

Monthly Current Affairs

JUNE – 2022



**Shankar
School of
Banking**

**Plot No 1742, 1st Floor, 18th Main Road,
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Tamil Nadu.**

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NATIONAL NEWS

National Education Ministers' Conference

- ★ The two-day National Education Ministers' Conference will be held in Gujarat.
- ★ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with other union Ministers and Education Ministers of States and Union Territories will be participating in the conference.
- ★ It will focus on the implementation of National Education Policy 2020, skilling in schools and digital initiatives like National Digital Education Architecture, National Educational Technology Forum etc.
- ★ The state education Ministers will also visit Vidya Samiksha Kendra, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics- BISAG, National Forensic Science University – NFSU and International Automobile Centre of Excellence.

Defence Ministry Inks Contract with Bharat Dynamics

- ★ The Defence Ministry signed a contract worth ₹2,971 crore with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ★ The main objective of the contract is to procure several batches of the Astra MK-1 Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missiles and associated equipment.
- ★ The missiles are being procured for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy.
- ★ The Astra MK-1 missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) based on the requirements issued by the IAF.

PMBJP Crosses ₹100 Crore Sales in May

- ★ Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), has crossed 100 crore rupees sales for the first time in May 2022.
- ★ Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- ★ PMBI is committed to ensuring the uninterrupted availability of essential medicines at the PMBJKs.
- ★ The government has set a target to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras to 10,000 by March 2024 with a vision to provide quality medicines at an affordable rate.
- ★ Under the PMBJP, 739 districts of the country have been covered.

AAJU App

- ★ Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched a new health and wellness app AAJU.
- ★ The main objective of the app is to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation.

- ★ The app has been developed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in partnership with RESET Tech, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform.
- ★ The app is available in multiple languages and aims to reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients within a span of five years.

Indus Water Treaty Meeting

- ★ A five-member committee of Pakistan approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, arrived India through the Wagah border to participate in the 118th bilateral meeting on Indus Water Treaty in New Delhi.
- ★ During the meeting, both sides will discuss on the issue of advance flood information and the annual report of the Permanent Commission of Indus Waters (PCIW).
- ★ They will also discuss 1,000 MW Pakal Dul under Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty, 48 MW Lower Kalnai and 624 MW Kiru project hydropower projects being built by India on the west-flowing rivers.

Second Anniversary of National AI Portal

- ★ The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- ★ The portal focuses on creating and supporting a unified AI ecosystem in the country to drive excellence and leadership in knowledge creation to develop an AI-ready robust workforce for the future and use AI to foster economic growth.
- ★ The portal was launched by the Minister for Electronics and IT and Communications on May 30, 2020.
- ★ INDIA released a book on the basics of AI titled 'AI for Everyone'.

Ministry of Earth Science with ABS Marine Services

- ★ The Ministry of Earth Sciences has signed an agreement with ABS Marine Services Pvt Ltd, Chennai.
- ★ The main objective of the agreement for running, manning, maintenance (including maintenance and operation of scientific equipment), catering, and housekeeping of all the six research ships.
- ★ The contract includes the maintenance of six research ships.
- ★ Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha, Sagar Anveshika, and Sagar Tara are managed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- ★ Sagar Kanya is managed by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa and Sagar Sampada managed by the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi.
- ★ The contract was signed for an amount of Rupees 142 crores over a period of 3 years.

Tamil Nadu Signs MOU with IPPB

- ★ Tamil Nadu government signed an MOU with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining the life certificate from the pensioners through doorstep services of the postal department.

- ★ According to the MOU, signed in the presence of State Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, IPPB will obtain a digital life certificate through Jeevan Pramaan Portal to avoid hardship to the aged pensioners coming in person.
- ★ IPPB has agreed to offer the doorstep services at ₹70 per digital life certificate.

e-Version on 8 Years of Administrative and Pension Reforms

- ★ Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh released a book and its e-Version on 8 Years of Administrative and Pension reforms -2014-2022.
- ★ They include relaxation in the provision of Family Pension for divorced daughters and Divyangs.
- ★ It also includes the introduction of Face Recognition Technology through mobile app for ease in submitting Life Certificate by elderly pensioners, Electronic Pension Pay Order and assistance from Postal Department to facilitate pension process.
- ★ Mr Singh announced that eight years of administrative and pension reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi are aimed at social transformation.

Punjab Government Launches 'e-Stamp'

- ★ The Punjab Government has abolished the physical stamp papers to bring far more efficiency and check the pilferage of state revenue.
- ★ The stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained through 'e-stamp' that is computerized print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the State Government.
- ★ Punjab Revenue Minister Mr. Bram Shanker Jimpa announced that earlier the e-stamping facility was applicable only to value of above ₹20, 000.
- ★ After the launch of this facility e-Stamp is applicable for all denominations starting from ₹1.
- ★ The Punjab Government led by Chief Minister S Bhagwant Mann will save ₹35 crores annually, which incurred on printing of stamp papers.

India's First Liquid Mirror Telescope

- ★ India has successfully commissioned a one-of-a-kind liquid-mirror telescope at top of a hill in Uttarakhand.
- ★ The International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is the first liquid mirror telescope in the country and it is known to be the largest in Asia.
- ★ The unique telescope will monitor the sky for transitory or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris and asteroids.
- ★ It is built by astronomers from India, Belgium and Canada.
- ★ It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).
- ★ ARIES is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India in Nainital district, Uttarakhand.

PM Modi To Lay Foundation Stone of Projects in Lucknow

- ★ Third Ground-breaking ceremony of the UP Investors Summit aimed at inviting investment in the state will be held at Indira Gandhi Pratisthan in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ During the Ground-breaking Ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of 1406 projects worth more than 80,000 crores rupees.
- ★ The projects include diverse sectors like Agriculture and Allied, IT and Electronics, MSME, Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, Pharma, Tourism, Defence & Aerospace, Handloom & Textiles etc.

POSOCO Signs MoU with IMD

- ★ National grid operator, Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO) on Friday signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ★ This MoU has been signed for cooperation in the areas of electricity grid management.
- ★ The IMD will make available, weather information every hour or at lesser intervals.
- ★ It will provide weather forecasts of temperature, humidity, wind speed, wind direction, rainfall up to next 36 hours for the identified stations.
- ★ It will also provide the snowfall forecast of hilly states and also along the route of important transmission lines passing through hilly terrains.

Sagarmala Young Professional Scheme

- ★ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has formulated Sagarmala Young Professional scheme to engage talented, forward-thinking and dynamic young professionals in various divisions of the Ministry.
- ★ This scheme focuses on active on-the-ground learning for young professionals.
- ★ The professionals will have the opportunity to learn about the functioning of the government as well as developmental policy concerns.
- ★ Initially more than 25 young professionals will be hired under this scheme.
- ★ It will also raise awareness about maritime sector among youth.

Tata Projects to construct Noida International Airport

- ★ Tata Group's infrastructure and construction arm, Tata Projects, has announced the contract to construct the Noida International Airport at Jewar, in Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ YIAPL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Swiss developer Zurich Airport and has been incorporated as a Special Purpose Vehicle to develop Noida International Airport.
- ★ YIAPL has selected Tata Projects Ltd to undertake the Engineering, procurement, and construction EPC of Noida International Airport.
- ★ The greenfield facility spread in 1,334 hectares, will have a single-runway operation in the first phase with a capacity to handle 12-million passengers per annum.

Spacecraft Manufacturing Unit

- ★ Dr S Somanath, the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park.
- ★ The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility has the ability to conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously.
- ★ This is a first-of-its-kind facility in India and that Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built and launched by ISRO since its establishment in 1992.
- ★ It also includes two satellites for European customers that ISRO built in collaboration with Airbus, France.

Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle Rally

- ★ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur launched a nationwide 'Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle rally' on World Bicycle Day which was celebrated on 03 June.
- ★ He added by riding a bicycle we can accomplish the goal of the Fit India Movement, the Khelo India movement, the Clean India movement & Healthy India movement.
- ★ Anurag Thakur, along with 750 young cyclists, covered a distance of 7.5 km during the cycle rally that started from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Movement

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a global initiative of Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement, on the occasion of World Environment Day virtually.
- ★ The vision of LiFE is to live a lifestyle with our planet and does not harm it and those who live such a lifestyle are called Pro-Planet People.
- ★ Mission LiFE borrows from the past, operates in the present and focuses on the future.
- ★ The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow, 2021.
- ★ The launch initiated 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutions etc to influence individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle.

Food Laboratory of FSSAI in Bihar

- ★ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya today inaugurated the National Food Laboratory of FSSAI at Raxaul in Bihar.
- ★ This laboratory has been established under the Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement to reduce the time in the testing of imported food samples brought into Raxaul from Nepal.
- ★ Earlier, all the imported samples having legal sanctity were being sent to National Food Laboratory at Kolkata, for testing.

