, solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

First I2U2 Leaders Virtual Summit

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi to participate in the First I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit along with Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President of the USA Joseph R. Biden.
- ★ The Leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment.
- ★ The I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries held on 18 October 2021.
- ★ I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health and food security.

Interpol's Database on Child Sex Abuse

- ★ India is the 68th nation to sign up for Interpol's database on child sex abuse.
- ★ India has signed up for Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database, which would enable it to use audio-visual evidence to connect victims, abusers and crime locations.
- ★ The database helps investigators avoid wasting time and effort by informing them whether a group of photographs has previously been found or recognized in another nation or if it has characteristics with other images.
- ★ The database, which serves as both an intelligence and investigation tool, enables expert detectives to exchange data on incidents of child sexual abuse.

UAE to Invest \$2 Billion in India

- ★ The United Arab Emirates announced an investment of USD 2 billion to develop a series of integrated food parks across India.
- ★ It is a part of efforts by the four-nation grouping I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) to help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East.
- ★ This decision was announced during the first virtual summit of the I2U2 (India, Israel, US and UAE) group.
- ★ The group also focused on food security crisis and clean energy during their meeting and discussed innovative ways to ensure longer-term, more diversified food production and food delivery systems that can manage global food shocks.

India Sign MoU Madagascar

- ★ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Madagascar government and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL).

- ★ It was signed for the participation in the e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project.
- ★ The technological upgradation and extension of the Pan African e-Network Project is known as e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti Network Project.
- ★ During India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in New Delhi in October 2015, Government of India announced technological upgradation and extension of Pan-Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP) under which tele-education and tele-medicine services were successfully implemented in 48 countries in Africa including the Republic of Madagascar
- ★ Under this agreement various online degree or diploma courses will be offered to the citizens of Madagascar at free of cost through e-VBAB project.

Israel Sells Haifa Port to Adani Ports

- ★ India's ports-to-power conglomerate Adani Group won the tender for the privatisation of the state-owned Haifa Port in Israel for \$ 1.2 billion.
- ★ Haifa port announced that the Adani Group will operate the port till 2054.
- ★ A joint venture between Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), India's largest private multi-port operator and Israel's Gadot Chemicals Tankers and Terminals Ltd won the bid for Haifa
- ★ The JV will acquire a 100 per cent stake in Haifa Port Company. While the majority stake in the port, of 70 per cent will be held by APSEZ and Gadot will own the remaining 30 per cent.
- ★ Haifa is Israel's second largest port and serves as a major trade hub on the country's Mediterranean coast.

Aviation Passenger Charter

- ★ The British government launched an "Aviation Passenger Charter" to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports.
- ★ The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays or missing baggage.
- ★ It has been developed by the British Government in partnership with the aviation sector and travel industry.

20th Country to Adopt the Euro as Currency

- ★ Croatia will become the 20th country to adopt the euro as currency from 01 January 2023, replacing the Croatian kuna.
- ★ European Union finance ministers have given Croatia the final approval to adopt the euro single currency.
- ★ As per the European Central bank, the conversion rate has been set at 53450 Croatian kuna per euro.

World's Fastest Graphics DRAM Chip

- ★ Samsung has developed a new graphic dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) chip with a faster speed and improved power efficiency.
- ★ The 24-gigabit Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6) adopts third-generation, 10-nanometer technology and boasts a data processing speed that is over 30 percent faster than existing products.
- ★ The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to 1 terabyte per second, which Samsung claims is the fastest in the world and equivalent to processing 275 full HD movies in a second.
- ★ Graphics DRAMs are widely used in high-powered 3D games, personal computers, notebooks or devices that play videos with a high resolution.

BGB-BSF Director General Level Border Conference

- ★ The first day of the 52nd BGB-BSF Director General level Border conference was organized in Bangladesh.
- ★ The Indian delegation was led by DG, BSF Pankaj Singh, who arrived in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ★ During the conference, there was discussion about joint initiatives to implement the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) as well as information exchange on various armed groups, extremist groups, and terrorist organisations.
- ★ A variety of topics including border management, drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons and ammunition, trafficking in women and children and other development initiatives within 150 yards of the international boundary were also discussed.

Fifth Round of Foreign Office Consultations

- ★ The fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Fiji was held in Suva.
- ★ The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs Saurabh Kumar and the Fijian side was led by Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji Yogesh Karan.
- ★ It is to strengthen bilateral relations covering political, economic, defence, cultural and consular matters and to further strengthen the close bilateral ties between India and Fiji.
- ★ The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of interest and agreed to enhance their cooperation in the multilateral fora.
- ★ The next round of consultations will be held in New Delhi.

Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- ★ The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue began in Berlin.
- ★ The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of 2022 annual climate meet (COP-27).

- ★ It is to build agreement and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27. The Petersberg Climate Dialogue will pave the way for a successful global climate conference in Egypt in November.
- ★ Since its inception in 2010, the Petersberg Dialogue has served as a forum for ministers to build political agreement that help resolve differences on issues holding up progress in negotiations.

MoU on Wildlife Conservation

- ★ Government of India and Government of the Republic of Namibia have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization.
- ★ They will establish the cheetah into the historical range in India.
- ★ The main focus of the MoU includes Wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization by sharing good practices in technological applications, mechanisms of livelihood generation for local communities living in wildlife habitats and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- ★ It also enhances collaboration in areas of climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessments, pollution and waste management

Mutual Recognition of Educational Degrees

- ★ On 21 July 2022, India and the UK agreed on mutual recognition of educational qualifications of students from both countries.
- ★ As per the agreement, Indian Senior secondary school certificates will also be accepted for entry into UK's higher education institutions.
- ★ These agreements will facilitate closer alignment on education between India and the UK to enhance short-term bilateral mobility and ensure mutual recognition of qualifications.

European Central Bank Raises Interest Rates

- ★ The European Central Bank (ECB) has raised interest rates for the first time in more than 11 years as it tries to control soaring eurozone inflation.
- ★ The central bank of 19 nations that share the euro currency raised its key interest rate by 0.5 percent or 50 basis points to zero.
- ★ The rate has been negative since 2014 to encourage banks to lend rather than deposit money with the bank.
- ★ Soaring energy, fuel and food costs are pushing up inflation.

Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

- ★ On 23 July 2022, a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and Indian Navy in Andaman Sea.
- ★ The exercise was aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

- ★ This exercise is part of the ongoing efforts between the two navies towards ensuring safe and secure international shipping and trade in Indian Ocean Region.
- ★ INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol vessel and JS Samidare, a class destroyer, undertook various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations and tactical manoeuvres as part of the operational interaction.

Monkeypox as Global Health Emergency

- ★ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared outbreak of Monkeypox as a global health emergency.
- ★ It came at the end of the second meeting of the WHO's emergency committee on the virus.
- ★ The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue and follows a worldwide increase in cases.
- ★ WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that more than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries.

Panattoni to Invest USD 200mn Logistics Parks in India

- ★ The US-based Panattoni will invest USD 200 million (₹1,597 crore) in India to develop four industrial and logistics parks across major cities as it sees huge growth potential amid rising demand for warehouses.
- ★ The demand for quality spaces to set up industries and warehousing in an integrated park, with provision of all basic infrastructure, has been rising in India from third-party logistics, e-commerce and manufacturing sectors.
- ★ The Indian venture, Panattoni India Development Pvt Ltd is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- ★ The company is holding discussions with land owners to purchase around 250 acres of land in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Pune to develop four projects in the first phase of the India venture.

First Bangladeshi to Scale Peak K2

- ★ Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first Bangladeshi to scale the second highest mountain peak K2 in Pakistan.
- ★ She climbed the 8611 metres or 28,251 feet high K2 -mountain peak and returned to the base camp as a summit is technically complete when the climber returns back to the base camp from the peak.
- ★ Wasifa Nazreen climbed Mount Everest in 2012. She is the second woman from Bangladesh to do so.

Russia Decides to Quit ISS

- ★ On 26 July 2022, Moscow's space agency Roscosmos's newly-appointed chief Yury Borisov announced that Russia has decided to quit the International Space Station after 2024.
- ★ ISS is a multinational collaborative project involving 5 participating space agencies namely NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe) and CSA (Canada).

- ★ Russia and the United States have worked side by side on the space station which has been in orbit since 1998.
- ★ In spite of this decision, Yury Borisov also announced that space programme will continue to get top priority and Russia will start putting together a Russian orbital station before 2024.

India Contributes \$2.5 Million for Palestine Refugees

- ★ India contributed USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- ★ Director of the West Asia and North Africa Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Sunil Kumar presented the cheque for USD 2.5 million to the UNRWA Director of Partnerships of the Department of External Relations, Mr. Karim Amer at UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem, Palestine.
- ★ The UNRWA services for Palestinian refugees involve education, health care, relief, infrastructure, camp improvement and protection
- ★ India is a dedicated donor to UNRWA having given USD 20 million to UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.

External Affairs Minister on a Visit to Uzbekistan

- ★ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will be on a two-day visit to Uzbekistan from 28 July 2022 to take part in the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers.
- ★ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- ★ Its current members are Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran.
- ★ The meeting will discuss preparations for the upcoming Meeting of the Council of Heads of State on 15th and 16th September 2022 in Samarkand.
- ★ They will review ongoing cooperation in the expansion of the SCO Organisation and exchange ideas on regional and global developments of common concern.

MoU Signed by ANC and AAI

- ★ An MoU was signed by Andaman Nicobar Command and Airport Authority of India in Port Blair to boost inter-island connectivity under Udaan Scheme.
- ★ As per the MoU, naval airfields at Shibpur (in Diglipur) in North Andaman and in Campbell Bay will be utilized for civil operations.
- ★ This would pave the way for infrastructure development and passenger terminals on these remote islands.
- ★ This will also boost tourism growth in the islands.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

World Bank Approves \$1 Billion Loans

- ★ The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector.
- ★ Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country.
- ★ In addition to the national level interventions, one of the loans will prioritize seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ India's performance in health has improved over time. According to World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy at 69.8 in 2020 from 58 in 1990 which is higher than the average for the country's income level.

SBI to Issue and En-Cash Electoral Bonds

- ★ The Union Government has authorised the State Bank of India to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches, from 01 July to 10 July 2022.
- ★ The Ministry of Finance highlighted that the Electoral Bonds will be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment will be made to any payee Political Party, if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.
- ★ Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account will be credited on the same day.

Star Health and IDFC FIRST Bank

- ★ Star Health and Allied Insurance, one of the leading Health Insurance companies in India has signed a Corporate Agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for the distribution of its health insurance solutions.
- ★ Under the agreement, Star Health will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers using the latter's digital platform and its distribution network.
- ★ The strategic tie-up with IDFC First Bank is a step to make health insurance more accessible to all.
- ★ It will help reach out to IDFC First's customers and enable them to financially safeguard themselves from rising healthcare costs.
- ★ IDFC FIRST Bank has a digital-first approach and serves customers through its net banking platform and a mobile app, which complement its branches, ATMs and loan centers across India.

Axis Financial Institution Partners with EazyDiner

- ★ Axis Financial institution has partnered with EazyDiner, a table reservation, food discovery and restaurant payment platform and have launched Dining Delights, an eating experience program for the bank's customers.

- ★ The program will offer benefits such as the option to choose from over 10,000 premium restaurants across India and Dubai, instant confirmation on table reservations and offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app.
- ★ It is aligned to serve a rising variety of prospects who need alternatives, selection and comfort.

ICICI Direct Launches a Learning App iLearn

- ★ ICICI Securities (I-Sec) has launched 'ICICI direct iLearn', a learning app for customers to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics.
- ★ It is to provide investors with well-researched and simplified content curated by experts to help make informed investment decisions.
- ★ It will also familiarize investors with the knowledge of financial or investment tools by including both standard and contemporary content catering to the needs of beginners as well as evolved investors.
- ★ The app currently hosts more than 550 content pieces across various sections.

Banks Board into Financial Services Institutions Bureau

- ★ The government has transformed Banks Board Bureau (BBB) into Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) by making some amendments.
- ★ The amendment has been done to Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970 with the approval of the finance minister.
- ★ The decision of amendments was taken as the BBB is not a competent body to select the general managers and directors of state-owned general insurers.
- ★ Bhanu Pratap Sharma, who is the former chairman of BBB has been appointed as the initial chairperson of FSIB for two years.
- ★ The BBB was originally set up in 2016.

RBI Bars Non-Bank PPIs From Loading Credit Lines

- ★ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred all non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers from loading credit lines.
- ★ RBI guidelines permit PPIs to be loaded by either cash or debit to a bank account, credit and debit cards and other payment instruments in rupees.
- ★ Any non-compliance in this regard may attract penal action under provisions contained in the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- ★ The RBI's clarification is being seen as an attempt to stop card-based fintech and firms operating as neo banks that have tied up with banks from offering credit lines.

SBI Life and Paschim Banga Gramin Bank

- ★ The Paschim Banga Gramin Bank has partnered with SBI Life Insurance for a bancassurance service.
- ★ The partnership will see all the branches of Paschim Banga Gramin Bank across West Bengal.

- ★ It offers SBI Life's range of protection, wealth creation, credit life, annuity and savings products, thereby increasing accessibility of life insurance solutions in the region.
- ★ Bancassurance is an agreement between a bank and an insurance company.