- ★ The laboratory is likely to get accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) by July-August 2022.
- ★ It will start the analysis of the import samples under the product categories of Cereal and Cereal products, Fat and Oil, Spices and Condiments, Fruits and vegetable products and Packaged drinking.

Punjab to Ban Single-use Plastic

- ★ The Punjab government announced to impose a ban on single-use plastic from July 2022 to make Punjab clean, green and pollution-free state.
- ★ During a virtual state-level function to mark World Environment Day 2022, Secretary, Science, Technology and Environment Rahul Tewari announced the decision of the state government for environment protection.
- ★ The Centre had also issued an advisory to states and union territories to phase out single-use plastic and contribute to improve the environment under the overarching mandate of "Clean and Green".
- ★ The state announced to set up 55 Sewage Treatment Plants across the state.

SHRESHTA Scheme

- ★ Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched Scheme for Residential Education For Students in High schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTHA) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ The future of meritorious students of scheduled castes will be supported by 'SHRESHTA' scheme.
- ★ It is to provide access to high quality residential education to the meritorious poor students from Scheduled Caste communities, whose parental annual income is up to ₹2.5 Lakh per annum, at free of cost from class 9th to class 12th.
- ★ The scholarships will be funded by the Government of India through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Delhi Airport to Replace All Vehicles with EVs

- ★ Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that Indira Gandhi International Airport has decided to introduce 62 electric vehicles (EVs) in the next four months for its operations.
- ★ These EVs will be introduced in a phased manner under Green Transportation Program.
- ★ It would help in reducing approximately 1,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- ★ The Delhi airport will also install high voltage and fast-charging stations at strategic locations to meet the requirements of these vehicles and other airport stakeholders.
- ★ DIAL has partnered with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) to make necessary changes in the EVs to install airport-specific equipment.

Ex Khaan Quest 2022

- ★ 07 June 2022, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inaugurated 'Khaan Quest-2022'.

- ★ The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships and developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.
- ★ The military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation among participating countries.
- ★ A multinational peacekeeping exercise-Ex Khaan Quest 2022 was participated by military contingents from 16 countries including India commenced in Mongolia.
- ★ The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS.

Visitor's Conference 2022

- ★ President Ram Nath Kovind hosted the Visitor's Conference 2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ★ During the event, President Kovind will present the Visitor's Awards 2020 in the categories of Research and Technological Development.
- ★ The two-day Conference will witness presentations and deliberations on various topics.
- ★ The topics include international rankings of Higher Education Institutions, collaboration between Academia-Industry and policy-makers, education and research in emerging and disruptive technologies.

National Tribal Research Institute in New Delhi

- ★ On 07 June 2022, Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Tribal Research Institute in New Delhi.
- ★ The inaugural event will be part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ★ NTRI will be a premier national level institute and become the centre of tribal concerns, issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields.
- ★ It will monitor projects of Tribal Research Institutes, Centres of Excellence and set up norms for improvement in the quality of research and training.

DAC Clears Proposals of Military Equipment

- ★ On 06 June 2022, the defence ministry approved the procurement of military equipment and platforms worth ₹76,390 crore from domestic industries.
- ★ The procurement proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ★ The DAC is the apex decision making body of the Ministry of Defence.
- ★ For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded approval for the procurement of next generation corvettes (NGCs) at an estimated cost of around ₹36,000 crore.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for Sportsperson

- ★ The Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be introduced in the state for sportspersons.
- ★ Rajasthan Government is taking big decisions for the development of the sports in the state.
- ★ He also assured that the incentive amounts for the medal-winners will continue to increase.
- ★ Ashok Gehlot made the announcement of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Rajasthan while addressing the inauguration and the player award ceremony at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- ★ Khel Ratna Award which is formally known as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in sports and games is the highest sporting honour in India.

National Air Sports Policy 2022

- ★ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced first-ever National Air Sports Policy-2022 in New Delhi.
- ★ The objective of this policy is to include India among the top air sporting nations by 2030.
- ★ It is also aimed at providing a safe, affordable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in the country.
- ★ Eleven air sports including Aerobatics, Ballooning, Gliding, Parachuting, Powered aircraft and Rotorcraft will be promoted through this policy.
- ★ It will also increase the revenue from existing 100 crore rupees to 10 thousand crore rupees in coming years.

Single Nodal Agency Dashboard

- ★ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Single Nodal Agency Dashboard during the Iconic Week Celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav of Ministry of Finance in New Delhi.
- ★ The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs' Iconic Week celebrations were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ★ The Single Nodal Agency Dashboard forms part of a major public financial management reform that was initiated in 2021.
- ★ This revised procedure, now referred to as the SNA model, requires each State to identify and designate a Single Nodal Agency for every scheme.
- ★ Effective implementation of this Model has brought about greater efficiency in Centrally Sponsored Schemes fund utilization, tracking of funds, pragmatic and just-in-time release of funds to the States.
- ★ All of this contributes to better Cash Management of the Government.

IIT Roorkee Partners with NHIDCL

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has signed an agreement with the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to share knowledge on innovative ideas and technologies in the field of highway engineering.

- ★ It will play a significant role in realising the aims and objectives of Prime Minister GatiShakti - National Master Plan launched on 13 October 2021.
- ★ Both NHIDCL and IIT-Roorkee are leading organisations in their respective fields and are desirous of working together to work as a team to achieve national objective.

Meghalaya First State Women Conference

- ★ The first State Women's Conference on the theme 'Support and Celebrate' was held at State Convention Centre, Shillong Meghalaya.
- ★ The conference was inaugurated by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.
- ★ The event was aimed at celebrating women and generating dialogues towards creating a sustainable and enabling environment for women.
- ★ The eminent journalists, professors, academicians, activists, doctors and law enforcers participated along with the stakeholders.

NHAI enters Guinness World Records

- ★ National Highways Authority of India - NHAI and its contractors entered Guinness World Records for laying 75 Km long continuous Bituminous Concrete Road in record 5 days.
- ★ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has congratulated NHAI on achieving the Guinness World Record by constructing 75 Km continuous Bituminous Concrete Road.
- ★ The work has been completed in a record time of 105 hours and 33 minutes.
- ★ The work was carried out in a single lane on NH-53 section between Amravati and Akola in West Vidarbha.
- ★ This Project was carried under ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Initiative by NHAI.

Festival

- ★ Kheer Bhavani Festival was celebrated at Jammu & Kashmir.

Minimum Support Price

- ★ Cabinet committee on Economic Affairs increased minimum support price upto ₹100 for paddy (common) and paddy (Grade A) which is ₹1940 to ₹2040 and ₹1960 to ₹2060 respectively.

President Election

- ★ The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that Presidential election would be held on July 18.
- ★ The schedule was announced by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

Startup Expo

- ★ Prime Minister of India Shri.Narendra Modi inaugurated Biotech startup Expo 2022 at NewDelhi.

- ★ The major focus areas for the sector are health, agriculture, energy, natural farming and biofortified seeds.

Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat to participate in 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' programme (multiple development programme).
- ★ He will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for development initiatives worth about three thousand fifty crore rupees at Khudvel, a tribal region in Navsari district.
- ★ The Prime Minister will perform Bhumi Pujan for 13 water supply projects worth 961 crore rupees for residents of Tapi, Navsari and Surat districts.

Universal Account Number

- ★ Government is providing unique Universal Account Number (UAN) - 12 digit identification number to each worker to act as portable identity for continued enjoyment of rights at work.
- ★ It was announced by Indian Labour Minister at International Labour Conference (ILC) which was held at Geneva.

Mascot And Logo for FIDE

- ★ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the mascot and the logo named 'Thambi' for FIDE Chess Olympiad in Chennai.
- ★ The international event will be held at Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28th July to August 10, 2022.
- ★ This year marks the 44th edition.
- ★ Over two thousand players from 186 countries will be taking part in the event.
- ★ This is the second major international chess event to be hosted by Chennai after the World Championship match between India's Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

India's First COVID-19 Vaccine for Animals

- ★ Union Agricultural Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Ancovax, India's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals.
- ★ The vaccine has been developed by Haryana based-Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Research Centre.
- ★ It is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta vaccine, which induces the immunity of animals and neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19.
- ★ The vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant and is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and bunnies.

Book on Sports Marketing

- ★ International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) launched India's first-ever book on Sports Marketing in the country as part of a series that will aim to enrich students with industry knowledge.
- ★ The book is authored by Sports Marketer Vinit Karnik.
- ★ The first book titled 'Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success' was launched by Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Governor of Maharashtra.
- ★ This is a book about Indian, by an Indian for an Indian sports market.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ★ India is to host the Meeting of foreign ministers of ASEAN nations from June 16 to 17.
- ★ It is to mark the 30th anniversary of our dialogue relations and the 10th anniversary of our strategic partnership with the ASEAN.
- ★ There are 10 member states in Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- ★ The meeting will be attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Ministers of ASEAN Countries.
- ★ The year 2022 has been designated as the ASEAN – India friendship year.

Action Plan for 2022-23

- ★ Ministry of Coal finalizes action plan for 2022-23.
- ★ Coking coal production enhances from 45million tonnes in 2020-21 to 140 million tonnes by 2029-30.

Dharohar

- ★ National museum of customs and GST - "Dharohar" was inaugurated by Finance Minister Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

MapmyIndia Collaborates with ISRO

- ★ Indigenous navigation firm MapmyIndia has collaborated with India's space agency ISRO to enhance the quality of its 3D maps.
- ★ Users will be able to see vegetation maps or heat maps, air quality maps and other information on exact locations that are searched by people or on routes of their interest.
- ★ Using the Mappls portal or Mappls app of MapmyIndia, a common commuter can see the route and also see in real time whether there's snow cover and where all the snow cover is, which is coming from earth observation data from ISRO.

Perimeter Intrusion Detection System by 2023

- ★ The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has announced that all hyper-sensitive airports in India have to install a perimeter intrusion detection system by December 2023.

- ★ The Perimeter Intrusion Detection System is a sensor that helps in alerting the security agencies of any form of intrusion through the boundary walls of the airport.
- ★ The Greenfield Airports that are not part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) also to install the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System.
- ★ The airports that come under the RCS will plan the installation at the development stage itself.

Mr. AR Rahman appointed as ambassador of India-UK culture platform

- ★ Legendary musician Mr. A R Rahman has been appointed as the ambassador of the British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture' which marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- ★ It was officially launched by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham.
- ★ It is to build on the British Council's work in India and strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English, and education.

Cancer Research Centre

- ★ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre in Kochi.
- ★ Karkinos Healthcare's advanced centre for cancer diagnostics and research will serve as a central lab for analysing specimens at molecular and genomic levels.
- ★ It is to aid in personalised targeted therapy, predicting possible response to treatment and evaluate response by liquid biopsy.
- ★ The focus is on early diagnostic tools and molecular assays for precision medicine.
- ★ The Tata Group is investing ₹110 crore in Karkinos Healthcare which is to encourage more private-public partnership in the healthcare sector to benefit people.

IIT Jodhpur and AIIMS Jodhpur

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur has collaborated with All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Jodhpur to offer master's, master's-PhD and PhD programs in medical technologies.
- ★ It is to provide students to work under the joint guidance of faculty from both the institution.
- ★ The programme aims to provide a common platform for doctors and engineers, fostering knowledge sharing and innovation.
- ★ Students will have the flexibility to pursue academic and research interests on subject combinations designed as core subjects, flexible electives and innovation, entrepreneurship-oriented research projects.

India's First Display Plant

- ★ Jeweller Rajesh Exports has agreed to invest USD 3 billion in India's southern Telangana state to set up the country's first electronic-display plant.

- ★ Industry body ICEA estimates demand in India for displays will be nearly \$60 billion between 2021 and 2025.
- ★ The company has qualified for incentives under a USD 2.4 billion federal government scheme for battery manufacturing in India.
- ★ It is making the investment through Elest, a unit it incorporated for diversifying into making products such as displays and electric vehicles.
- ★ It is set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

UDAN to Celebrate 5th Anniversary

- ★ Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik UDAN (let the common man fly) is a regional airport development program of the Government of India and part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) of upgrading under-served air routes.
- ★ It was initiated on April 2017 and launched in October 2016.
- ★ It provides connectivity to un-served and under-served regions through revival of existing air strips and airports.
- ★ The Airport Authority of India (AAI) is its implementing agency.

IIT-G

- ★ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT- G) have developed a prosthetic leg for users that suitable for Indian conditions.
- ★ It is designed for different age groups and multiple stages of prosthetic use.

AGNIPATH Scheme

- ★ The Centre cleared the AGNIPATH Scheme for recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces.
- ★ With three Service Chiefs, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that the youth selected under this scheme will be known as Agniveers.
- ★ Agniveers will be paid one-time Seva Nidhi package upon completion of engagement period of four years.
- ★ The AGNIPATH Scheme cleared by Cabinet Committee on Security allows motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.
- ★ Agnipath Scheme is a transformational reform for the Army and the Nation and it aims to bring a paradigm shift in Human Resources Management.

'FRUITS' Software for Farmer Schemes

- ★ The Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes.
- ★ It is called the Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System or FRUITS software.

- ★ It facilitates single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitised land record system for authenticating ownership.

India's First Multiplex in Metaverse

- ★ Bharti Airtel has launched Xstream multiplex.
- ★ It will be a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading OTT partners available on the application.
- ★ Users will be able access the multiplex service on a metaverse platform called Partynite Metaverse.
- ★ It is India's first multiplex in the metaverse.
- ★ Partynite Metaplex app can be downloaded on Android and Windows.
- ★ Indian OTT market is a crowded market with 40 players. It is poised to grow rapidly and expected to reach USD 2 billion by 2025.

Government Jobs in 18 Months

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced recruiting 10 lakh personnel within the next 18 months (1.5 years) "in a mission mode".
- ★ It will be a significant step because the recruitment to government jobs was hampered following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ The government has reviewed the status of Human Resources in all departments and ministries and instructed on this mission.
- ★ The majority of the selections would be in the railways, armed forces, the Central Paramilitary Forces, Goods and Services Tax (GST) departments, including customs and excise and administrative staff for government-owned banks and insurance companies etc.

Cabinet approves Agreement Among SCO member States

- ★ The Union Cabinet has approved the Agreement signed among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states on cooperation in the field of youth work among the authorized bodies of the member states of SCO.
- ★ The agreement was signed by the Indian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ★ The objective of the agreement is to strengthen mutual trust, friendly relations, and cooperation among young people of SCO member States.
- ★ The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.

"Start-Ups for Railways"

- ★ Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched "Start-Ups for Railways" in New Delhi.
- ★ Start-Ups policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups, MSMEs, Innovators and Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and safety of Indian Railways.

- ★ The policy which is part Indian Railways Innovation Programme. Through this platform, start-ups will get a good opportunity to connect with Railways.
- ★ It will bring efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem.

Elderly Lack Financial and Social Security

- ★ A report was released by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- ★ It was based on a survey of the involvement of 4,399 senior citizens and 2,200 caregivers across more than twenty cities.
- ★ A national survey undertaken by HelpAge India revealed that almost half of the elderly population are economically dependent on their families for income.
- ★ The survey showed that 52% of them have inadequate income, 40% did not feel financially secure, 57% have expenditures in excess of their savings and for 45% the pension amount was not enough for survival.
- ★ It highlights the need to pay heed to the lack of social security for senior citizens in the country.

'Kranti Gatha'

- ★ On 14 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Kranti Gatha'.
- ★ It is a newly created Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries inside an underground British - era bunker at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- ★ The new residence of the Governor will give new energy to the governance of Maharashtra.
- ★ Mumbai Raj Bhavan is similar to the culture of Maharashtra which manifests courage, dedication, spirituality and the freedom fight.

Environment

- ★ Government of India proposed to blend 20% of Ethanol in Petrol by 2025-26.
- ★ Also 5% blending of Biodiesel in diesel by 2030.

Transport

- ★ India's first six lane highway road made of Steel slag inaugurated at Surat, Gujarat.

Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022

- ★ On 16 June 2022, Inaugurating Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 Inaugurated Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 in New Delhi.
- ★ The summit will focus on a variety of research topics related to decarbonization, Climate Change including their management, policy issues and sustainability.
- ★ He announced that the government's priority is green hydrogen and by using biotechnology, can increase the productivity of Biomass.

Non-Electric Cooling Cabinet

- ★ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India has developed an Indian Standard for non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay.
- ★ It is named as 'Mitticool refrigerator'.
- ★ Shri Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the innovator of the refrigerator which projects an eco-friendly technology.
- ★ It operates on the principle of evaporative cooling. These cabinets may be used to store perishable foodstuff without the need of electricity.
- ★ This standard helps BIS in fulfilling 6 out of 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finance Dialogue Between India and Japan

- ★ On 16 June 2022, India and Japan held Finance Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ★ It is to exchange their views on the macro-economic situation, financial system, financial digitalization and investment environment in both the countries.
- ★ Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs of Japan Masato Kanda and Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance Ajay Seth led this first India-Japan Finance Dialogue.
- ★ The participants confirmed that both sides will continue to work closely together as they hold Presidency of G-20 and G-7 next year.
- ★ It also promotes financial cooperation and strengthen bilateral relations.
- ★ The next round of the Dialogue will be held in Tokyo.

Delhi Government in Partnership with UNDP

- ★ Delhi Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has set up an oxygen generation plant at G. B. Pant Hospital in Delhi to augment the oxygen supply capabilities.
- ★ The oxygen plant utilizes pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology to produce over one thousand liters of oxygen per minute.
- ★ It will serve approximately 750 hospital beds, including those supported by ventilators and the Intensive Care Unit.
- ★ The hospital is a super-specialty tertiary care centre and manages referrals from across the country.