DFC Bank Merge with Parent HDFC

- ★ India's largest private lender HDFC Bank announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved its proposed merger with parent and mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd (HDFC).
- ★ Currently, HDFC Bank is in the home loan business in conjunction with HDFC.
- ★ As per the arrangement, HDFC Bank sells home loans, while HDFC approves and disburses.
- ★ HDFC Bank gets a sourcing fee for the transactions and has the option to purchase up to 70% of the fully-disbursed loans.

Implementation of New Pledging DDPI System

- ★ The Capital Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for the introduction of the Demat Debit and Pledging Instruction (DDPI) system to 01 September 2022.
- ★ Earlier the deadline for implementation was July 1, 2022.
- ★ With the implementation of the guidelines, the Power of Attorney (PoA) would be replaced with Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) documents.
- ★ This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and Section 19 of the Depositories Act, 1996.
- ★ It is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities markets.
- ★ The existing PoAs will continue to remain valid till the time the client revokes the same.

SIB Partnered with Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department

- ★ The South Indian Bank has signed an agreement with Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Department.
- ★ It is to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centers, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units and eco-shops across the state.
- ★ Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available in all the 124 tourist spots under the Forest Department.
- ★ The easy digital payment system by the bank will be more convenient for the customers who visit the sales outlets run by the Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department.

Edelweiss General Insurance Launches Motor Insurance

- ★ Edelweiss General Insurance has launched SWITCH, a comprehensive motor insurance product.
- ★ It has been launched under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDAI) Sandbox initiative.

- ★ SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy.
- ★ The app detects motion and automatically activates insurance when the vehicle is driven, making it convenient and hassle-free for customers.
- ★ This usage-based model measures not only the quantity but also the quality of driving and calculates premium.
- ★ It is the only on-demand motor product in the country that places complete control in the hands of customers.

Samunnati Enters Partnership with SBI

- ★ Open Agri network Samunnati has entered into a co-lending partnership with State Bank of India (SBI) to expand its outreach to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- ★ Initially, under this partnership, the lending amount would be ₹100 crore.
- ★ SBI and Samunnati have also entered into a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the FPO sector, to mainstream FPO as an asset class and increase awareness of this class of farmer-owned institutions in the banking sector.

PNB Signs MoU with Indian Air Force

- ★ Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading Public Sector Bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ★ It is to provide specially designed products to the defence personnel under the bank's flagship scheme of 'PNB Rakshak Plus'.
- ★ This scheme includes personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance to serving, retired and trainees of the defence forces, central armed police forces, state police force, metro police and retired defence pensioners.

RBI's DICGC to Pay Depositors of Two Co-Operative Banks

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will pay the eligible depositors of Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Sahakari Bank, Ichalkaranji and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Wai in Aug 2022.
- ★ Eligible depositors of Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Sahakari Bank will get the payment on 10 August 2022 and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank on 28 August 2022.
- ★ DICGC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI, provides an insurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh on bank deposits.
- ★ Depositors of the 2 Maharashtra-based banks will get the amount credited to the alternate bank account specified by them, or on their consent, to their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

Defence Ministry Inks MoUs with Three Private Banks

- ★ The Defence Ministry has linked up with private sector banks for the first time to provide financial services in overseas procurement of military hardware.
- ★ These three private sector banks are HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

- ★ The agreement was signed by PCDA (Principal Controller of Defence Accounts), New Delhi on behalf of the Defence Ministry.
- ★ Till now, only authorized public sector banks were utilized to provide these services to MoD.

Salesforce Plans to Offer Grant for Education and Workforce

- ★ A US-based tech major, Salesforce has announced an investment of USD 2 million (about ₹15.85 crore) in direct company donations to over 22 non-profit Organizations (NPO) across India.
- ★ With a focus on education and workforce development these grants are expected to impact 40,000 individuals across India.
- ★ To give children access to quality education, Salesforce will partner with institutions such as Meghshala Trust, Inquilab Foundation, Learning Curve Foundation and others.
- ★ Students will have access to Hybrid learning spaces, Social-Emotional Learning, STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and early education.

HDFC Partners with Salesforce

- ★ NBFC-giant HDFC announced its partnership with leading customer relationship management (CRM) platform, Salesforce for supporting its growth priorities and to reimagine the customer lending lifecycle.
- ★ Mulesoft with its innovative API-led integration approach and low code integration capabilities will help HDFC innovate quickly around connecting systems and help create new experiences.
- ★ Salesforce introduced the next generation of MuleSoft, a unified solution for automation, integration and APIs to easily automate any workflow.
- ★ HDFC announced that the company planned to build the next generation of integration backbone, to easily connect backend and frontend systems including Salesforce.

City Union Bank Partnered with Shriram General Insurance

- ★ The City Union Bank and Shriram General Insurance signed corporate agency agreement
- ★ The Bank will distribute the Shriram General Insurance products through the bank's network of 727 branches across the country.
- ★ Under this agreement, Shriram General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as motor, personal accident, home and travel, along with commercial products such as property, marine and engineering insurance.
- ★ The partnership enables them to provide best-in-class products to CUB customers.

Bank Deposit Growth Moderates to 10%

- ★ As per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has been increasing over the years and stood at 44.8% in March 2022 as compared with 41.7% three years ago.
- ★ These low-cost deposits accounted for 60.9% and 55.6% of incremental deposits during 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.

- ★ Bank deposit growth moderated to 10% in March 2022 as compared with 11.9% a year ago.
- ★ Current, savings and term deposits increased by 10.9%, 13.3%, and 7.9% respectively during 2021-22.

RBI Clears Payment Aggregator License

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave payment aggregator (PA) and payment gateway (PG) licenses in principle to Razorpay, Pine Labs and American payments player Stripe.
- ★ The companies have become the first players to receive such a license.
- ★ Payment aggregators are entities that enable e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.
- ★ According to RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of ₹15 crore as of March 2021 and a net worth of ₹25 crore by on or before FY23.

AIIB to Establish an Interim Operational Hub

- ★ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the establishment of an Interim Operational Hub, its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), pending formal agreement to be finalized.
- ★ India is the second-largest shareholder of AIIB after China.
- ★ The hub will provide AIIB with a robust platform to enable effective supervision of its growing investment portfolio and strengthen its project monitoring and implementation services across the globe.

Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)

- ★ The newly-constituted Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), a single autonomous professional body will develop its own appropriate methodology to recommend persons for appointment as whole-time directors (WTDs) and non-executive chairpersons (NEC) in public sector banks (PSBs), public sector insurers (PSI) and financial institutions (FIs).
- ★ FSIB has 11 members including the Chairperson, who will be nominated by the Centre. Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former Secretary of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been appointed as initial Chairperson of FSIB for two years.
- ★ For each financial year, the funds to be contributed by each of the three categories of financial service institutions (namely, PSBs, FIs and PSIs) towards meeting expenditure by FSIB.
- ★ It will also build a databank containing data related to the performance of PSBs, FIs and PSIs.
- ★ FSIB will also help PSBs, FIs and PSIs in developing business strategies and capital raising plans.

IMGC Partners with RBL Bank

- ★ India Mortgage Guarantee Corp. (IMGC) has partnered with RBL Bank to offer mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products for salaried and non-salaried customers.

- ★ This partnership with IMGC will help RBL Bank extend mortgage guarantee-backed home loans to new borrower segments through its network of over 500 branches across the country.
- ★ This collaboration enables Bank to extend its products to a broader customer base while ensuring enhanced risk management.
- ★ It will also allow Bank to increase the tenor of home loans and ensure affordability.
- ★ IMGC has built a significant competitive position by guaranteeing over 85,200 home loans amounting to more than ₹15,400 crore, through its partnership with 23 lenders including leading banks and housing finance companies.

TATA AIA Life Insurance and City Union Bank

- ★ One of India's leading life insurance companies, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd, announced a strategic alliance with City Union Bank (CUB) to offer life and health insurance solutions to the Bank's consumers.
- ★ The partnership will help City Union Bank consumers (existing and new) to benefit from Tata AIA Life's diverse and innovative products and services spanning term insurance, savings and investment, etc.
- ★ Through this association, both partners will be able to promote insurance awareness and financial planning amongst consumers with ease, across physical and digital consumer-facing platforms

RBI Allows Trade Transactions with Sri Lanka

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that all eligible current account transactions including trade transactions with Sri Lanka may be settled in any permitted currency outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism until further notice.
- ★ Under the ACU, member central banks settle payments for intra-regional transactions on a net basis.
- ★ This reduces the use of foreign exchange reserves and transfer costs.

Star Health partners with MeitY

- ★ Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd., one of the leading standalone health insurance companies in the country, and Common Services Centers (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have partnered to provide health insurance to rural India.
- ★ It will provide over 5 lakh CSCs access to a select range of Star Health insurance products.
- ★ These products have been designed to meet the needs of rural customers across tier-II, tier-III cities, and rural markets across India.
- ★ Through its network, CSC will offer a series of beneficial products for the rural markets like Family Health Optima Insurance Plan, Accidental Care Individual Policy, Star Micro Rural and Farmers Care and other such products to meet the health insurance needs in these regions.

Embedded Value of LIC Rises

- ★ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) reported its Indian embedded value (IEV) of ₹5.41 lakh crore as on March 2022, a little higher than ₹5.39 lakh crore at the end of September 2021.
- ★ Its RoEV (return on embedded value) for March 2022 stood at 11.9 per cent as compared with 36.9 per cent for March 2021.
- ★ The embedded value (EV) is a measure of the consolidated value of shareholders' interest in the life insurance business.
- ★ It represents the worth of shareholders' interests in the earnings distributable from the assets allocated to the business after sufficient allowance for the aggregate risks in the business.

AMFI to Launch Campaign

- ★ The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has launched a new mutual fund distributor recruitment campaign Karein Shuru (Can We Start).
- ★ The campaign includes television commercial films to reinforce the need and attractiveness of Mutual Funds Distribution as a career option with long-term earning potential for individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations.
- ★ The campaign targets women looking to re-enter the workforce, retired professionals, enterprising fresh graduates and individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Integrate with New IT Portal

- ★ Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the completion of its technical integration with the new income tax e-filing portal.
- ★ After this, the bank has become the first private bank to fully integrate with this portal.
- ★ This will make the tax payment process simple, instant and convenient for its customers.
- ★ Its customers can now pay their direct taxes through the e-pay tax tab on the portal using Kotak net banking or by visiting a branch.

RBI and Bank of Indonesia

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia entered into an agreement to expand cooperation in payment systems, digital financial innovation and anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT).
- ★ The two central banks signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting to improve mutual cooperation.
- ★ The MoU is to deepen relations between both central banks and strengthen the exchange of information and cooperation in the area of central banking, including payment systems, digital innovation in payments services and regulatory and supervisory framework for AML-CFT.

HDFC Bank Partners with NIIT

- ★ National Institute of Information Technology, Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT Limited has entered into a partnership with HDFC Bank to build new-age Digital Talent for the banking industry.
- ★ It is to nurture talent in the new-age tech field of data science and empower them to leverage data meaningfully and deliver useful business insights.
- ★ The first learning program to be launched is the HDFC Bank Data Digits-Post Graduate Program in Data Engineering.
- ★ The program is the first of planned initiatives to raise digital skills in the BFSI industry.
- ★ Through this program, the HDFC bank hopes to hire close to 100 data scientists per year.

India's First Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund

- ★ Quantum Mutual Fund launches Quantum Nifty 50 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF Fund), an open-ended Fund of Fund (FoF) scheme that invests in the units of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF.
- ★ Quantum Nifty 50 ETF FOF is India's first-of-its-kind Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund.
- ★ The new fund offer opens on 18 July 2022 and closes on 01 August 2022.
- ★ The scheme will re-open for subscription and redemption on an ongoing basis from 10 August 2022.
- ★ Hitendra Parekh has been the fund manager since its inception on 10 July 2008.
- ★ Quantum Nifty 50 ETF FoF will have an expense ratio of about 15 basis points for a direct plan and about 27 basis points for a regular plan.

ADB Signs Agreement with Singapore

- ★ Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater investment in the Asia and Pacific region.
- ★ It also recognizes the importance of private sector finance as well as catalyzing public sector resources for sustainable and inclusive development.
- ★ Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong and ADB President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa signed the agreement on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.
- ★ Through this MOU, ADB and Singapore would cooperate to support private sector development projects that contribute to the region's infrastructure, financial and social needs and help countries achieve their Sustainable Development Goal commitments.

Bank of India and PFRDA

- ★ Bank of India (BoI) & Pension Fund Regulator & Development Authority (PFRDA) in association with K-fintech launched a digital platform that allows customers to open National Pension System (NPS) accounts using mobile phones.
- ★ The digital process of account opening is simple, fast and completely paperless making it easier for customers to open a new account in just a few clicks.

- ★ New subscribers can also make additional contributions through QR codes.
- ★ K-fintech provides SaaS (Software as a Service) based end-to-end transaction management, channel management and compliance solutions.

Bajaj Allianz Partners with DBS Bank India

- ★ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers and DBS Bank India, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Singapore announced a strategic partnership.
- ★ Bajaj Allianz Life and DBS Bank aim to empower the customers to Live More and Bank Less by investing in life insurance products that best meet their life needs in a planned manner.
- ★ New and existing customers across the 550+ branches of DBS Bank can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products including term, savings, retirement and investment products.
- ★ Customers of DBS bank and digibank users will be able to avail all the offerings by either visiting any of our branches or with just a tap on the app.