LinkedIn and UN Women

- ★ LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network will invest USD 5,00,000 (₹3.88 crore) in partnership with UN Women to advance women's economic empowerment.
- ★ The project will launch a pilot in Maharashtra to cultivate the digital, soft and employability skills of 2,000 women and present them with a range of career-building opportunities through job fairs.

- ★ The three-year regional collaboration will digitally upskill women, providing them greater access to jobs and equipping them to fully participate in the economy.
- ★ The partnership will be guided by the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a set of effective, actionable principles that guide businesses on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

PMJAY

- ★ The state which disburses highest amount of funds under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) is "Karnataka".
- ★ PMJAY is the world largest health assurance scheme, aims at providing a health cover of ₹5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to poor and vulnerable families.
- ★ The scheme was launched in the year of 2018.

India to Hosts SAIFMM

- ★ On 16 June 2022, India hosted a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM), in order to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- ★ Meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Vivian Balakrishnan.
- ★ During the meeting, foreign ministers highlighted the importance of India-ASEAN relations. They underlined the role played by ASEAN in India's Act East Policy vision for a wider Indo-Pacific.
- ★ They further discussed on the implementation of ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific. They also exchanged views on important international and regional developments.

Government Extends Upper Age Limit for Agnipath Scheme

- ★ The Central government extended the upper age limit for the Agnipath recruitment scheme from 21 years to 23 years.
- ★ Defence Ministry announced that the age waiver will be given only "one time" for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022.
- ★ The scheme provides an opportunity for Indian youth to serve in the regular cadre of the Armed forces for a period of four years.

Joint Border Operation Friendship 2022

- ★ The eighth meeting of the heads of the border services of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was held under the Chairmanship of India.
- ★ The meeting was attended by the representatives of the border services of India, China, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

- ★ The participants exchanged information reflecting the assessment of the situation on the state borders of the SCO member states, trends and forecasts of its development.
- ★ The plan for the preparation and conduct of the Joint Border Operation Friendship Border 2022 was reviewed and approved.

75 beaches in India to be cleaned

- ★ 75 beaches of India will be cleaned up to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The coastal clean-up drive will be carried out in the country for 75 days from July 3 to September 17, 2022.
- ★ The drive to clean the beaches aims at removing one thousand 500 tonnes of garbage from the coasts.
- ★ The mission was disclosed by the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, while he was chairing a meeting to preview the preparations for International Coastal Clean-Up Day-2022.
- ★ The Union Minister informed that this will be a unique and longest-running coastal clean-up campaign with the highest number of people participating in it.

Projects PMITC

- ★ The "Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project" at New Delhi has been built at a cost of more than ₹920 crore, entirely funded by the Central Government.
- ★ It is aimed to provide hassle free and smooth access to the new world class exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors in the programmes being held at Pragati Maidan.
- ★ The impact of the project, however, will be much beyond Pragati Maidan as it will ensure hassle-free vehicular movement, helping save time and cost of commuters in a big way.
- ★ It is part of the overarching vision of the government to ensure ease of living for people through transforming urban infrastructure.

National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security

- ★ A National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security will be held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ★ The conference is being organized by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ★ The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will be the Chief Guest at the conference.
- ★ The conference is part of the efforts to create mass awareness for prevention of cyber-crimes in the country.
- ★ The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) had organized functions at 75 places in different States/Union Territories on Cyber Hygiene, Prevention of Cyber Crimes, Cyber Safety and National Security under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

Historic Torch Relay for 44th Chess Olympiad

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi.
- ★ This year, for the very first time the International Chess Body, FIDE, has instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch that is part of Olympic tradition but was never done in the Chess Olympiad.
- ★ India is the first-ever country to have the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay.
- ★ The torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before the final culmination at Mahabalipuram near Chennai.
- ★ At every location, chess grandmasters of the state will receive the torch.
- ★ The 44th Chess Olympiad will be held in Chennai from July 28 to August 10, 2022.

Adani Transmission Gets 'Green Loan' Tag

- ★ Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) has been tagged as 'green loan' by Sustainalytics for its USD 700 million revolving loan facility.
- ★ This revolving facility project is being implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ★ Sustainalytics provides analytical environmental, social and governance research, ratings and data to institutional investors and companies.
- ★ Sustainability analysts have independently published SPOs on the relevance of the revised framework to current market standards and the extent to which qualifying project items are credible and impactful.
- ★ MUFG Bank acts as a green loan coordinator together with the issuer to organize the SPO on the green lending framework prepared by Adani Transmission.

MIAL Launches Vertical Axis Wind Turbine

- ★ Mumbai International Airport, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has become India's first airport to launch a one-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) and Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill).
- ★ It is to explore the possibility of utilization of wind energy at the airport.
- ★ CSMIA has introduced this pilot program in collaboration with Wind Stream Energy Technologies India Pvt Ltd, which ensures 24/7 energy generation, harnessing maximum energy through wind power systems, while enabling a highly efficient and low carbon future for aviation.
- ★ This initiative is expected to reduce the airport's dependence on conventional electricity and help meet its net-zero emission goals.
- ★ With this, Mumbai becomes the first city in India to establish a one-of-its-kind hybrid power project at its airport.

Op SANKALP

- ★ Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for "Op Sankalp" commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf for protection of India's Maritime Interests.

- ★ In the milieu of the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, post attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named 'Op SANKALP', in the Gulf Region to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- ★ This operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and DG, Shipping.
- ★ Indian Navy continues to monitor the situation in the Gulf region and is maintaining presence in the region to ensure security of our sea borne trade and the safety of Indian Flag Merchant Vessels transiting through the region.

Project NIPUN

- ★ Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called 'NIPUN' (National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman) workers.
- ★ The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.
- ★ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, will be the Implementation Partner for the project NIPUN.
- ★ To fulfil this mission, the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have joined Project NIPUN as industry partners and will identify training job roles of aspirational value in the construction sector in collaboration with the SSC.

IAEA Launches New Information System

- ★ The International Atomic Energy Agency has launched a new database of the Information System on Occupational Exposure in Medicine, Industry and Research (ISEMIR) called ISEMIR-N.
- ★ It specifically targets workers in industrial processes involving naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM).
- ★ NORM is any naturally occurring material which contains no significant amounts of radionuclides.

Centre for Brain Research

- ★ On 20 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus.
- ★ He also laid the foundation stone for Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispecialty Hospital at IISc Bengaluru.

- ★ The Centre for Brain Research is developed as a one of its kind research facilities and focuses on conducting vital research to provide evidence based public health interventions to manage age-related brain disorders.
- ★ It was set up at a cost of ₹280 crore.
- ★ The Centre for Brain Research was established as an autonomous, non-profit research organization.

India's First Anti-Gravity Body

- ★ On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2022 on 21 June 2022, AIIMS-Delhi doctors announced that they have developed the world's first anti-gravity body suit that will allow astronauts to perform yoga in space.
- ★ This is India's first body suit for astronauts and will help astronauts strengthen muscles and prevent loss of bone density minerals.
- ★ It will also increase the weight of the astronauts by more than 70 percent in space to prevent them from floating.
- ★ The anti-gravity body suit development has been developed by the National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar.
- ★ The proof of concept of the invention will soon be presented to ISRO. It will enable astronauts to join the global yoga movement.

Indian Army Partners with IIT Madras

- ★ The Army Training Command (ARTRAC) of Indian Army is partnering with the IIT-Madras to establish a 5G Testbed at the Military College of Telecommunication at Mhow, Indore.
- ★ The collaboration would give a support to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing the capabilities of the armed forces.
- ★ It will also promote collaborative and cooperative research and facilitate the exchange of ideas for the development of new technology.
- ★ The partnership would encourage students, faculties and scientists to undertake research in the area of 5G communications and the development of military applications.

One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme

- ★ Assam has become the 36th State to implement One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
- ★ With this, One Nation One Ration Card scheme is successfully implemented in all the 36 states and Union Territories making food security portable throughout the country.
- ★ To make this scheme more seamless and swifter, MERA RATION mobile application was rolled out.
- ★ This mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages.
- ★ This scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop.

New Advanced Light Helicopter Squadron 840 CG

- ★ The Indian Coast Guard inducted the new air squadron known as 840 Squadron with an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft into the Coast Guard Region East.
- ★ This is the first such aircraft to be positioned by the defence force in the eastern region.
- ★ The first chopper was received at Coast Guard Air Station, Chennai with a traditional 'water cannon salute' in the presence of Inspector General AP Badola, Commander of Coast Guard Region East.
- ★ An indigenous aircraft designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Delhi to Shut Down All Single-Use Plastic

- ★ The Delhi Environment Department is to shut down all units dealing in single-use plastic items from 01 July 2022.
- ★ Manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, will be banned effectively from July 1, 2022.
- ★ The department plans regular inspections to ascertain compliance by manufacturers, brand owners, suppliers and stockists registered with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).
- ★ The DPCC has also asked the Sriram Institute of Industrial Research to conduct a survey to identify littering hotspots and quantify plastic waste generation in the national capital to find out of 19 SUP items.
- ★ The survey will cover all 11 districts in Delhi and will have to be completed within four months.

1st Indian Mountaineer to Mount Annapurna Peak

- ★ Skalzang Rigzin, the first Indian Mountaineer to climb Mount Annapurna peak and Lhotse, in Nepal without supplemental Oxygen.
- ★ Mt Annapurna is one of the most difficult among the 8000 meters height peaks in the world and is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate.
- ★ Skalzang Rigzin said, a fellow Mountaineer and Founder of Boots and Crampons Bharath Thammineni supported the expedition of Mt Annapurna, while Nepal-based Peak Promotion Company helped in climbing the Mt. Lhotse, which is close to Mt Everest.

First State to Launch Balika Panchayat

- ★ Gujarat is the first state in the country to launch Balika Panchayat.
- ★ "Balika Panchayat" was started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district, aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation of girls in politics.
- ★ This is a unique initiative of the Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- ★ In Balika panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat.

India's First Airport to Fully Run on Hydro and Solar Power

- ★ Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first airport in the country to run entirely on hydro and solar power from June 2022.
- ★ This is part of the airport's goal toward achieving Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.
- ★ DIAL has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity for the airport until 2036.
- ★ 6% of the airport's electricity requirement is met from the onsite solar power plants while as much as 94% of the total demand is now being met through renewable energy use from the hydropower plant since June 1.

“Jyotirgamaya” Festival in New Delhi

- ★ Union Culture Minister Mr. G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated Jyotirgamaya, a festival honoring the talent of unappreciated performers, in New Delhi.
- ★ To showcase the skill of rare musical instruments from all across the country, including street performers and train entertainers, Sangeet Natak Akademi organized this event as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the occasion of World Music Day.
- ★ The event wants to make participants more conscious of the need of maintaining both the making and using of unique musical instruments.
- ★ The Sangeet Natak Akademi's initiative to preserve India's disappearing performing arts is exceptional.

PM Modi Unveils Vanijya Bhawan and Launches NIRYAT Portal

- ★ On 23 June 2022, Inaugurating the new premises of Ministry of Commerce and Industry - 'Vanijya Bhawan', Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched new portal NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade).
- ★ NIRYAT is developed as a one-stop platform for the stakeholders to get all the information related to India's foreign trade.
- ★ This new Vanijya Bhawan and NIRYAT portal represent our aspirations of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- ★ New Vanijya Bhawan will significantly benefit people associated with trade, commerce and MSME sector.
- ★ Vanijya Bhawan is a smart structure that includes sustainable architectural concepts with an emphasis on energy saving.
- ★ It is being constructed near India Gate on a 4.33-acre land.

Surya Nutan- An Indoor Solar Cooking System

- ★ Indian Oil has developed an indoor solar cooking system - Surya Nutan.
- ★ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri observed the demonstrations of Surya Nutan in New Delhi.

- ★ It collects energy from sun and converts the sun energy into heat through a specially designed heating element.
- ★ The product was initially priced at ₹12,000 for the entry-level model and ₹23,000 for the top model.
- ★ The product is rechargeable and suitable for four persons. The system has been installed at 60 locations for its testing.
- ★ Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh and Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore was also present on the occasion.

National Conference on Millets

- ★ Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the National Conference on Millets in New Delhi.
- ★ It was organised by industry body ASSOCHAM with the support of M/o Food Processing Industries.
- ★ The conference has been organised to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security.
- ★ The theme of the conference was 'The Future Super Food for India'.
- ★ The Union Minister announced that the production of coarse cereals in the country has increased to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16.

'Shala Praveshotsav'

- ★ The Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel launched the 17th edition of 'Shala Praveshotsav'.
- ★ It is the drive to enrol students in primary schools in the state.
- ★ The three-day enrollment drive begins from Memadpur primary school in Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha district.
- ★ He also announced that the priority of the state government is to see that every child has access to education.

National Conference on the Space Start-up Ecosystem

- ★ The Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated a National Conference on the development of the Space Start-up Ecosystem in Bengaluru.
- ★ The conference was organised by the Astronautical Society of India in association with the Indian Space Research Organisation, New Space India Limited, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre and Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ★ During the conference he announced, since the last eight years a conducive eco-system has been created for the private industries to flourish in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, space science, semiconductor and fin-tech sectors.

G20 Summit

- ★ The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir will host the 2023 meetings of the G20 summit.
- ★ The Ministry of External Affairs announced that India will hold the G20 presidency from 01 December 2022 and will convene the G20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.
- ★ Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal was appointed India's Sherpa for the G20.
- ★ The Jammu and Kashmir government has set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination.
- ★ Union Territory's housing and urban development department principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee.
- ★ The summit is likely to be held in January 2023.

Government to Transfer NDPS

- ★ The government is reportedly considering moving the administration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 from the finance ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs to consolidate all matters relating to narcotics under one department.
- ★ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), significant law enforcement and intelligence agency tasked with combating drug usage and trafficking, was established by the NDPS Act.
- ★ The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985, or NDPS Act, prohibits the production, manufacturing, cultivation, holding, sale, purchase, transportation, storage, use, and possession of any narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

7th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban

- ★ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized a virtual event to celebrate 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) which was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25th June 2015.
- ★ It highlights the important initiatives implemented under the PMAY-U Mission, which is one of the largest urban housing programs in the world.
- ★ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an initiative by the Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 2 crore affordable houses by 31 March 2022.

BLS International Partners with West Bengal

- ★ BLS International Services, a tech-enabled services partner for governments and citizens has entered into an agreement with the West Bengal government for the computerization and e-governance of registration offices in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the Presidency Zone.
- ★ BLS International Services has been selected by the Directorate of Registration and Stamp Revenue of West Bengal.
- ★ Under this project, the company will procure, install & commission the hardware for 81 offices under the Presidency Zone.

- ★ Deployment of manpower, management and maintenance of manpower and hardware will be done for 5 years.

One Health Pilot to be Launched in Bengaluru

- ★ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has taken an initiative to launch 'One Health Approach'.
- ★ DAHD in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as implementation partner is implementing the One-Health Framework undertaking project in the states of Karnataka and Uttarakhand.
- ★ It would help to prevent the future zoonotic disease outbreaks, equipped with better response mechanism and management.
- ★ It also brings stakeholders from animal, human and environment health on a common platform to address the challenges.

47th Meeting of GST Council

- ★ The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held in Chandigarh.
- ★ The meeting will be chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ★ The two-day meeting of the GST Council will be attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories and Senior officers from Union Government and State.
- ★ Last GST Council's meeting which was held in New Delhi had recommended to defer the decision to change the rates on textiles.
- ★ The GST council had decided to retain the status on GST rate on textile to five per cent.

Kerala to Have Its Own Regional Red List of Birds

- ★ Kerala will have its own red list of birds as the Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective led by Kerala Agricultural University and the Bird Count India will conduct the regional red list assessment.
- ★ The assessments will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.
- ★ It makes Kerala the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds
- ★ According to the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 35 threatened species of birds which includes the Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture which are critically endangered and Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan which are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable.
- ★ The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria.

Udaipur's 'Bird Village' to be Declared Wetland

- ★ Menar in Udaipur district which is regarded as the "bird village" is set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland.

- ★ The move is expected to help the region get the Ramsar site status under the Ramsar convention, 1971.
- ★ The freshwater lakes of the region will be protected with the application of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2019.
- ★ At present, Rajasthan has two wetlands recognised as Ramsar sites namely Keoladeo Ghana in Bharatpur district and Sambhar Salt Lake in Jaipur.

India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project

- ★ Tata Power Solar Systems Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala.
- ★ It was constructed on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6-Megawatt Peak (MWp).
- ★ This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category.
- ★ The company announced that a power purchase agreement has been signed with a PSU client, wherein the entire power generated from this plant will be used by Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).

Nine National Highway Projects in Rajasthan

- ★ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of nine National Highway Projects in Rajasthan costing 1,357 crore rupees.
- ★ 11 hundred crore rupees have been sanctioned for the repair of the Delhi-Jaipur-Kishangarh highway.
- ★ An allocation of nine hundred crores in CRIF for Rajasthan and 700 crore rupees for the Setu Bandhan Scheme has been approved by the Central Government.
- ★ About 77.90 km of Suratgarh-Sriganganagar section for 56.20 crore rupees is also a part of these projects.
- ★ These include four National Highway projects in Jalore Sirohi Parliamentary Constituency costing 247 crore rupees.

Government of Haryana and Israel

- ★ Israel and the Haryana government signed a joint declaration on integrated water resources management and capacity building.
- ★ The joint declaration was signed by Ambassador Eynat Shlein, Head of MASHAV– Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Government of Haryana.
- ★ Under the agreement, Israel will share advanced and cutting-edge water technologies and expertise with the government of Haryana and work closely with all our partners in India as we continue enhancing the strategic partnership between our two nations.