Karnataka Bank Signs MoU with JCB India

- ★ The Karnataka Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JCB India Limited, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India.
- ★ Under the agreement, JCB will be nominating Karnataka Bank as its 'preferred financier' wherein individuals, contractors, companies and partnership firms can avail of loans from the bank.
- ★ The bank provides various finance schemes for the purchase of machinery and equipment to customers with attractive rates of interest and speedy sanction of loans through digital platforms.
- ★ The tie-up arrangement is expected to boost the lending avenues under the bank's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) portfolio.

Federal Bank Associates with the CBDT

- ★ The Federal Bank partners with the Central Board of direct taxes to launch the new online tax payment service.
- ★ With this partnership, Federal Bank became one of the pioneers to be registered under the Tin 2.0 platform of the Income Tax Department.
- ★ The new online tax payment service will provide support to taxpayers in making their payments through the e-pay tax facility in the e-filing portal of the income tax.
- ★ NRIs and Domestic Customers of the bank and any tax-paying citizen in India, can generate a tax challan and make the payment through the Bank's branches.

World Bank Approves USD 1 Billion Loan

- ★ The World Bank has approved a loan of USD one billion to provide support to India's flagship PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).
- ★ It comprises two complementary loans of USD 500 million each namely for Transforming India's Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP) and India's Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP).

- ★ The PHSP aims to increase the resilience and preparedness of India's health system for a pandemic and to support activities including strengthening existing health units at points of entry and establishing new health units.

Capital To Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) for urban co-operative banks (UCBs) with deposits of ₹100 crore and above under the current capital adequacy framework to 12 per cent to strengthen their capital structure.
- ★ Currently, UCBs have been mandated to maintain a minimum CRAR of 9 per cent on an ongoing basis under the Basel-I Framework.
- ★ As per the data reported by the banks as on 31 March 2021, most UCBs have a CRAR of more than 12 per cent (1,274 banks out of 1,534).
- ★ Banks that do not meet the revised CRAR will be provided with a glide path of three years to achieve the same in a phased manner—achieve 10 per cent CRAR by the end of FY24; 11 per cent by the end of FY25; and 12 per cent by the end of FY26.
- ★ The minimum CRAR requirement for Tier 1 banks (with deposits up to ₹100 crore) has been retained at the present prescription of 9 per cent under the current capital adequacy framework based on Basel norms.

Committee Recommendation

- ★ The RBI has decided to accept the Committee recommendation to adopt a simple four-tiered regulatory framework based on deposit size—Tier 1 UCB (up to ₹100 crore), Tier 2 (more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore), Tier 3 (more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore) and Tier 4 (more than ₹10,000 crore).
- ★ Specifically, a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore for Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district and ₹5 crore for all other UCBs (of all tiers) has been stipulated.
- ★ The RBI said that this is expected to strengthen the financial resilience of the banks and enhance their ability to fund their growth.

Standard Chartered Bank and EaseMyTrip

- ★ Standard Chartered Bank launched a co-branded credit card EaseMyTrip Standard Chartered Credit Card with the online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip.
- ★ It offers 20% instant discount on Domestic and International hotel bookings with EaseMyTrip of up to ₹5,000 and ₹10,000 respectively with no minimum booking amount.
- ★ Reward points earned can be redeemed on the rewards catalog of Standard Chartered Bank, across multiple brands including EaseMyTrip.
- ★ The cardmembers will have access to instant discount benefits on flights and hotels throughout the year on the EaseMyTrip website and mobile application.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Launches Add-On Motor Insurance Cover

- ★ Private sector Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited launched its add-on motor insurance cover called 'Pay As You Consume' (PAYC).
- ★ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance was the first to launch 'Pay As You Consume' under the Insurance Regulatory and Developments Authority of India's (IRDAI's) (Sandbox Regulations).
- ★ This usage-based motor insurance add-on cover is in alignment with IRDAI's recent circular to allow PAYC under annual motor products.
- ★ Pay-as-you-consume add-on cover can be opted by the customer along with the basic OD (Own Damage) plan under Package Product, Bundled and Standalone OD cover.
- ★ Customers' driving behavior will be analyzed based on a telematics device installed in the vehicle, driving metrics recorded on their "BJAZ CARINGLY YOURS" mobile app (Company's app) or information provided by them through a device, etc.

ADB Approves USD96 mn Loan for Himachal Pradesh

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 96.3 million (₹770 crore) loan to fund safe drinking water and sanitation project in Himachal Pradesh.
- ★ The loan has been provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project.
- ★ The ADB project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 370,000 residents across 10 districts.
- ★ The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship programme of Government of India, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.
- ★ The project will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.

Canara Bank Launches New Mobile Banking App

- ★ State-owned Canara Bank launched its mobile banking super app, 'Canara ai1' which is a one-stop solution having over 250 features fulfilling all the banking needs of customers.
- ★ The app eliminates the need of having multiple mobile apps for availing different specific services.
- ★ The app, which is available in 11 languages will provide solution to all banking and lifestyle needs such as compare and shop, utility bill payments, cab booking, payments, loan repayment and investment services like mutual fund, insurance and demat services.
- ★ It also supports various social security schemes such as PPF account, Sukanya Samruddhi Accounts, Senior Citizens Savings account and Kisan Vikas Patra, PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY along with nominee management.

WhatsApp Banking Services

- ★ India's largest public sector lender, State Bank of India has launched its WhatsApp Banking services to make banking easier for its customers.

- ★ SBI customers can avail certain banking services using WhatsApp, which may come in handy for many as they do not have to download the app or go to the ATM anymore.
- ★ SBI customers can get their Account Balance and view Mini Statement on WhatsApp.
- ★ State Bank of India will also offer WhatsApp-based services to its credit card holders through the platform under the name of SBI Card WhatsApp connect.
- ★ Through this, SBI credit card customers can check their account summary, reward points, outstanding balance and make card payments.
- ★ SBI WhatsApp Banking services will be available to customers when they send a message saying 'Hi' on the number 919022690226.

CUB Partners with Aditya Birla Health Insurance

- ★ City Union Bank (CUB) and Aditya Birla Health Insurance have announced a bancassurance partnership.
- ★ It is for the distribution of health insurance products through the bank's network of branches in India.
- ★ Aditya Birla Health Insurance with a market share of 12% in the standalone health insurance will offer unique products for the customers of CUB with the health insurer.
- ★ This is the third health insurance tie-up for CUB after bancassurance pacts with Star Health and Alliance Insurance.

Awareness Campaign for Unclaimed Deposits

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India has launched a national campaign with a focus on the eight states that have the maximum amount unclaimed deposits.
- ★ The unclaimed deposits in banks have sharply jumped to ₹48,262 crore in FY22 from ₹39,264 crore in the FY21, according to the annual report of the central bank.
- ★ According to RBI norms, balances in savings/current accounts that are not operated for 10 years or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity are classified as "unclaimed deposits".
- ★ After this, banks transfer such money to the 'depositor education and awareness fund' maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ★ Most of these funds are with banks across Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ Accordingly, the monetary authority has launched a campaign in the languages of these eight states along with Hindi and English.

Piramal Enterprises to Start NBFC Business

- ★ Piramal Enterprises Ltd (PEL) has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 has granted Certificate of Registration to the Company to commence the business of nonbanking financial institution without accepting public deposits.
- ★ NBFCs are entities that provide bank-like financial services but don't hold a banking license and are unregulated.

JICA and Government of India

- ★ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (INR 6,000 Crore) on the 'Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)'.
- ★ The agreement is to develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's Shinkansen technology (also known as the "Bullet Train").
- ★ It will enhance mobility in India and contribute to regional economic development.
- ★ National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.
- ★ JICA has been supporting the project for the Mumbai – Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail by providing ODA loans.

HDFC Securities Partners with Equitas SFB

- ★ HDFC Bank subsidiary and stock broking company, HDFC Securities Ltd has partnered with small finance bank Equitas to provide Demat accounts and broking and investment services to its customers.
- ★ With this partnership, Equitas SFB will be able to offer its customers a 3-in-1 account that helps them access the services of HDFC Securities.
- ★ HDFC Securities will oversee the entire journey for Equitas' customers from account opening to regular share transactions
- ★ The tie-up will provide customers of Equitas with additional investment avenues, enabling them with more choices and allocating their savings across asset classes.

SPORTS

Diamond League Meet

- ★ Tokyo Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra won a Silver Medal at the prestigious Diamond League Meet in Stockholm and broke his own previous record.
- ★ Neeraj Chopra in the Diamond League in Stockholm threw 89.94 meters and while doing so he broke his own National Record.
- ★ Anderson Peters won the event with a best throw of 90.31 meters.

Jasprit Bumrah Creates World Record

- ★ Stand In India captain Jasprit Bumrah smashed Stuart Broad for 29 runs to create a world record for maximum runs in a single over in Test cricket. The Indian skipper was not out on 31 off 16 balls with four boundaries and two sixes.
- ★ With this, he has surpassed legendary West Indies batter Brian Lara, who hit South Africa's Robin Peterson for 28 in an over in 2003.
- ★ He achieved this record during the fifth and final test against England at Edgbaston in Birmingham.

First Player to Win in All Four Grand Slams

- ★ Novak Djokovic became the first player in history to win 80 matches at all four Grand Slams on Centre Court, defeating Kwon Soon-woo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
- ★ Novak, world number one tennis player has established history by winning his 80th match at Wimbledon.
- ★ The six-time winner is the only male player in the Open Era to win 80 or more matches at each of the four grand slams.
- ★ A seventh triumph would tie him with Pete Sampras' record and place him only one title behind Roger Federer as the second-most successful male singles player in the history of the oldest grand slam.

British Grand Prix

- ★ Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won his career's first Formula One race with a victory at the British Grand Prix.
- ★ Red Bull's Sergio Perez and Mercedes Lewis Hamilton finished second and third respectively.
- ★ Sainz has moved up to the fourth position in the 2022 Driver Standings.

Indian Boxer Alfiya Pathan Wins Gold

- ★ The Indian Youth World champions Alfiya Pathan won gold medals in the Elorda Cup in Nursultan, Kazakhstan.
- ★ Alfiya Pathan beat 2016 world champion and a strong title contender Lazzat Kungeibayeva by a 5-0 margin in the women's category of 81kg.

Wimbledon Women's Singles Title

- ★ Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan has won Wimbledon Women's Singles title by defeating Ons Jabeur of Tunisia in the final 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.
- ★ Elena has become the first tennis player from Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles championship.

Gujarat to Host 36th National Games

- ★ Gujarat to host the 36th National Game.

- ★ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has agreed to host the 36th National Games in the state.
- ★ This will be the first time the state will host the prestigious games, scheduled to take place between September 27 and October 10, 2022.
- ★ The prestigious event is being held after a gap of seven years, the last being held in Kerala in 2015.
- ★ The national games will have more than 34 sports disciplines, which will be conducted in six cities.

Wimbledon Men's Singles Title

- ★ Novak Djokovic won his fourth straight Wimbledon men's singles title and his 21st grand slam title overall.
- ★ The Serbian star beat Australian Nick Kyrgios in the final on Centre Court, winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in London.
- ★ Djokovic has won the Wimbledon crown for the fourth straight year.

Austrian Grand Prix

- ★ Ferrari racer Charles Leclerc won the Austrian F1 Grand Prix.
- ★ Red Bull racer Max Verstappen came second while Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton finished the race third respectively.
- ★ This was Leclerc's third win of the year.
- ★ Leclerc had earlier won the Bahrain GP and the Australian GP in 2022 respectively.

Indian Olympic Association Partners with JSW Inspire

- ★ JSW Inspire has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association.
- ★ JSW Inspire, an active-wear brand owned by The JSW Group will be the sports performance and lifestyle partner of the Indian Olympic Association through the next cycle of Commonwealth, Asian and Olympic Games.
- ★ Under this partnership, Team India contingents will wear the company's apparel at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the 2022 Asian Games scheduled to be held in Hangzhou in 2023 and the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.
- ★ The group had previously sponsored the Indian contingent ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The First Bowler to Bowl 500 Dot Balls in the T20s

- ★ Bhuvneshwar Kumar has become the first bowler in T20 to bowl 500 dot balls.
- ★ He achieved the feat in a match against England.
- ★ He surpassed Tim Southee of New Zealand (368) and Samuel Badree of the West Indies (383).
- ★ Bhuvneshwar gave India a perfect start defending 171.

2022 World Games-Archery Games

- ★ Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma have made history by winning the bronze medal at the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, USA.
- ★ They won the medal in the compound mixed team event after defeating Mexico's Miguel Becerra and Andrea Becerra 157-156.
- ★ This was the first-ever World Games archery medal for India and an overall 50th international medal for Verma.

Arjun Babuta Wins First Gold Medal at ISSF World Cup

- ★ In Shooting, India's Arjun Babuta have won his first gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage at Changwon in South Korea.
- ★ He defeated Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Lucas Kozeniesky of the USA 17-9 in the final.
- ★ This was India's first medal under new national foreign rifle coach Thomas Farnik.

Fastest Indian to Take 150 ODI Wickets

- ★ Indian bowler Mohammed Shami created a new record by becoming the fastest Indian bowler to take 150 ODI wickets.
- ★ He surpassed Indian pacers Zaheer Khan and Ajit Agarkar.
- ★ He achieved the feat during the first ODI of India's three-match series against England at Kennington Oval on July 12, 2022 where he took three wickets for just 31 runs.
- ★ Mohammed Shami took a total of 80 matches to reach the landmark of 150 wickets, surpassing Ajit Agarkar who took 97 matches to achieve the feat and Zaheer Khan who took 103 matches.
- ★ Shami also equaled the record of Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan.

ISSF World Cup in South Korea

- ★ In shooting, Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged India's second gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team final at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage at Changwon in South Korea.
- ★ They defeated Hungarian pair of Eszter Meszaros and Istvan Pen 17-13.
- ★ The Indian pair of Palak and Shiva Narwal bagged bronze in the category of 10m Air Pistol mixed event.

Gijon Chess Masters Title

- ★ Indian Grand Master D. Gukesh has won the Gijon Chess Masters by defeating GM Alexandr Fier of Brazil.
- ★ It is his fourth title of this year. He scored 8 points to win the 14th Gijon City Closed tournament in Spain.
- ★ Master Pedro Antonio Gines of Spain came third with six points.
- ★ With this win, GM D. Gukesh has reached to FIDE rating of 2693.

ISSF Shooting World Cup Medal Tally

- ★ In the ISSF Shooting World Cup, India topped the medal tally at Changwon in South Korea.
- ★ India finished the tournament with eight medals including three golds, four silvers and one bronze.
- ★ The troika of Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija won the country's third gold medal beating Korea 17-15 in the 10-metre air rifle team event.

World Athletics Championships 2022

- ★ The 18th edition of the World Athletics Championships 2022 began in Eugene city of Oregon state of US on 15 July 2022 and the US is holding the event for the first time.
- ★ In total 49 events will be organized and around 2,000 athletes will participate from 205 countries.
- ★ For India, Olympic Javelin champion Neeraj Chopra will lead the Country's charge.
- ★ Murali Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin will represent India in the long jump at World Athletics Championships 2022.

Singapore Open Badminton Title

- ★ Indian badminton player PV Sindhu clinched her title victory at the Singapore Open Badminton tournament on 17 July 2022.
- ★ The two-time Olympic medallist clinched her first BWF Super 500 title.
- ★ she defeated Wang Zhi Yi from China.
- ★ With this Sindhu won three titles in 2022-the Swiss open and Syed Modi India International.

Paracin Open Chess Title in Serbia

- ★ In Chess, young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia.
- ★ The 16-year-old remained unbeaten and finished half a point ahead of the field.
- ★ He will be part of a strong India 'B' team in the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held near Chennai from July 28.
- ★ Praggnanandhaa scored 8 points from nine rounds.
- ★ Alexandr Predke took the second spot with 7.5 points.

World Athletics Championships in 2025

- ★ At the World Athletics Council Meeting in Oregon, USA, Council selected Tokyo, Japan to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships.
- ★ The Council also announced that the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia and the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida.

- ★ As one of the largest athletics stadiums in the world, the main stadium facilities in Tokyo are best in class and likely to present the best opportunity for athlete success at the 2025 World Athletics Championships.

Ben Stokes Announces Retirement from ODI Cricket

- ★ England cricketer, veteran all-rounder Ben Stokes has revealed that he will retire from One Day International (ODI) cricket on 18 July 2022.
- ★ He will play his last ODI for England on 19 July 2022 against South Africa.
- ★ He was named the Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World in 2019 and 2020.
- ★ Stokes, who is England's Test Captain has scored 2919 runs in 104 ODIs and taken 74 wickets.

FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022

- ★ In the 15th edition of the FIH Women's Hockey world cup, the Netherlands clinched their ninth title by defeating Argentina 3-1 in the final.
- ★ Australia won the 3rd place by defeating Germany to claim their first World Cup Medal.
- ★ India finished at 9th place in the match.

41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open

- ★ Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open in Spain.
- ★ He defeated Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani on the basis of a tie-break score.
- ★ He remained unbeaten through the 10 rounds, scoring six wins to go with four draws.

Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship

- ★ Fast-rising Indian lifter Harshada Garud won the women's 45kg gold at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent.
- ★ She won the gold with a total lift of 157 kg, which includes 69kg in Snatch and 88 kg in the Clean and Jerk category.
- ★ Soumya Dalvi bagged the bronze in the 45kg youth event.

2028 Summer Olympic Games

- ★ Los Angeles has officially been confirmed as host of the 2028 Summer Olympics.
- ★ The Opening Ceremony of the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympic Games is set for 14 July 2028.
- ★ The LA28, which is the organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2028 revealed that Paralympic Games will begin on 15 August 2028 and close on 27 August 2028.
- ★ The LA28 Games will feature more than 3,000 hours of live sport across 800 events in more than 40 sports. 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

- ★ On 13 September 2017, The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the city as three-time Summer Olympics hosts as Los Angeles hosted the games in 1932 and 1984.

West Indies Cricketers announced Retirement

- ★ West Indies Cricketers Denesh Ramdin and Lendl Simmons have announced retirement from international cricket.
- ★ Ramdin featured in 213 matches for the West Indies and has scored 5098 runs in international cricket with 6 hundreds and 23 fifties to his name.
- ★ Simmons played a total of 134 international matches and scored 3466 runs with 2 centuries and 25 fifties.

Asia Cup Tournament in T-20 Format

- ★ Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has announced that the Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka would be played in the UAE.
- ★ Asia Cup is to be held from the 27 August to the 11 September 2022 and will be played in the T-20 format.

Bangladeshi Cricketer Tamim Iqbal Announces Retirement

- ★ Tamim Iqbal, the Bangladesh ODI captain announced his retirement from T20Is.
- ★ The 33-year-old has participated in 78 T20 Internationals and has scored 1758 runs at a 24.08 average.
- ★ Tamim has scored 5082 runs in tests and 7943 runs in one-day internationals.
- ★ Tamim is the only batter from Bangladesh to have recorded a century in T20Is.

Dream Sports Signs Deal with New Zealand Cricket

- ★ Dream11 parent Dream Sports announced a five -year deal with New Zealand's cricket governing body New Zealand Cricket (NZC).
- ★ The five-year deal will see Dream Sports create fan-focused avenues across non-fungible tokens (NFTs), gaming and merchandising through its portfolio companies- Rario and FanCode.
- ★ Rario will launch NZC's cricket NFT program and enable cricket fans to engage as a community.

1st Khelo India Fencing Women's League

- ★ The 1st Khelo India Fencing Women's League is scheduled to start on 25 July 2022 at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- ★ Over 300 women across 20 States have registered to participate in the event in the Cadet (U-17), Junior (U-20) and Senior (13 and above) categories.
- ★ It will be held in over three phases.
- ★ A total of ₹1 crore 54 lakhs has been sanctioned over the conduct of the league.

- ★ The Khelo India Women's Fencing League is an open national level ranking tournament for women and fencers registered with the Fencing Association of India (FAI) portal and nominated by their respective State Associations are also participating.

BCCI Proposes an A+ Category for Umpires

- ★ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new A+ category for umpires in domestic cricket.
- ★ Nitin Menon, who is currently the only Indian in the ICC Elite Panel, has been placed in the A+ category along with 9 other officials.
- ★ Umpires in A+ and A category are paid ₹40,000 a day for a first-class game while ₹30,000 a day are paid in the B and C category.
- ★ The others in the A+ category include four international umpires namely Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan. Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.

Swiss Open 2022

- ★ Norway's Casper Ruud won 2022 Swiss open held in Gstaad, Switzerland.
- ★ He defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final by 4-6, 7-6 and 6-2.
- ★ It was his 9th Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Title.
- ★ The Swiss Open is Ruud's 3rd title in 2022, the other two titles are Buenos Aires and Geneva Open.

ICC 2025 Women's World Cup

- ★ International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that India will host the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup.
- ★ India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka were named as the four hosts for ICC women's white-ball events from 2024 to 2027.
- ★ The hosts were selected through a bidding process overseen by an ICC Board sub-committee which included BCCI President Sourav Ganguly.
- ★ Bangladesh will host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup while the 2026 edition will be held in England.

SAI Starts 'Create for India' Campaign

- ★ Sports Authority of India (SAI) has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India with the campaign "Create for India" in the 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG).
- ★ Participants can submit their creative entries by 26 July 2022, using the hashtags #create4India and #cheer4India.
- ★ The 2022 CWG are scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England from 28 July to 8 August 2022.

- ★ A 215-member Indian athlete contingent across 16 disciplines is all set to participate in the Commonwealth Games.

44th Chess Olympiad

- ★ The 44th Chess Olympiad kicks off in Chennai, India. It starts on the 28th of July and ends on the 9th of August.
- ★ 188 Federations from around the world will participate in the event.
- ★ The competition which is being organized since 1927, is being hosted in India for the first time and after 30 years in Asia.
- ★ 'Thambi' is the official Mascot of the 44th Chess Olympiad.

India's Flagbearers for CWG 2022

- ★ Double Olympic medallist badminton player PV Sindhu and Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were named the country's flagbearer for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham.
- ★ While PV Sindhu's name was announced, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) added Manpreet as the second flagbearer after being informed by the organisers that two flagbearers one male and one female was a must for each nation.
- ★ Sindhu was also the flagbearer at the 2018 CWG in Gold Coast.

Three New Countries to Receive ICC Membership Status

- ★ The International Cricket Council (ICC) awarded Associate membership status to three new countries during the ICC annual conference in Birmingham on July 26, 2022.
- ★ The three new ICC members include Cote D'Ivoire from Africa and Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia.
- ★ The addition of these three new countries has taken the total number of ICC members to 108 countries including 96 associates.
- ★ One of the major criteria to gain ICC membership includes having a proper structure with minimum team requirements for 20 and 50-over tournaments.

Leicester Cricket Ground Named after Indian Cricketer

- ★ In England, the Leicester Cricket Ground has been named after India's legendary cricketer, Sunil Gavaskar.
- ★ It has been named after Gavaskar to acknowledge his immense contribution to uplifting Indian Cricket to a certain height.
- ★ There is already a ground named after Gavaskar in the Kentucky area of the United States.
- ★ Gavaskar was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs in test cricket.

ODI Team Ranking

- ★ India maintained third position in the latest men's ODI Team Rankings.
- ★ Following India's series victory over West Indies, the team has managed to maintain a 3rd place spot in the latest men's ODI team rankings.
- ★ New Zealand is placed at the top of the team ODI rankings with a rating of 128 while England (119) remains in second place.
- ★ Pakistan stays in the fourth place.

RANKS, INDICES AND REPORTS

4 Indian Cities in Top 20 Sustainable Cities in Asia Pacific

- ★ Four Indian cities namely Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai made it to the list of top 20 sustainable cities, as per the Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021.
- ★ The Report titled Active Capital Asia-Pacific (APAC)-Rising Capital in Uncertain Times has been released by property consultant Knight Frank.
- ★ Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth and Melbourne were the top five green-rated cities in commercial real estate in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ★ Bengaluru led the sustainability index amongst the top Indian cities and ranked 14th in the APAC region. Bengaluru was the only Indian city to achieve the 'Gold' standard category. Delhi ranked second amongst the Indian cities (ranked 17th) in the APAC region followed by Hyderabad (ranked 18th) and Mumbai (ranked 20th).

Most Preferred Workplace of 2022

- ★ NTPC has been recognized as one of the "Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022".
- ★ It was recognized in the premier edition of "Most Preferred Workplaces 2022" organized by Team Marksmen in association with India Today.
- ★ The award showcases and celebrates organizations which have managed to maximize employee wellbeing, engagement and productivity alongside organizational performance.

Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2022

- ★ According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) by Israel-based StartupBlink, Bengaluru is the "strongest startup ecosystem in India" and ranked 8th globally.
- ★ San Francisco Bay (United States) ranked top in the index followed by New York (United States) and London (United Kingdom)
- ★ New Delhi ranks 13, Mumbai is 17, Pune is 90, Hyderabad is 97, Chennai is 102, Jaipur is 212 and Ahmedabad is 223.
- ★ In the country-wise rankings for 2022, India is among the top 20 startup ecosystems globally and has been ranked 19th.

Ranking for Implementation of NFSA

- ★ Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022 during a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India.
- ★ The Government announced that Odisha has topped in the state ranking for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through ration shops, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ As per the government's ranking, Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794).
- ★ Among the special category states Tripura has obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions.
- ★ The current version of the Index measures the effectiveness of NFSA implementation majorly through operations and initiatives under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System).

Forbes List of top Self-made Women Billionaires

- ★ According to Forbes' 8th annual list of America's Richest Self-Made Women, Jayshree Ullal, the president and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm is one of only five Indian-Americans on Forbes' list of America's richest self-made women.
- ★ With a net of \$2.1 billion in 2022, Indian origin Ullal ranks 15th on the Forbes list.
- ★ Diane Hendricks, co-founder and chairman of ABC supply has topped the Forbes list.

Unemployment Rate Rises in June 2022

- ★ The country's unemployment rate has raised up at 7.80 per cent in June with the loss of 13 million jobs mainly in the agriculture sector.
- ★ The data was released by economic think-tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- ★ The massive fall in number of jobs last month was triggered by higher unemployment rate in rural areas, which went up to 8.03 per cent from 6.62 per cent in May. In urban areas, it was slightly better at 7.30 per cent compared to 7.12 per cent recorded in May, according to the CMIE data.

Rurban Mission's Delta Rating

- ★ The Union Ministry of Rural Development has released the delta rating for June.
- ★ Jharkhand came in first nationally in the delta ranking and ninth overall.
- ★ With a composite score of 76.19, Jharkhand topped the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission's delta rating for June.
- ★ The state saw the largest gain among the 34 states and union territories in its delta ranking score, rising 1.93 points from the previous month.