- ★ With this, Haryana will improve public health in the region and cooperate and coordinate efforts to protect the water resources and Preserve water resources in public water areas.

PADMA

- ★ Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA), an automated Pay and Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Shri Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CCDA), Ministry of Defence.
- ★ PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of Pay and Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- ★ This module has been developed under the aegis of Defense Accounts Department and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.
- ★ It is also an Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative as the entire module has been designed and developed by Indian entrepreneurs assisted by domain experts.

DAD Synergy Conference

- ★ The fourth Synergy Conference between the Indian Army and Defence Accounts Department (DAD) was held in New Delhi.
- ★ The day-long conference was co-chaired by Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) Lt Gen BS Raju and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Rajnish Kumar and attended by senior officers of Indian Army and DAD.
- ★ The primary agenda of the conference included deliberations on the Agnipath scheme and the schedule for timely implementation of a system for pay and allowances for Agniveers.
- ★ Other agenda items included improving the functioning of Pay and Accounts Offices (PAOs) for better service delivery to junior commissioned officers/other ranks of the Indian Army.

Indigenously-Developed Laser-Guided ATGM

- ★ Indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT)- Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
- ★ The all-indigenous ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.
- ★ The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World's Fastest Supercomputer

- ★ Frontier, a supercomputer built by the USA become the World's fastest supercomputer.
- ★ Frontier is built for the U.S Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

- ★ Frontier overtook Japan's Fugaku to become fastest supercomputer.
- ★ The Frontier also ranks as the fastest AI system in the world, giving 6.88 ExaFlops of mixed-precision performance.
- ★ The Frontier is also number one on the Green500 list, meaning that it is also the most power efficient supercomputer in the world.
- ★ According to the Top 500 supercomputers list, the Frontier boasts of 1.102 ExaFlops in performance, which is more than twice of the power that Japan's Fugaku.

Border Coordination Conference

- ★ The Inspector General BSF- Regional Commander BGB level Border Coordination Conference between India and Bangladesh began in Sylhet.
- ★ The Indian delegation entered Bangladesh through the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dawki on the Meghalaya border.
- ★ The conference will discuss all issues related to border management and security.
- ★ It will focus on illegal entry, smuggling of drugs and other items, trafficking of women and children, development activities within 150 yards of the international borders, and initiatives to enhance mutual trust between the BGB and BSF.

Israel Signs Free Trade Deal with UAE

- ★ Israel signed a free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates aimed at boosting trade between the two Middle East nations.
- ★ The pact was signed by Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Orna Barbiwa and her counterpart, UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri.
- ★ UAE announced that the deal with Israel is its second bilateral free trade agreement after signing a similar accord with India.
- ★ The agreement would remove tariffs on 96% of goods, including food, agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, etc.

UN Approves Turkey's Request to Change Name

- ★ Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced that the United Nations approved Turkey's request to change its name from Turkey to Turkiye.
- ★ Turkey began the move to change its internationally recognized official name in English to Turkiye in December 2021.
- ★ The country called itself Turkiye in 1923 after its declaration of independence.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar on Visit to Slovakia and Czech Republic

- ★ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is on a five-day visit to Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

- ★ He will also attend the GLOBSEC 2022 Forum and speak on the topic 'Taking Friendship to the Next Level: Allies in the Indo-Pacific Region'.
- ★ The meeting will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the bilateral cooperation.
- ★ The Czech Republic will be taking over the EU Presidency from 1st of July.
- ★ The External Affairs Minister will also interact with a cross-section of the Diaspora, including Indian students in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

India - Italy Military Cooperation Group Meeting

- ★ The 11th edition of India - Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held from 31 May 2022 to 01 June 22 at Rome, Italy.
- ★ It is to boost defence cooperation between both countries through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and the Joint Staff HQ of Italian Armed Forces.
- ★ During the meeting, discussions focused on new initiatives, existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and further strengthening ongoing defence engagements.
- ★ The meeting was Co-Chaired by Deputy Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff IDC(A), Vivek Narang from India and Italian Defence General Staff General Alessandro Grassano.

Industry Transition Dialogue

- ★ India and Sweden hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm.
- ★ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India Shri Bhupender Yadav and Minister for Climate and the Environment, Sweden Annika Strandhäll lead the meeting.
- ★ Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT) initiative lays specific focus to sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate action and require specific interventions.
- ★ This high level of dialogue has contributed to the UN Conference 'Stockholm+50': a healthy planet for the prosperity of all –our responsibility, our opportunity' and set the agenda for COP27.
- ★ During the event, India chaired the roundtable dialogues on Priorities for implementation 2022-23 and the need for speed in climate action.

MoUs signed between India and Senegal

- ★ India and Senegal have signed three MoUs for the cultural exchange, cooperation in youth matters, and visa-free regime for the officials.
- ★ The MoUs were signed after the delegation level talks between the Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu and the President of Senegal Macky Sall in the capital city of Dakar.
- ★ The Vice-President, during the meeting assured Senegal of India's continued commitment to support the socio-economic development of the country.
- ★ The Vice President of India also complimented Senegal for positioning itself as one of Africa's model democracies.

EX SAMPRITI-X

- ★ A joint military training exercise 'Ex SAMPRITI-X' between India and Bangladesh is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022.
- ★ It aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.
- ★ The Indian contingent is being represented by a battalion of the DOGRA regiment.
- ★ During the joint military exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.

'Right to Repair' Law

- ★ In a world's first, the New York state legislature has passed the "right to repair" law for digital electronics.
- ★ It will require digital electronics manufacturers to make parts, tools, information and software available to consumers and independent repair shops.
- ★ The "Fair Repair Act" comes after federal pressure to enforce consumers' rights to repair and refurbish their purchased goods.

NASA to Launch 3 Rockets

- ★ NASA will launch a research rocket from remote northern Australia in June 2022 from a commercial space port outside the United States.
- ★ Three suborbital sounding rockets will be launched from the Arnhem Space Center on Indigenous-owned land near the mining town of Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory on June 26, July 4 and July 12, 2022.
- ★ The 12.2-meter and 2,200-kilogram (4,900-pound), Canadian-designed Black Brant IX rockets would focus on the Alpha Centauri A and B star systems.
- ★ A third mission would study X-rays emanating from the interstellar medium, the clouds of gases and particles in the space between stars.

Ananth Technologies Partners with Antaris

- ★ Indian aerospace solutions provider Ananth Technologies and California headquartered satellite software solutions provider Antaris have announced partnership for development, launch and management of advanced small satellites for various use.
- ★ Ananth Technologies announced to manufacture six satellites and will take about a year to complete the order.
- ★ The first satellite is likely to be launched in September 2022.
- ★ On 01 June 2022, Ananth Technologies also opened India's largest private spacecraft manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.

India Extends Sri Lanka USD 55 Million Credit

- ★ The Indian government has decided to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 55 million to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser.
- ★ A LOC agreement was signed between Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Export-Import Bank of India today at Colombo, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- ★ This credit line will help Sri Lankan government to secure urea fertilizer for the ongoing paddy sowing 'Yala' season.

First Road Bridge

- ★ Russia and China on Friday unveiled the first road bridge between the two countries.
- ★ The kilometer-long bridge over the Amur River links the far eastern Russian city of Blagoveshchensk with Heihe in northern China.
- ★ The construction of the bridge was completed two years ago but its inauguration was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- ★ The construction of bridge cost around 19 billion rubles (\$328 million).

Non-Permanent Members of UNSC

- ★ Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term.
- ★ The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on 01 January 2023 and serve till 31 December 2024.
- ★ The newly-elected countries will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.
- ★ The UN Security Council consists of 15 countries and 5 of them are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States which are permanent members with the right to vote.

WTO Ministerial Conference

- ★ The 12th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ★ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal lead the Indian delegation in the Conference.
- ★ The key areas of discussions and negotiations in this year's conference include WTO's response to the pandemic, Fisheries subsidies negotiations and Agriculture issues including Public Stockholding for Food security.
- ★ G33 concept in WTO - "G33" The group has "defensive" concerns regarding agriculture in relation to World Trade Organization negotiations, and seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries.
- ★ The group has advocated the creation of a "special products" exemption, which would allow developing countries to exempt certain products from tariff exemptions, and also a "special safeguard mechanism" which would permit tariff increases in response to import surges.

Infosys partners with Harvard University

- ★ Infosys has announced a partnership with Harvard University subsidiary, Harvard Business Publishing.
- ★ It will offer free digital and life skills courses through the former's digital corporate education platform, Springboard.
- ★ Infosys' Springboard will now host free articles, videos and podcasts from Harvard Business Review (HBR), as well as 10 courses offered under Harvard Manage Mentor.
- ★ The courses will target "students and young adults" in tier-II and tier-III cities in India.