Global Gender Gap Index 2022

- ★ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Gender Gap Index 2022 in Geneva.

- ★ India has been ranked 135 of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022.
- ★ In the “health and survival” sub-index it is placed at 146, it has the lowest results globally.
- ★ India is ranked 48th in political empowerment, 107th in educational attainment, 146th in health and survival and 143rd in economic involvement and opportunity.
- ★ Iceland retained its place as the world’s most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden as per the annual Gender Gap Report 2022.
- ★ Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran and Chad occupied the last five places.
- ★ The Global Gender Gap Index tracks the world’s progress toward gender parity in four key aspects: political empowerment, health and survival, educational attainment and economic participation and opportunity.
- ★ The index was first published in 2006 by WEF.

India Rankings 2022

- ★ On 15 July 2022, India Rankings-2022 were released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi.
- ★ According to the rankings, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has emerged as the best educational institution while Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is best university.
- ★ IIM, Ahmedabad is the best management institute in the country followed by IIM, Bangalore and IIM, Calcutta.
- ★ AIIMS, New Delhi is the best medical college and Savitha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences in Chennai is the best dental college.
- ★ IIT, Madras is the best engineering college followed by IIT, Delhi and IIT, Bombay.
- ★ Miranda House, Delhi is the best college followed by Hindu College, Delhi and Presidency College, Chennai.
- ★ Jamia Hamdard in the best Pharmacy institute in the country.
- ★ Innovation and entrepreneurship will be part of National Institutional Ranking Framework, NIRF, and National Assessment and Accreditation Council, NAAC.

Henley Passport Index

- ★ The Henley Passport Index has released the list of the World’s Most Powerful Passports 2022, which ranks world’s 199 passports according to the number of countries the holders can get visa free access.
- ★ India has placed at the 87th position in the Henley Passport Index with visa-free access to 60 countries.
- ★ Japan is ranked at the top of the list. The holder of Japanese passport will get visa-free access to 193 countries.
- ★ Singapore and South Korea secured the second position with visa-free access to 192 countries each, as per Henley Passport Index 2022.
- ★ Afghanistan is ranked at the bottom at 112th position with visa-free access to just 27 countries.

- ★ China's passport is ranked at 69th spot with visa-free access to 80 countries.

India Innovation Index 2021

- ★ NITI Aayog released the third edition of the India Innovation Index on the 21 July 2022, at an event in the NITI Bhawan.
- ★ The India Innovation Index 2021 will be released by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog- Shri Suman Bery.
- ★ The third edition strengthens the scope of innovation analysis in the country by drawing on the framework of the Global Innovation Index (GII).
- ★ Karnataka topped the India Innovation Index 2021 also held the top position in the category of 'Major Cities' for third year in a row. It is followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- ★ In the North-Eastern and Hilly states category Manipur emerged as the best performer. It is followed by Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.
- ★ The new framework presents comprehensive outlook for measuring innovation performance in India, with the introduction of 66 unique indicators, as compared to the 36 indicators used in the previous edition of India Innovation Index 2020.

Wealthiest Women in India

- ★ The 3rd edition of Kotak Private Banking-Hurun -leading Wealthy Women list was published.
- ★ As per the Kotak Private Banking-Hurun list published HCL Technologies' Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra has retained her position as the richest woman in India, with a 54 per cent jump in her networth to ₹84,330 crore in 2021.
- ★ She retained the position for the second year in a row.
- ★ Falguni Nayar, who quit her investment banking career to start the beauty focused brand Nykaa, has emerged as the richest self-made woman with a networth of ₹57,520 crore.
- ★ Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw witnessed a 21 per cent decline in her fortune and has moved down one rank to be the third richest woman in the country with a wealth of ₹29,030 crore.

World Airport Traffic Dataset 2021

- ★ The annual World Airport Traffic Dataset from the Airports Council International (ACI) World released the top 20 aviation sectors' worldwide air traffic rankings for the entire year 2021.
- ★ It gives an overview of the demand for air travel at airports throughout the globe in three categories: passengers (domestic and international), air cargo (freight and mail) and aircraft movements (air transport movements and general aviation).
- ★ Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi was ranked the 13th busiest airport. 3.7 crore passengers passed through IGIA in 2021.
- ★ Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) was in first place with 7.6 crore passengers.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Kempegowda International Award

- ★ Former chief minister of Karnataka S M Krishna, founder of Infosys & IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy and former badminton player Prakash Padukone, were selected for Kempegowda International Award 2022.
- ★ Kempegowda Award also known as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Award is a civilian award which is presented by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), annually.
- ★ Chief Minister Basavaraja Bommai will give the awards to recipients during grand celebration on the occasion of 513th birth anniversary of Kempegowda.
- ★ This award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a plaque.
- ★ The award has been instituted by the Karnataka Government.

Shiromani Award

- ★ Michelle Poonawalla, well known artist, businesswoman and philanthropist, received the coveted Shiromani Award from the hands of Mr. G. P. Hinduja, the co-chairman of Hinduja Group at NRI World Summit 2022, United Kingdom.
- ★ She has been awarded for her contribution to the field of Art.
- ★ The Shiromani Award was instituted in 1977.
- ★ Shiromani Award was also awarded to Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Dr. Kamel Hothi OBE and Falguni Shane Peacock.

CII Quality Ratna Award 2021

- ★ Happiest Minds Technologies' founder and executive chairman, Ashok Soota has received the CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.
- ★ The 2019 CII Quality Ratna Award was established to honor those who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary leadership, contributions and dedication to India's quality movement.
- ★ Mr. Soota's substantial contribution to enhancing the competitiveness of the Indian industry through quality Initiatives, the CII Awards Committee unanimously decided to present him with the 2021 Award.

Miss India 2022

- ★ Karnataka's Sini Shetty was crowned Femina Miss India 2022 winner at the Jio Convention center in Mumbai.
- ★ Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan emerged as Femina Miss India 2022 1st runner up and Shinata Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh emerged as Femina Miss India 2022 2nd Runner up.
- ★ Femina Miss India 2022 pageant in its hybrid format had launched a nationwide hunt to find the prospective talents from all corners of the country through virtual auditions.

Fields Medal 2022

- ★ Ukrainian Maths professor, Maryna Viazovska won the top mathematics prize named the Fields Medal 2022.
- ★ Four mathematicians have been awarded the prestigious Fields Medals at a ceremony held in Helsinki, Finland. This was informed by the International Mathematical Union jury on 05 July 2022.
- ★ The four awardees of the prestigious prize include France's Hugo Duminil-Copin, US-based June Huh, Britain's James Maynard and Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska.
- ★ Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska has become the second woman in history to win the Fields Medal after the Iranian Maryam Mirzakhani in 2014.
- ★ Fields medal is the highest honor for a mathematician. The medal is awarded every four years on the occasion of the International Congress of Mathematicians.
- ★ The Fields medal and cash prizes are funded by a trust established by J.C.Fields at the University of Toronto.

Ayurveda Ratna award

- ★ Tanuja Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) was awarded with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.
- ★ It was given for recognising her contribution to furthering the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad.
- ★ The UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on India Traditional Sciences conferred this award on Dr Nesari.
- ★ The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences was formed in 2014 with an aim to spread the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani and Sangeetam in the United Kingdom and abroad. Its mission is to expand and integrate Medical Pluralism in the National Health Service.

Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022

- ★ HCL Technologies received recognition at the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards for its creativity and use of Microsoft technologies in client solutions.
- ★ HCL Technologies also won the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award as well as the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences.
- ★ The IT business was also selected as a finalist for the Internet of Things category of the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award.
- ★ The Awards honor Microsoft partners who over the previous year created and provided exceptional Microsoft-based products, services, and devices.

Wall of Former Chief Economists

- ★ The First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Gita Gopinath has made it as the first woman to be featured on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the IMF.

- ★ This makes her only the second Indian to achieve this feat as the first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan as IMF's Chief Economist and Director of Research between the years 2003 and 2006.
- ★ Gita Gopinath's was appointed as Chief Economist of IMF in October 2018.
- ★ She was promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December 2021.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award

- ★ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) announced to set up Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in the field of academic excellence
- ★ According to Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh in New Delhi, the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in Public Administration has been established in memory of India's first president, who had also laid the foundation stone of the IIPA building complex in the national capital.
- ★ The institute has to have a vision for the next 25 years to accomplish the goals that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set.

Mrs. Universe Divine Crown in South Korea

- ★ Pallavi Singh from India won the Universe Divine Title at the competition's Yeosu City in South Korea.
- ★ She is an Indian who is from Kanpur and she has represented her nation admirably in this competition in which 110 nations took part.
- ★ Pallavi Singh won the 2020 Mrs. India pageant held in Jaipur.
- ★ She competed in the Mrs. Universe competition as the representative of Asia and India, winning the title.

'Order of the Rising Sun' Award by Japan

- ★ Vice Chairman of the Chennai based Sanmar Group Narayanan Kumar has been conferred with the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star Award.
- ★ The Order of the Rising Sun award is presented by the Emperor of Japan. It was created in 1875.
- ★ It was given in recognition of his contribution towards strengthening economic relations between Japan and India.
- ★ Kumar was honoured by the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Taka Masayuki.
- ★ Kumar is also the chairman of the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He had served the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as its president and was among the 'Spring 2022 Imperial Decorations recipients'.

The British Parliament Facilitates BCCI President

- ★ The British Parliament facilitated BCCI President and former Indian cricketer, Sourav Ganguly in London, United Kingdom.

- ★ He was felicitated on the same date July 13 when he led India to Natwest final win in 2002 and exactly 20 years later he was honoured in the same city.
- ★ He was elected as the president of BCCI in 2019.

Mother Teresa Memorial Award

- ★ The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) National Goodwill Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza and Environmental Activist Mr Afroz Shah were honoured with the Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021.
- ★ The award is given by the Governor of Maharashtra Hon. Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.
- ★ Both were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability.
- ★ Dia Mirza was recognized for her amazing and noteworthy contributions to steering important environmental initiatives throughout India.
- ★ Afroz Shah received recognition for his outstanding and pioneering efforts to steer one of the biggest beach clean-up projects in the world in India.

World's Best SME Bank by Euromoney

- ★ Singapore based DBS bank has been recognised as the 'World's Best SME Bank' by Euromoney for the second time.
- ★ Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, DBS has applied emerging technologies to help SMEs, especially micro and small enterprises, manage their credit risk.
- ★ DBS has developed algorithmic models powered by artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics that alerts the bank to potential signs of trouble faced by SMEs.
- ★ Euromoney is a leading UK-based financial publication.

Japan awards Ex-PM Shinzo Abe

- ★ The Japanese government announced that Shinzo Abe will receive Japan's highest honor, the Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum posthumously.
- ★ Shinzo Abe will be the fourth former premier to receive the honor under the postwar Constitution.
- ★ Shigeru Yoshida, Eisaku Sato and Yasuhiro Nakasone received the honor before.
- ★ Emperor Meiji of Japan introduced the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876. Later in 1888, the Collar of the Order was added to it.

J.C. Daniel Award

- ★ Renowned Malayalam filmmaker KP Kumaran was awarded the 2021 JC Daniel Award, the highest honour in Malayalam Cinema.
- ★ He won the award for his overall contribution to the Malayalam film industry.
- ★ The award comprises of a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

- ★ KP Kumaran is a director who has infused a new visual language and emotion into Malayalam cinema through his 50-year-long film career.
- ★ Kumaran made his directorial debut with Athithi in 1975 and won national award for Best feature film in Malayalam for his film Rugmini in 1989.

ICAR Sardar Patel Award

- ★ The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 in the Large Institute Category for its overall performance.
- ★ Ch Srinivasa Rao (Director of NAARM) has received the award from the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ★ The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management is a national-level Natural Resource Service training institute for ARS cadre located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ★ NAARM was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1976 to address issues related to agricultural research and education management in India.
- ★ The awards were given away at a function to mark the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR.

Global Energy Prize 2022

- ★ Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin professor of engineering at the University of Houston, has won the Global Energy Prize 2022.
- ★ He was awarded for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.
- ★ The award ceremony will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on 12 October to 14 October 2022.
- ★ Only three people in the world were selected this year for the award.
- ★ The 3 winners are Viktor Orlov from Russia along with Mercouri Kanatzidis from Greece and Kaushik Rajashekara.
- ★ Victor Orlov won the award in the Traditional Energy category and Mercouri Kanatzidis won the award in the Unconventional Energy category.

Medals in International Olympiads

- ★ Indian students bagged three Gold, sixteen Silver, and five bronze medals in various international Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry.
- ★ The Mathematics Olympiad was held in Norway and
- ★ Biology Olympiad was held in Armenia and the other two hosted by Switzerland and China were held virtually.
- ★ In the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) the Indian team got one gold and five bronze medals. Pranjal Srivastava scored a hat trick with his 3rd consecutive gold medal at the IMO. He is the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals at the IMO.

- ★ Deevyanshu Malu won gold medal. Abhijeet Anand, Anilesh Bansal, Dheeraj Kurukunda, and Harsh Jakhar bagged silver medals in the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).
- ★ Mahit Rajesh Gadhiwala, Nivesh Aggarwal, Tanishka Rameshchandra Kabra and Chinmay Khokar bagged a silver medal each in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO).
- ★ Mayank Pandhari bagged a gold medal. Amritansh Nigam, Prachi Jindal and Rohit Panda bagged silver medals in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

National Film Awards

- ★ The winners of the 68th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi.
- ★ The event was organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Directorate of Film Festivals.
- ★ Shri Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, announced the award winners.
- ★ Soorarai Pottru received three of the night's four main prizes.
- ★ The Most Film Friendly State award goes to Madhya Pradesh (Rajat Kamal & Certificate), while Uttarakhand (Certificate) and Uttar Pradesh (Certificate) are given Special Mention Award.
- ★ Kishwar Desai's "The Longest Kiss" received Best Book on Cinema for the Year Award.
- ★ The Odia book "Kali Paine Kalira Cinema" and the Malayalam book "MT Anunahvungalude Pusthakam" both receive special mentions.
- ★ Best Feature Film award was given to Soorarai Pottru.
- ★ Suriya for Soorarai Pottru and Ajay Devgn for Tanhaji received Best Actor Award.
- ★ Aparna Balamurali for Soorarai Pottru received the Best Actress Award.

Ex US Defence Secretary Honoured for Strengthening Indo-US Ties

- ★ Former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane has been honoured by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) for his role in strengthening ties between India and US.
- ★ The USISPF presented global leadership and public service awards to those persons who have been instrumental in strengthening ties between the US and India.
- ★ Along with Naravane, former US Defence Secretary General Jim Mattis has also been awarded the public service award.
- ★ As Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, Gen Naravane helped to modernize the Indian army, along with improving defence partnerships and growing interoperability between the US and India.
- ★ As Defence Secretary, General Mattis worked to get India as a strategic partner with the US.

'Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award'

- ★ Dinesh Shahra Foundation (DSF) has instituted a first-of-its kind 'Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award' for Excellence in Music.
- ★ The initiative is supported by the Indian Arts and Cultural Society.

- ★ Dinesh Shahra Foundation (DSF) has taken a major stride in its efforts to promote soulful Indian music among the masses.
- ★ Apart from a trophy or memento, the recognition will also include a significant cash component.
- ★ Dinesh Shahra's book 'Sanatan Leela' was also launched during the event.
- ★ DSF is committed to promote various aspects of Indian or Sanatan culture.

SHG Linkage Award by NABARD

- ★ Indian Bank has bagged the best performing bank award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under the Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme category from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ★ The award was presented during the 41st foundation day of NABARD.
- ★ The award was received by Mr. S L Jain (MD & CEO) and Mr. V Chandrasekaran, general manager (Rural Banking) during NABARD's 41st foundation day.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

President of the Philippines

- ★ Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr has been sworn in as the 17th President of the Philippines.
- ★ He succeeds Rodrigo Duterte.
- ★ 64-year-old Marcos is the son and namesake of Philippines' late dictator.
- ★ Sara Duterte is sworn as the Vice-President.

New chairman of Reliance Jio

- ★ The Reliance Industries Limited Chairperson and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has resigned from the board of Reliance Jio, the telecom arm of the oil-to-retail conglomerate RIL.
- ★ The Board of directors of Reliance Jio approved the appointment of Mukesh Ambani's eldest son Akash M Ambani, non-executive director, as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Reliance Jio.
- ★ Mukesh Ambani will continue to serve as chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and as the chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd, the parent firm of all Jio digital services brands, including Reliance Jio Infocomm.
- ★ The Board approved the appointment of Pankaj Mohan Pawar as managing director of Jio for 5 years.
- ★ KV Chowdhary and Raminder Singh Gujral were named independent directors for 5 years.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra

- ★ Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ★ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office to Mr. Shinde.

- ★ He has become the 20th Chief Minister of the State.
- ★ Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

President of FATF

- ★ Indian origin T Raja Kumar has taken over as President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a period of two years, the world's anti-terrorism financing agency.
- ★ Raja Kumar will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures, improving asset recovery and other initiatives.
- ★ He has more than 35 years of leadership and operational experience in Singapore's home ministry and police force.
- ★ Raja Kumar succeeds Dr Marcus Pleyer. FATF is a global watchdog tasked with combatting money laundering and terrorist financing.

14th Prime Minister of Israel

- ★ The leader of the Yesh Atid Party, Mr. Yair Lapid has officially become the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.
- ★ He succeeds Naftali Bennett.
- ★ Naama Schultz will become director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.
- ★ Mr. Yair Lapid was an author, TV presenter, and news anchor.
- ★ He serves as the chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid, having previously served as Leader of the Opposition from 2020 to 2021 and as Minister of Finance from 2013 to 2014.
- ★ He served as the alternate prime minister of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

President of AIU

- ★ Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das was appointed the president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- ★ He replaced G Thiruvvasagam and Das will be 101st President of AIU.
- ★ Das, an eminent historian, was appointed the vice-president of AIU a year ago. His tenure as president will be for one year from 01 July 2022.

Force Commander of UN in South Sudan

- ★ India's Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian has been appointed the Force Commander in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ★ United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment.
- ★ Subramanian succeeds Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India.
- ★ Almost 20,000 peacekeepers serve with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to protect civilians and build durable peace in the conflict-affected country.

First Black Woman on US Supreme Court

- ★ Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in as the new associate Supreme Court justice, becoming the first black woman and the first former federal public defender to serve on the nation's highest court.
- ★ Jackson succeeded Justice Stephen Breyer upon his retirement from the court.
- ★ She served as a district judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia from 2013 to 2021.
- ★ She was also vice-chair of the United States Sentencing Commission from 2010 to 2014.

Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to Take Role of G20

- ★ Amitabh Kant, the former CEO of Niti Aayog, will be becoming the new Sherpa for G-20.
- ★ Kant will replace Union Minister Piyush Goyal who is likely to step down due to workload.
- ★ India is set to assume the G-20 presidency in 2022.
- ★ The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) began in Bali on 07 July 2022 and will continue till 08 July 2022.

Nominations to the Rajya Sabha

- ★ The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated four noted personalities from the southern states to the Rajya Sabha.
- ★ Olympic Sprinter PT Usha, music composer Ilaiyaraaja, philanthropist Veerendra Heggade and screenwriter V. Vijayendra Prasad were nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- ★ All four nominees are from the four southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively.
- ★ They have been nominated in the category of eminent persons nominated by the President of India.

MD and CEO of SBI General Insurance

- ★ SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has appointed Paritosh Tripathi as managing director and chief executive officer which came into effective 05 July.
- ★ He was nominated by the parent company, State Bank of India for the post and succeeds P.C. Kandpal.
- ★ Tripathi is in-charge of the SBI General Insurance's overall business strategy and growth, operations, budgets and strategic growth.
- ★ He has over 32 years of banking experience.

Additional Charge of Minority Affairs

- ★ Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has been assigned the charge of Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio.

- ★ Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Steel.
- ★ The developments come after the President accepted the resignations of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh from the Union Council of Ministers.

President-Designate of CII for 2022-2023

- ★ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has elected R Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions as its president-designate for 2022-23.
- ★ He will replace Sanjiv Bajaj.
- ★ He was the chairman of CII Southern Region during 2018-2019.
- ★ He has held several positions in CII, including those of Chairman of National Committees on Logistics, CII Family Business Network India Chapter Council, CII Tamil Nadu State Council and CII Institute of Logistics Advisory Council.
- ★ ITC chairman and managing director Sanjiv Puri has been elected the Vice President of CII for 2022-23.

President of Market Research Society of India

- ★ Manish Makhijani, Global Insights Director of Hindustan Unilever Ltd. was elected as the new President of Market Research Society of India for the 2022-2024 term.
- ★ He succeeds Sandeep Arora.
- ★ Makhijani has worked as the Vice President of MRSI last three years.
- ★ Additionally, Paru Minocha and Saurin Shah were elected as Vice-Presidents and Prashant Kolleru as the Secretary and Nitin Kamat as the Treasurer for MRSI.
- ★ The election of the new Managing Committee members was held at MRSI's 34th Annual General Meeting on 07 July 2022 in Mumbai.

Deputy Election Commissioner

- ★ Senior bureaucrat R K Gupta was appointed as the deputy election commissioner by the Personnel Ministry.
- ★ He succeeded T Sreekanth.
- ★ Gupta, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, will serve as deputy election commissioner (Joint secretary level) till 28 February 2023.

Ranil Wickremesinghe Resigns as Prime Minister

- ★ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his resignation as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka amid massive protests.
- ★ He is a member of parliament from the United National Party (UNP).
- ★ He has been the leader of the UNP since 1994.

- ★ Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is also expected to resign on July 13th.

AATC's Youngest Analog Astronaut

- ★ Nineteen-year-old Jahnavi Dangeti has become the youngest to complete the Analog Astronaut programme from the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) at Krakow in South Poland.
- ★ Ms. Jahnavi has completed the two-week training programme in June 2022 at the AATC.
- ★ AATC is a private agency set up by the European Space professionals to carry out spaceflight scientific studies.
- ★ She was one among the 6 persons selected from across the globe for the programme.

MD of NHRCL

- ★ Shri Rajendra Prasad assumed the charge of Managing Director, National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited in addition to his duties as Director of Project, NHRCL.
- ★ Shri Prasad is working as Director of Project with NHRCL since November 2017 and is overall in charge of civil engineering works of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project, popularly known as the Bullet Train Project.
- ★ NHRCL was incorporated in 2016 to manage the High-Speed Rail Corridor in India.

President of IFAD

- ★ Mr. Alvaro Lario has been appointed as the 7th President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- ★ He will take office on 01 October 2022, for a four-year term.
- ★ He succeeds Mr. Gilbert Houngbo who has led the organization since 2017.
- ★ Lario served as Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group.
- ★ He has 20 years of experience in the private sector, academia and international financial institutions.

CMD of Goa Shipyard Limited

- ★ The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has approved the appointment of Mr. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for five years.
- ★ Presently, he is serving as Director (Operations) in the GSL.
- ★ He started his career with GSL in 1991.
- ★ Mr. Upadhyay is an Engineering Graduate (Electrical).
- ★ GSL is a Miniratna Public Sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence.

Acting President of Sri Lanka

- ★ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed as acting President after Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives.
- ★ He is also presently serving as the Minister of Finance.
- ★ Earlier he served as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka from 1993 to 1994, 2001 to 2004, 2015 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019.

India's Next Ambassador to Bhutan

- ★ Sudhakar Dalela, currently serving as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Washington has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan.
- ★ He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) of the 1993 batch.
- ★ He will succeed Ruchira Kamboj who has been appointed as India's next Permanent Representative to the UN.

High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India

- ★ The Government of Bangladesh has decided to appoint Mustafizur Rahman, as the next High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India.
- ★ He will succeed Muhammad Imran.
- ★ Mustafizur Rahman is currently serving as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and the Ambassador to Switzerland.
- ★ He has also served as the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore.

Director General of FIFS

- ★ The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS), a self-regulatory industry body, has appointed Joy Bhattacharjya as its director general.
- ★ Bhattacharjya is the CEO of the Prime Volleyball League and is a cricket analyst.
- ★ The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS), earlier known as the Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG), was established to protect consumer interest and create standardised practices in the Fantasy Sports industry.
- ★ He was also the project director for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017.

MD and CEO of NSE

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed Ashish Kumar Chauhan Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- ★ He will succeed Vikram Limaye whose 5-year term ended on 16 July 2022.
- ★ Ashish Kumar Chauhan is the current MD and CEO of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- ★ He is known as the 'father of India's financial derivatives.

Non-Independent Non-Executive Director of IndiGo

- ★ The Board of Directors (Board) of InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo), has appointed Mr. Meleveetil Damodaran as Non-Independent Non-Executive Director.
- ★ He was Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) from February 2005 to February 2008.
- ★ He is widely acknowledged as one of India's foremost champions of Corporate Governance.
- ★ He graduated with distinction in Economics and in Law from the Universities of Madras and Delhi respectively.

Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of BCCI

- ★ Former Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran has appointed as the ethics officer and ombudsman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ★ Saran has succeeded Justice DK Jain, whose term ended in June 2021.
- ★ Saran is a former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court. He also served as a judge in Karnataka and Allahabad High Court.

Chairman of KVIC

- ★ Shri Manoj Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- ★ Shri Manoj Kumar, who has worked as Expert Member (Marketing) at KVIC, has a vast experience in the areas of marketing and rural development.
- ★ He succeeded Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- ★ KVIC is a statutory body incorporated under the Parliament Act with the aim to develop Khadi in rural areas.

Executive Director of SEBI

- ★ Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed Pramod Rao as its Executive Director.
- ★ He will handle the Department of Debt and Hybrid Securities and Enquiry and Adjudication Department (EAD).
- ★ Prior to this, Rao held the position of Group General Counsel at ICICI Bank and provided strategic oversight to the legal function for the ICICI group.

MD of ONGC Videsh Limited

- ★ Rajarshi Gupta has taken over as managing director of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- ★ Gupta has more than 33 years of wide-ranging experience in supervisory, managerial and strategic planning capacities in domestic and international operations of ONGC and ONGC Videsh.

- ★ He replaces Alok Gupta.
- ★ As country manager and president of ONGC Videsh's US subsidiary, he had set up the Geological & Geophysical Centre of Excellence in Houston.

President of India

- ★ BJP-led National Democratic Alliance candidate Droupadi Murmu won Presidential Election of India.
- ★ She will Succeed Ram Nath Kovind. Murmu will be sworn in as the 15th president of India on 25 July 2022.
- ★ She was the former Governor of Jharkhand.
- ★ She is the first tribal women to be elected to the position and the youngest as well.
- ★ She defeated opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha by securing 64.03% of the electoral college votes.
- ★ Chief Justice of India, Justice N V Ramana will administer the oath of office to Ms Murmu at the Central Hall of Parliament.