India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

- ★ The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy will be conducted from June 13 to June 24 2022, in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.
- ★ The two Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002.
- ★ This has helped build understanding and interoperability between both the Navies and has facilitated measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy, etc.

Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

- ★ Egypt will host the Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Sharm El Sheikh.
- ★ The two-day conference is jointly organized by the House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- ★ Nagaland's first woman elected as Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha S. Phangon Konyak is representing India at the Conference and discuss on the 'Young MPs for Climate Actions'.
- ★ The conference provides a platform for young MPs from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment.

1st Asian Country to Legalise Cannabis

- ★ Thailand became the first Asian country to legalize cannabis for medical use.
- ★ Under decriminalization, it is no longer a crime to grow and trade marijuana and hemp products, or use parts of the plant to treat illnesses.
- ★ The change has come after Thailand's landmark 2018 legalization of medical cannabis.

India-EU First-ever Security and Defence Consultations

- ★ The first-ever India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ★ The consultations were held by the decision taken at the India-EU Summit in July 2020.

- ★ The consultations were co-chaired by the Ministry of Defence Joint Secretary (IC) Somnath Ghosh and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary (Europe West) Sandeep Chakravorty from the Indian side and Joanneke Balfoort, Director of Security and Defence Policy from the EU.
- ★ The two sides noted several positive developments in the area of security and defense cooperation in recent years including the establishment of a regular maritime security dialogue.

APEDA Organises Mango Festival in Bahrain

- ★ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched an eight-day-long Mango Festival in the Kingdom of Bahrain in association with the Indian Embassy and Al Jazira Group.
- ★ The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.
- ★ At the show, 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, are being displayed at eight different locations of Bahrain.
- ★ The mango show will continue till 20 June 2022.

Cooperation in AI and Cyber Security

- ★ India and Bangladesh have decided to expand their strategic partnership to develop cooperation in areas of Artificial Intelligence, cyber security, startups, and fintech.
- ★ They have also agreed to expand ties in the railways sector as well as cross-border river management and conservation.
- ★ This was decided at the 7th Joint Consultative Commission meeting between the two foreign ministers S Jaishankar and AK Abdul Momen.
- ★ Border management was also a key focus on the agenda of cooperation.

G20 Meeting

- ★ Union Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizer Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya virtually addressed the inaugural session at the G20 Health Ministers meeting at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- ★ Indonesia has hosted two Health Working Group Meetings in Yogyakarta and Lombok wherein priority issues of 'Harmonizing Global Health Protocol Standards' and 'Building Global Health System Resilience' were discussed and deliberated upon.
- ★ Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also thanked the Indonesian Presidency for prioritizing the issue of TB and One Health in the meeting and conducting events for the same.
- ★ India has announced to End TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global SDG target of 2030.

Oracle Launches OCI Dedicated Region for Indian Market

- ★ US-based technology major Oracle's cloud services platform, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) has launched 'OCI dedicated region' for the India market to offer public cloud services to customers on their premises.

- ★ The new offering will help customers meet data residency and data sovereignty requirements that are key to many IT modernisation efforts.
- ★ It will also allow Oracle to offer customers nearly 100 services within their premises, which were earlier available only to public cloud consumers.
- ★ The new OCI Dedicated Region requires 60%-75% less data centre space and power on average, with a significantly lower entry price of around \$1 million a year for a typical customer.

UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- ★ Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.
- ★ The decision of adding Khuvsgal Lake National Park to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves was made during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme held in Paris, France.
- ★ The primary aim of the Man and Biosphere Programme is to establish a scientific relationship between the people and their environments.
- ★ A total of nine sites from Mongolia have so far registered in the network.

Sri Lanka Revises Minimum Age Limit

- ★ Sri Lanka has decided to amend the Minimum Age for Migrant Domestic Workers to 21 years (for women leaving for Foreign Employment as domestic aides).
- ★ A document from the Department of Government Information announced that the Cabinet of Ministers granted permission to revise the said age limit, after considering the recommendations of the Cabinet-appointed Sub-Committee.
- ★ The statement added that Sri Lankan women going overseas for employment as Domestic Aides have age limitations.
- ★ For Saudi Arabia the minimum age is 25 years and for other Middle Eastern Countries is 23 years and for all other countries is it 21 years.

World Health Network Declares Monkeypox a Pandemic

- ★ With 3,417 confirmed Monkeypox cases reported across 58 countries, World Health Network (WHN) has declared the current monkeypox outbreak a pandemic.
- ★ The WHN announcement comes ahead of WHO meeting to be held on 23 June to decide on their monkeypox outbreak designation.
- ★ It is a viral infection that originated in rodents and is transmitted to people.
- ★ Symptoms include fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes.

Drone Manufacturing Facility in Malaysia

- ★ Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has partnered with HiiLSE Global (HiiLSE Drones) to set up its first aerospace drone manufacturing plant in Malaysia.

- ★ The facility would spread across 2.42 hectares and will be set up at an investment of ₹115 crore.
- ★ This partnership will define an ecosystem of drones with advanced artificial intelligence, machine learning and deep learning technologies.

Vivatech 2020

- ★ Europe's biggest start-up conference Vivatech 2020 has recognized India as the "country of the year."
- ★ This is a great honour for India to be recognized as the country of the year for Vivatech 2020.
- ★ This is due to the contribution of the Indian start-ups to the world and this is the recognition of Indian start-ups.
- ★ Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Indian pavilion at the conference held in Paris, France.

G7 Summit

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will visit Germany for the G7 summit.
- ★ This year, the summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7.
- ★ During the summit they will exchange views with the leaders on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment and democracy.
- ★ G7 is an informal group of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

UN Ocean Conference 2022

- ★ A five day "2022 UN Ocean Conference" kicked off on 27 June 2022 in Lisbon.
- ★ The Conference is being co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal.
- ★ The theme for the conference is "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions."
- ★ More than 130 countries are participating in the UN Ocean Conference.
- ★ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is leading the Indian delegation.
- ★ Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goal relates to the water. It talks about conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

China Builds a Naval Facility in Cambodia

- ★ China is building a naval facility in Cambodia that would help extend its military's currently limited reach in foreign waters.
- ★ With more than 350 vessels, Beijing commands the world's largest naval fleet by comparison, the US Navy has 296 ships
- ★ However, China currently has only one foreign naval base in Djibouti in East Africa.

- ★ The project in Cambodia would give China a foothold in Southeast Asia and a position in the western region of the South China Sea, part of Beijing to grow its military influence worldwide.

Gabon and Togo to Join the Commonwealth

- ★ The Commonwealth has admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members respectively. Both countries are former French colonies.
- ★ Leaders accepted applications by the two west African countries at the closing session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ★ Rwanda was the last country to join the Commonwealth, in 2009.
- ★ The Commonwealth, which began as eight nations in 1949.
- ★ The eligibility criteria for Commonwealth membership, amongst other things, state that an applicant country should demonstrate commitment to democracy and democratic processes.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Smart Value Income Plan

- ★ Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Ltd has announced the launch of Tata AIA Life Insurance Smart Value Income Plan.
- ★ It is a non-linked and participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments.
- ★ It provides several first-time features along with regular and consistent income options, enabling consumers to secure their financial future and create wealth for long-term goals.
- ★ Smart Value Income Plan can be bought by individuals from age 1 to 65, with the maximum the maturity age being 100 years.
- ★ The policyholder can also avail tax benefits under section 80 C and 10 (10 D) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Booster Systematic Investment Plan

- ★ ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched a new feature ICICI Prudential Booster Systematic Investment Plan (Booster SIP).
- ★ In this, fixed amount is invested at pre-defined intervals in the source scheme and a variable amount is transferred to the target scheme at pre-defined intervals depending on equity valuation index (EVI).
- ★ Market valuation based on which the installment amount is decided is based on in-house Equity Valuation Index."

SBI to Upgrade GDP

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) has estimated that the Indian economy will grow at 7.5 percent in 2022-2023.
- ★ Real GDP will incrementally increase by ₹11.1 lakh crore in FY23.
- ★ As per official data, the economy grew by 8.7 percent in FY22, net adding ₹11.8 lakh crore in the year to ₹147 lakh crore.
- ★ This was 1.5 percent higher than the pre-pandemic year of FY20.

India's First Rupee-Based Crypto Index CRE8

- ★ India's largest crypto investing app, CoinSwitch launched Crypto Rupee Index (CRE8), which is the country's first benchmark index to measure the performance of the rupee-based crypto market.
- ★ Owned and administered by CoinSwitch, CRE8 tracks the performance of eight crypto assets that represent over 85% of the total market capitalisation of crypto traded in Indian rupee.
- ★ The index is based on real trades on the CoinSwitch app, which has over 18 million registered users.
- ★ The CRE8 index is calculated on the weighted market capitalisation (square root) methodology.
- ★ The index will be rebalanced monthly and reconstituted every quarter to keep it up to date with the market.