Mario Draghi Resigns as Italian PM

- ★ Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi has handed his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella.
- ★ He resigned after three parties in his government refused to support him in a confidence vote.
- ★ Draghi was appointed as the Prime Minister in February 2021.
- ★ Prior to this, he served as the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) between 2011 and 2019.

Whole Time Member of IBBI

- ★ The central Government has appointed Shri Jayanti Prasad as a Whole-time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for five years.
- ★ He belongs to the 1986 batch of Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers, superannuated as Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General.
- ★ He had accomplished 35 years of experience in the civil services, national and international assignments, having held key positions within the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India and in the United Nations (UN).
- ★ He was the Chief Auditor at the UN for six years and also served as the Custodian under the Special Court (TORTS) Act 1992 in the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- ★ Dinesh Gunawardena took oath as new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
- ★ Gunawardena's appointment came a day after Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the new President of Sri Lanka.
- ★ He is a leader from the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) or People's United Front.

- ★ Dinesh Gunawardena earlier served as Sri Lanka's foreign minister and education minister.

Prime Minister of Kuwait

- ★ Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait.
- ★ He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Claremont College in California and a PhD in Economics and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University.
- ★ Al Sabah served as deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs of Kuwait.
- ★ In 1993, he was appointed ambassador of Kuwait to the US. He was the minister of Finance from January 2003 to July 2003.

Additional Independent Director of YES Bank

- ★ Private sector lender YES Bank appointed Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as an additional independent director of the bank for a period of five years.
- ★ He is currently a financial sector policy expert and adviser. Currently, he advises banks, finance companies, fintech entities, payment system entities, investors and funds on subjects ranging from financial regulations and Indian economy.
- ★ He is an independent director on the boards of several financial sector entities.
- ★ He was a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for three years from 2014 to 2017.

IAPH Appoints its Official Representative in India

- ★ The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), the global ports' forum for industry collaboration and excellence has appointed Ennarasu Karunesan as its official representative in India.
- ★ Karunesan has over 33 years of leadership experience in the marine and port industries.
- ★ He began his career in the port industry with the Mumbai port and later worked as the general manager of operations and CEO of the Westport Container Terminal in Port Klang, Malaysia from 2001 to 2004.
- ★ He introduced innovative port technologies and developed maritime infrastructure with safe and sustainable operations.

Chief Economist of World Bank

- ★ World Bank President David Malpass has appointed Indermit Gill as the Chief Economist of the World Bank Group and Senior Vice President for Development Economics.
- ★ Mr Gill will succeed American economist Carmen Reinhart and his appointment will be effective from 01 September 2022.
- ★ An Indian national, Gill is currently Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions where he led work on macroeconomics, debt, trade, poverty and governance.

CEO of Paytm Payments Services

- ★ The parent company of the unicorn fintech company Paytm, One97 Communications has appointed Nakul Jain as the CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL).
- ★ He replaced Praveen Sharma.
- ★ Nakul Jain holds over 22 years of experience in retail banking and has worked in sub-fields including branch banking, wealth management, product and segmentation, distribution, retail assets and acquisition.
- ★ Earlier, he served as managing director of private banking, priority banking, deposit, and branch banking at Standard Chartered Bank.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success

- ★ Prarthna Batra's debut book titled 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' was launched by sporting icon Sakshi Malik in New Delhi.
- ★ This book is an attempt by the young author to share her journey with millennial readers and tell them how she sees the world and how to make an impact in a competitive and dynamic world with a human-centric approach.
- ★ It is a well-written book that will serve as a source of inspiration to young readers.
- ★ Prarthna is also the co-founder of Lajja Diaries, an online platform to felicitate the gender discourse on feminism and women's rights in India.

Viswanathan Anand's Memoir 'Mind Master'

- ★ Viswanathan Anand, a five-time world chess champion has released an enhanced paperback edition of his critically acclaimed autobiography 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life'.
- ★ The book includes an extra chapter on how to deal with uncertainty and quickly shifting reality in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- ★ Anand is the co-writer of an autobiography with journalist-author Susan Ninan.
- ★ In Mind Master, Anand takes stock of a lifetime of games played, opponents faced and problems overcame and extracts useful insights that will aid every reader in overcoming life's obstacles.

The McMahon Line: A Century of discord

- ★ The book titled 'The McMahon Line: A Century of discord' was released on July 2022.
- ★ It has been authored by former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former Chief of Army Staff General JJ Singh.
- ★ The book is based on the former Army chief's experience and research on the India-China border dispute.

- ★ A short film related to the McMahon line was also screened.

Book – The Resilient Entrepreneur

- ★ A book titled 'The Resilient Entrepreneur' was written by the author Dhruvi Shah.
- ★ It was launched globally in the presence of entrepreneur from Singapore, India and the US.
- ★ The book has interviews of entrepreneurs who have faced the challenges, stayed resilient and successfully scaled their startups.

Book 'Beyond the Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand'

- ★ Chief minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami released a book titled 'Beyond the Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand'.
- ★ The book was authored by Aradhana Johri.
- ★ This book will be considered an authentic introduction to Uttarakhand's sacred temples both domestically and abroad.
- ★ Aradhana Johri is a former IAS official who formerly held the position of Nainital District Magistrate.
- ★ Culture and mythology are explained in the book based on the mythical temples of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.

Three Books By DPD

- ★ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur released three books which was published by Directorate of Publications Division.
- ★ Minister presented the first copy of the books to President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind in presence of Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, President-elect Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ★ The three books are Moods, Moments and Memories - Former Presidents of India (1950-2017) A Visual History, First Citizen - Pictorial Record of President Ram Nath Kovind's Term and Interpreting Geometries - Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

'Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend' Book

- ★ A book titled 'Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend' has been released.
- ★ The book has been authored by Faisal Farooqui.
- ★ It is based on the life of Actor Dilip Kumar, also known as Yusuf Khan.
- ★ The author paints an intimate portrait of the actor, throwing light on some little-known tales from his illustrious life.
- ★ He was one of the few actors who could carry a whole movie by himself.
- ★ He was a natural actor who excelled in every character he portrayed.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Launches PSLV C-53

- ★ The national space agency, Indian Space Research Organisation, has successfully launched the rocket PSLV C-53 carrying three Singaporean satellites from the spaceport at Sriharikota.
- ★ Six nano-satellites including those belonging to India's two private space start-ups also went to space.
- ★ PSLV C-53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of the NewSpace India limited.
- ★ The Department of Space known as the New Space India Limited has successfully completed two launches, the first being the launch of the GSAT-24 communication satellite onboard the Arinave-V rocket from French Guiana.

NASA's CAPSTONE Mission

- ★ National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) spacecraft named Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment (CAPSTONE), a lunar orbiter was successfully launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket
- ★ It was launched from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1 on the Mahia Peninsula of New Zealand.
- ★ The microwave-oven-sized CubeSat was designed and built by Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems, a Terran Orbital Corporation.
- ★ It will study a specific orbit where NASA plans to build a small space station for astronauts to stop before and after going to the moon's surface.
- ★ CAPSTONE is a 12-unit CubeSat.
- ★ It will test a navigation system that will measure its position relative to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) without relying on ground stations.

NASA Releases First Full-Color Image

- ★ The first full-color image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope was released on 11 July 2022.
- ★ It provides glimpses of what the early Universe looked like. US President Joe Biden presented the image at an event at the White House.
- ★ It is the clearest image to date of the early universe, going back 13 billion years. The image showed thousands of galaxies and some of the faintest objects observed colorized in blue, orange and white tones.
- ★ The James Webb Space Telescope is the next great space science observatory following Hubble, designed to answer questions about the Universe and make breakthrough discoveries in all fields of astronomy.
- ★ The joint project between the American space agency NASA, and the European and Canadian space agencies (ESA, CSA) launched in December 2021.

IIT Kanpur Develops Bio-Inspired Artificial Muscle

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has developed a bio-inspired artificial muscle for next-generation space robots.
- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has built a bio-inspired artificial muscle at its Smart Materials, Structures and Systems (SMSS) Lab.
- ★ It will lead to the creation of a new class of space robots which will reinforce Indian Space Technology and can be used in smart buildings, automobiles and the aviation industry.

NASA Releases 78 Kg of Garbage Bag

- ★ For the first time, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) tested a new waste disposal technology by releasing about 78 kg of garbage from the International Space Station (ISS).
- ★ The first-of-its-kind technology to dispose of waste has been developed by Nasa's Johnson Space Center and a private company Nano rock.
- ★ The new technology uses a specially designed waste container, which is mounted in the Bishop Airlock.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Asteroid Day

- ★ International Asteroid Day is celebrated every year on 30 June.
- ★ The day aims to make the public aware about asteroid impact hazards and the crisis communication actions that can be taken at the global level in case there is a credible near-Earth object threat.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Small is Beautiful'.

National Doctors' Day

- ★ National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year on 01 July.
- ★ It is celebrated to honor the birth and death anniversary of the great physician and second chief minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C Roy).
- ★ The theme of this year's National Doctors' Day is 'Family Doctor on the Front Line'.
- ★ National Doctors' Day was first celebrated in the year 1991.

National Postal Worker Day

- ★ National Postal Workers Day is celebrated every year on 01 July.
- ★ It is observed to show appreciation for the postal workers' hard work that they put in to deliver our mail and deliveries on time.
- ★ Postal workers walk or travel miles a day to deliver letters and packages to our doorsteps.

- ★ National Postal Worker Day in 1997 was declared by a Seattle-area postal carrier to honor fellow employees and since then it is celebrated every year.

National Chartered Accountants Day

- ★ National Chartered Accountants Day, often known as CA Day, is observed every year on 01 July.
- ★ The ICAI was established on 1 July 1949 to regulate the accounting laws in India.
- ★ In the same year, an expert committee suggested the formation of an autonomous body and the Chartered Accountant Act in 1949.
- ★ The second-largest accounting association in the world, ICAI is the national professional accounting organization of India.

World Sports Journalists Day

- ★ World Sports Journalists Day is observed every year on 2nd July.
- ★ The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists and encourage them to do better at their work.
- ★ Sports journalists help millions of people in the world to receive information on various sports.
- ★ It marks the anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), established in 1924.

International Day of Cooperatives

- ★ International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of every July.
- ★ This year the day will be celebrated on 02 July.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is “Cooperatives Build a Better World”.
- ★ This celebration aims to increase awareness about cooperatives by highlighting how the United Nations shares similar goals and objectives as the international cooperative movement.
- ★ This day aims to acknowledge the contributions of cooperatives to resolving some of the major international issues that have drawn the attention of the United Nations.

World Zoonoses Day

- ★ World Zoonoses Day is observed annually every 06 July.
- ★ This day aims to shed light on diseases that originate in animals that can be transmitted to humans.
- ★ “Let’s Break the Chain of Zoonotic Transmission” is the focus of this year’s World Zoonoses Day.
- ★ On this day on 6th July 1885, a French biologist named Louise Pasteur who is also very known for his theory of pasteurization successfully administered the first-ever vaccination given for a zoonotic disease.

National Fish Farmers Day

- ★ National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated every year on 10th July.

- ★ National Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is celebrating the National Fish Farmers Day virtually at NFDB Hyderabad.
- ★ It is 65th National Fish Farmers Day being celebrated across the Country.
- ★ Every year, this annual event is celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10th July, 1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country.

World Population Day

- ★ World Population Day is celebrated every year on 11 July.
- ★ World Population Day aims to increase people's awareness on various population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.
- ★ The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.
- ★ It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on 11 July 1987, the approximate date on which the world's population reached five billion people.
- ★ Theme for the year 2022 is 'A world of 8 billion: towards a resilient future for all – harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all'.

World Malala Day 2022

- ★ World Malala day 2022 is celebrated and observed all over the world on 12 July.
- ★ The 12th of July has been designated as World Malala Day by the UN in honor of the teenage activist Malala Yousafzai.
- ★ Malala Day, which honors women's and children's rights all around the world is observed on the birth anniversary of Malala Yousafzai.
- ★ Malala, who won the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 17 was the prize's youngest-ever winner.
- ★ She currently resides in Birmingham and continues to fight for women's empowerment and education.

World Youth Skills Day

- ★ World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on 15 July.
- ★ The purpose of this day is to provide essential skills to youngsters around the globe so that they can get employment.
- ★ The day helps in disseminating awareness about the importance of skills in getting good work opportunities.
- ★ The theme for this year 2022 is 'Transforming youth skills for the future'.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly declared July 15 as World Youth Skills Day in December 2014.

World Day for International Justice

- ★ World Day for International Justice is celebrated every year on 17 July.
- ★ It is celebrated to mark an emerging modern system of justice against international criminal acts and promote people who voice their support for the rights of the victims.
- ★ It is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day.
- ★ The theme for 2021 for the Day of International Criminal Justice was 'social justice in the digital economy'.
- ★ The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Nelson Mandela International Day

- ★ Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day, is observed every year on 18 July.
- ★ It is observed to mark the birth anniversary of the former South African president.
- ★ This day was first celebrated on 18 July 2010, after the United Nations in November 2009 officially declared Nelson Mandela International Day.
- ★ In 2014, the UN General Assembly introduced the Nelson Mandela Prize, an award recognizing the achievements of those who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity.

World Chess Day

- ★ World Chess Day is celebrated every year on 20 July.
- ★ The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- ★ The day is observed by teaching someone or learning how to play the game.
- ★ On 12 December 2019, the General Assembly announced 20 July as World Chess Day.
- ★ FIDE, which has 181 chess federations as its members, organizes chess events around the world on this day.

World Brain Day

- ★ World Brain Day is celebrated every year on 22 July.
- ★ The main aim of the day is to share information about brain health and spark a universal effort that brings awareness to the prevalence of brain disorders
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Brain Health for all'.
- ★ WBD 2022 campaign will focus on five key messages globally like Awareness, Prevention, Advocacy, Education and Access.

National Broadcasting Day

- ★ National Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on 23 July.

- ★ The day aims to remind Indian citizens about the impact of radio on our lives.
- ★ All India Radio began its journey as a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) on 23 July 1927.
- ★ Radio broadcasting services started in India during the British rule in 1923.

National Thermal Engineer Day

- ★ National Thermal Engineer Day is observed every year on 24 July.
- ★ The day honors the significance of thermal management in the electronics sector and the engineers and businesses who make it possible.
- ★ Advanced Thermal Solutions Inc (ATS) established the day in 2014.
- ★ ATS focuses on offering efficient and cost-effective thermal energy regulation and electronic packaging solutions.
- ★ The day was created to showcase the efforts of thermal engineers around the nation.

World Drowning Prevention Day

- ★ World Drowning Prevention Day is celebrated every year on 25 July.
- ★ The main purpose of the day is to encourage individuals, governments, UN agencies and civil society organisations to collaborate and provide critical measures to prevent drowning deaths.
- ★ The first-ever World Drowning Prevention Day was commemorated in 2021.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly recognized and passed a resolution for “Global drowning prevention” in April 2021.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

- ★ Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 26 July.
- ★ Kargil Vijay Diwas or Kargil Victory Day is the celebration of India’s historic win against Pakistan on July 26, 1999.
- ★ During this war, the Indian Army evicted Pakistani intruders and recaptured Tiger Hill and other posts as a part of ‘Operation Vijay’.

83rd Raising Day of CRPF

- ★ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has celebrated its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2022.
- ★ The 83rd Raising Day parade was organised at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.
- ★ This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital.
- ★ It officially works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ★ CRPF, the India’s largest central armed police force came into existence in 1939.
- ★ It was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on December 28, 1949, upon the enactment of the CRPF Act.

World Nature Conservation Day

- ★ World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 28 July.
- ★ It is observed to raise awareness about protecting nature and conserving natural resources to save the earth from the dangers of adverse impacts of climate change.
- ★ It acknowledges that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and healthy society.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature'.
- ★ The Earth is currently facing several challenges such as climate change, loss of habitat for wildlife, deforestation, etc.
- ★ Saving plants and animals that are threatened with extinction is one of the primary focuses of World Nature Conservation Day.

World Hepatitis Day

- ★ World Hepatitis Day is celebrated every year on 28 July.
- ★ Hepatitis is essentially a disease of the liver and it has five primary types A, B, C, D or E. It causes inflammation of the liver.
- ★ The day is observed to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that leads to severe diseases and liver cancer.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Bringing hepatitis care closer to you'.
- ★ The first World Hepatitis Day was observed in 2008.

International Tiger Day

- ★ International Tiger Day is celebrated every year on 29 July.
- ★ The objective of the day is to raise awareness among individuals, organisations and governments about the importance of the conservation of tigers.
- ★ International Tiger Day was introduced in 2010 after it was discovered that 97 percent of tigers had disappeared in the past century.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population'.
- ★ Tiger Day is observed by many international organisations, including the World -Wide Fund for Nature, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Smithsonian Institution.

OBITUARY NEWS

Veteran Bangali Filmmaker Tarun Majumdar

- ★ Veteran film director Tarun Majumdar, who was known for his compelling work in Bengali cinema, has passed away due to prolonged illness. He was at the age of 91.
- ★ He was born on 08 January 1931 in the Bengal Presidency of British India.

- ★ His works includes Balika Badhu (1976), Kuheli (1971), Shriman Prithviraj (1972) and Dadar Kirti (1980).
- ★ He is the recipient of four National Awards, seven BFJA Awards, five Filmfare Awards and an Anandalok Award.
- ★ The Government of India honoured him with the Fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri in 1990.

Visionary British Theatre Director Peter Brook

- ★ Peter Brook, one of the world's most innovative theatre directors passed away. He was at the age of 97.
- ★ He was best known for his 1985 masterpiece 'The Mahabharata'.
- ★ In 2021, he was awarded India's fourth highest civilian award the Padma Shri, for his valuable contributions towards arts.
- ★ He also won a Tony Award in 1970 for the production of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Former Indian Goalkeeper EN Sudhir

- ★ Former India goalkeeper E N Sudhir died in Goa. He was at the age of 76.
- ★ Sudhir, who was born in Kozhikode in Kerala.
- ★ Former India international Sudhir played as a goalkeeper for India in the year 1970s.
- ★ Sudhir made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic q ualifiers in 1972. He represented India in nine matches.
- ★ He was also part of the national team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the Asian Games squad in 1974.

Freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair

- ★ Noted Gandhian and freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair passed away at Neyyattinkara in Thiruvananthapuram. He was at the age of 100.
- ★ Gopinathan Nair played a major role in popularising Gandhism across the country. He was jailed for participating in Quit India Movement.
- ★ The nation honoured Gopinathan Nair with Padma Shri in 2016.
- ★ He had served as the president of Gandhi Sevagram Ashram for 11 years.

Ex-Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

- ★ Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister and remained a powerful and influential politician after leaving office, has died after being shot during a campaign speech on 08 July 2022. He was at the age 67.
- ★ Abe, Japan's longest – serving prime minister held office in 2006 for one year and again from 2012 to 2020.

- ★ He also served as chief Cabinet Secretary from 2005 to 2006 under Junichiro Koizumi and was briefly leader of the opposition in 2012.

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo

- ★ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) Secretary-General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, passed away in Nigeria. He was at the age of 63.
- ★ Barkindo born in 1959, had worked in the crude oil sector for around 35 years.
- ★ He completed BSc (Hons) in Political Science from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria (1981).
- ★ He began his career with the Nigerian Mining Corporation in 1982.

'Father of Indian Internet' B.K. Syngal

- ★ Brijendra Kumar (BK) Syngal, former chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, (VSNL) passed away. He was at the age of 82.
- ★ He was an Indian telecommunications executive who was referred to as the 'Father of Internet & Data Services in India'.
- ★ BK Syngal was born in 1940 in Ambala.
- ★ As the Chairman of VSNL, he was unofficially known as the 'bulldozer' for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles.
- ★ He also served as Chairman of Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (London), Governor of INTELSAT Board at Washington DC and as a Councilor for the INMARSAT Council in London.

British Composer Monty Norman

- ★ British composer Monty Norman, who was the man behind the iconic James Bond theme has passed away. He was at the age of 94.
- ★ Norman was hired by producer Albert Cubby Broccoli to compose a theme for the first James Bond film, 'Dr. No' released in 1962.
- ★ His theme for James Bond, as arranged by John Barry, became the theme for the entire franchise.

Noted Social Worker and Padma Shri Awardee Avdhash Kaushal

- ★ Noted social worker and Padma Shri awardee Avdhash Kaushal died following a prolonged illness. He was at the age of 87.
- ★ Kaushal founded an NGO named Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra fought for human rights and the conservation of the environment.
- ★ Kaushal is credited with bringing mining activities to an end in Mussoorie in the 1980s.

Renowned Archaeologist Padmashree Enamul Haque

- ★ Eminent archaeologist and historian Dr. Enamul Haque passed away in Dhak, Bangladesh. He was at the age of 85.
- ★ He was a scholar, museologist, cultural activist, freedom fighter, songwriter, and TV personality.
- ★ He served as the professor of national culture and heritage at the Independent University, Bangladesh, and the president, chairman and academic director of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art.
- ★ He was awarded the Ekushey Padak (the Second highest civilian award in Bangladesh) in 2016.
- ★ In 2020, Haque was also awarded the Padma Shri award (India's 4th Highest civilian award) for his tremendous contribution to the field of archeology and museology by the Government of India.

Former New Zealand Cricket Captain Barry Sinclair

- ★ Former New Zealand cricket captain and batter Barry Sinclair has Passed away. He was at the age of 85.
- ★ Sinclair was born on 23 October 1936 in Wellington, New Zealand.
- ★ He was the third Kiwi batter after Bert Sutcliffe and John R Reid to score 1,000 runs in Test cricket.
- ★ He played 21 Tests for New Zealand between 1963 and 1968 scoring 1148 runs at 29.43, including three centuries against South Africa, Pakistan and England.

Renowned Artist Achuthan Kudallur

- ★ Noted artist Achuthan Kudallur passed away in Chennai. He was at the age of 77.
- ★ His journey as an artist began in Kudallur in Palakkad district in Kerala, where he was born in 1945.
- ★ He is a recipient of several awards including the National Academy Award and Tamil Nadu Lalit Kala Akademi Award.
- ★ A civil engineer by training, He was a self-taught abstract artist and a highly respected name in contemporary art circles of South India.
- ★ He also joined the Madras Arts Club at the Fine Arts College.

Veteran Singer Bhupinder Singh

- ★ Renowned singer Bhupinder Singh passed away due to cardiac arrest. He was at the age of 82.
- ★ Bhupinder Singh was a renowned Ghazal singer and some of his best-known songs included Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bulaya Hoga, Naam gum jayega.
- ★ Bhupinder Singh was born in Amritsar, Punjab.
- ★ He began his music career by performing on All India Radio, Delhi as a singer and musician.
- ★ Besides being a trained vocalist, he also learnt instruments like the violin and guitar.

Noted Scientist and ILS Director Dr Ajay Parida

- ★ Noted scientist and director of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, Dr Ajay Kumar Parida passed away in Guwahati, Assam. He was at the age of 58.
- ★ He was a recipient of several awards and recognition, Padma Shri being the major one conferred to him in 2014 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Engineering.
- ★ Prior to being posted as the ILS Director, he had served as an Executive Director M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
- ★ He was known for his pioneering work in the field of agriculture, plant molecular biology and biotechnology.

Oscar Nominated Director Bob Rafelson

- ★ Bob Rafelson, the Oscar-nominated director best known for producing classics like Easy Rider and The Last Picture Show and creator of The Monkees has passed away. He died at the age of 89.
- ★ Born in New York in 1933, Rafelson began his career in the entertainment industry as a story editor in 1959.
- ★ After moving to Hollywood in 1962, he took a job as an associate producer on TV shows and films.
- ★ In 1971, Rafelson received Oscar nominations for Five Easy Pieces for Best Picture and Screenplay.

Renowned Marathi writer Anant Yashwant Khare

- ★ Renowned Marathi writer Anant Yashwant Khare, better known as Nanda Khare, passed away in Pune. He was at the age of 76.
- ★ Mr Khare wrote 19 books on various topics like science, sociology and geography with some of his most noted works being 'Antajichi Bakhar', 'Bakhar Antakalachi' and 'Udya'.
- ★ Mr. Khare was offered the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Udya' in 2020 but he refused.
- ★ In 2010, he received the state government's Bhai Madhavrao Bagal Award for his book 'Kahani Manav Pranyachi'.
- ★ He received numerous awards from foundations like Granthali, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Lokmangal and Shabd: The Book Gallery.
- ★ He was a member of the Marathi Science Council.

Padma Shri Awardee Sushovan Bandyopadhyay

- ★ Sushovan Bandyopadhyay, famous as Bengal's 'one rupee doctor', passed away in Kolkata. He was at the age of 84.
- ★ A doctor and a politician, Bandyopadhyay treated patients for close to 60 years.
- ★ He had treated people for just one rupee and is fondly known as 'Ek Takar Doktor' (one rupee doctor).

- ★ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020. The same year, his name was recorded in the Guinness World Records for treating the maximum number of patients.

Punjabi Singer Balwinder Safri

- ★ Veteran Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri, known as the Bhangra star passed away. He was at the age of 63.
- ★ Balwinder Safri was a UK-based Punjabi singer and was known for his popular tracks like ‘O chan mere makhna’, ‘Pao Bhangra’, ‘Gal Sun Kuriye’, ‘Nachdinu’ and many more.
- ★ Safri was actively involved in the Bhangra music scene since the 1980s. He also had formed his band named Safri Boyz Band in 1990.

Nobel Peace Prize Winner David Trimble

- ★ The Nobel peace prize winner and former first Northern Irish minister David Trimble passed away. He was at the age of 77.
- ★ Trimble, who became Northern Irish first minister in the power-sharing government that emerged from the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, was one of the chief architects of the agreement that ended three decades of conflict in the region.
- ★ For this, he won the Nobel Peace prize along with John Hume in 1998.
- ★ In 2002, he was also awarded the Golden Plate Award by the American Academy of Achievement.

Eminent Assamese Writer Atulananda Goswami

- ★ Eminent Assamese litterateur Atulananda Goswami, known for his novels and short stories passed away. He was at the age of 87.
- ★ Goswami received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006 for his short story collection ‘Seneh Jarir Ganthi’.
- ★ He was also bestowed with the Ambikagiri Roy Choudhury Sahitya Award, the Kumar Kishor Memorial Award, the Katha Award and the Sneha Bharati Sahitya Samman.