India INX and LuxSE

- ★ Bombay Stock Exchange's international arm India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) signed a co-operation agreement at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) city.
- ★ The signing of this co-operation agreement between India INX and LuxSE is another step towards developing IFSC as the hub for sustainable finance.
- ★ During the meeting, the admission of a green bond issued by the Indian company Power Finance Corporation Limited to LuxSE was announced.
- ★ The EUR 300 million green bond, which is already listed on India INX is now registered on LuxSE's Securities Official List and displayed on the Luxembourg Green Exchange, the world's leading platform for sustainable securities.

SBI Foundation partners with Khan Academy

- ★ SBI Foundation has introduced UpSchool, a digital learning program for students from class 1-10 in partnership with Khan Academy, an educational non-profit institution.
- ★ The program will be available in English, Hindi and Kannada languages.
- ★ It aims to reduce learning gaps and build a solid foundation in maths and reading for their current academic year.
- ★ Every student will receive a digital certificate at completing the program.

- ★ Students or their parents can register for the program for free and will receive learning links on WhatsApp for 4-6 weeks.

India's Digital Payments Industry May Reach \$10 Trillion

- ★ According to a report by PhonePe in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to reach \$10 trillion by 2026.
- ★ As a result of this growth, digital payments (non-cash) will constitute two out of three payment transactions by 2026 with contributions from across India.
- ★ Digital payment will constitute nearly 65% of all payments by 2026, up from the current 40%.
- ★ UPI announced that about nine times transaction volume increased in past three years, increasing from five billion transactions in FY19 to about 46 billion transactions in FY22: accounting for more than 60% non-cash transaction volumes in FY22.

DBS Bank India Partners with Bajaj Finance

- ★ DBS Bank India has announced the launch of its first-ever credit card in India in partnership with Bajaj Finance Limited.
- ★ The Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard is powered by Visa which eliminates the need to have multiple credit cards.
- ★ SuperCard, as a one-of-its-kind offering will provide customers with benefits and rewards across different product categories and exclusive benefits on the Bajaj Finserv's range of products and services available across the country.
- ★ The SuperCard also allows customers to receive up to 5% cashback (up to ₹500 per transaction) on the down payment of durable consumer loans.

Credit Line Card for Women

- ★ Stashfin, a neobanking platform, has launched a credit line card for women named LiveBoundless.
- ★ The card offers dedicated cashback rewards, welcome credits, free ATM withdrawals.
- ★ Value-added services include 1% cashback on every spend to benefits worth ₹5,000 in the first year and a free credit period for select customers.
- ★ The card acts as a virtual and physical medium for shopping, traveling and eating.

Bajaj Finance Launches Financial Education Initiative

- ★ Bajaj Finance Limited, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, a leading financial service has launched its public awareness initiative 'Har Time EMI On Time'.
- ★ It is a digital campaign to drive awareness around the need and benefits of adopting good financial habits for a healthy financial future.
- ★ The campaign seeks to educate the public at large about the benefits of paying their monthly loan EMIs on time.

- ★ 'Har Time EMI On Time' is an extension of its original educational series, 'ABC of EMI' launched during the observance of the Financial Literacy Week in February 2022.

Airtel Payments Bank Partners with Muthoot Finance

- ★ Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold loans through Airtel Thanks app.
- ★ There will be no-processing charge on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to 75 per cent of the pledged gold value as a loan.
- ★ Gold Loans are secured loans that can be used to cater to a variety of needs, from personal to professional.
- ★ The loan facility will also be available at the 5 lakh banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.
- ★ The partnership will give access to secured and affordable credit to customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.

ICICI Home Finance Partners with Easy Home Finance

- ★ ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICICI HFC) has entered into a co-lending partnership with Easy Home Finance Ltd (EASY) a leading mortgage tech company to provide home loans.
- ★ This partnership will help us provide affordable home loans faster and a seamless home buying experience of customers.
- ★ It works towards to achieve the common goal to support Housing for All.
- ★ Customers will benefit from ENFL's asset-light Neo Banking Mortgage model and a wider reach for digital home loans, which will be integrated with ICICI HFC's rural-urban connect.

Suryoday SFB Partners with Mobisafar Services

- ★ Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB) partnered with Mobisafar Services to provide banking services through the Mobisafar service and business correspondent network across the country.
- ★ Suryoday SFB is present across 13 states and Union Territories with over 565 banking outlets.
- ★ Mobisafar Services is a Neobank with a presence in over 13,000 pincodes that offers customers in rural India services such as domestic money transfer, cash withdrawal, PAN Card applications, etc.
- ★ It will help onboard new customers for Suryoday SFB digitally through eKYC (know your customer).
- ★ This will also help the bank extend social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) & Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to currently underbanked customers.

RBI Monetary Policy

- ★ Monetary Policy Committee led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has raised the repo rate in order to tackle elevated inflation.

★ The committee consists of six-members.

★ **The Various rates are:**

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.90%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 5.15%
- Bank Rate: 5.15%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18.00%
- The six-member committee unanimously voted to raise repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90%.
- E-mandate on cards for recurring payments, limit raised from ₹5,000 to ₹15,000.

Current Account Deficit

- ★ India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) deficit is likely to have hit a three year high of 1.8% of GDP in FY 22 compared with a surplus of 0.9% in FY 21, India ratings.
- ★ Current Account Deficit (CAD) means value of imports is more than value of exports.

Five Trillion Economy

- ★ PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan will help achieve India's aim of five trillion-dollar economy, announced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri.Som Prakash at Industry stakeholder conference in New Delhi.
- ★ India proposed to attain 5trillion USD by 2024-25.

Ather Energy Partners with SBI

- ★ Ather Energy has partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to provide customers with vehicle financing.
- ★ As part of the association, Ather Energy's customers will get instant loans at interest rates starting from as low as 9.55 percent per annum.
- ★ Pre-approved loans will also be administered depending on the buyer's credit worthiness.
- ★ This partnership is aimed at increasing the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the domestic market.
- ★ SBI will offer the vehicle loan on the YONO mobile application as well as at their branch network.

ICICI Bank with ZestMoney

- ★ ICICI Bank has partnered with ZestMoney to expand its cardless EMI, commonly known as buy now pay later (BNPL), facility for purchases done at retail and e-commerce platforms.
- ★ The bank's customers will have the option to convert transactions up to ₹10 lakh into EMIs by providing their registered mobile number, PAN and OTP received on registered mobile number.
- ★ Customers of ICICI bank will be able to utilize Zest Money's flagship 'Pay-in-3' offering, where the bill would be split into three Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) without extra costs.

Fitch Upgrades India Outlook to Stable

- ★ Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) to stable from negative and has stated the rating at 'BBB-'.
- ★ Fitch forecasts India's GDP Growth to remain at 7.8% in FY23.
- ★ However, it is a downward revision from its 8.5% forecast in March due to global commodity price shocks.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India retained its GDP growth forecast at 7.2 % for the current fiscal.

Decentralised Finance (DeFi)

- ★ It is a Crypto market based financial intermediation in which all financial transactions performed on a computer network without a central intermediary.

Flipkart and Spices Board

- ★ Flipkart has announced a tie-up with Spices Board under its initiative 'Flavourit Spices Trading Ltd.' to provide national market access to farmers.

RBI Raises Individual Housing Loan Limit

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the limits for individual housing loans provided by Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Cooperative Banks by over 100%.
- ★ The limits for Tier I /Tier II UCBs have been revised from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh, respectively.
- ★ The limits for RCBs revised from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh for RCBs with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore.
- ★ From ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh for other RCBs.

Fino Payments Bank Partners with Go Digit General Insurance

- ★ Fino Payments Bank has partnered with India's fastest-growing general insurer, Go Digit General Insurance Limited to offer shop insurance policies to small and medium business owners.
- ★ It serves as a corporate representative for Go Digit.
- ★ The partnership will allow small and medium businesses to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the case of a damage.
- ★ The policy, which will be valid for one year.
- ★ Customers of Fino Bank will be able to join Go Digit's coverage for ₹550 per year (for a sum insured of ₹3 lakh) and ₹2,600 per year (for a sum insured of ₹15 lakh).

UPI – IPO (Unified Payments Interface - Initial Public Offering)

- ★ Retail investors can bid for shares up to ₹5 lakh in an IPO through UPI IPO payment feature.

HSBC to lend \$250 million to Indian startups

- ★ Mumbai-based retail banking and financial services provider, HSBC India announced to lend \$250 million to startups in the country.
- ★ HSBC will manage the lending through its commercial banking division and has also not mentioned any specific timeframe for disbursement of the amount.
- ★ HSBC has prepared a credit model and offerings to suit the specific requirements of a wide spectrum of startups and new-age entities, ranging from growth stage to unicorns.
- ★ In 2021, HSBC's commercial banking division in India had registered a growth of 42% in its profit to \$265 million compared to \$187 million a year-ago period.

SBI Hikes Lending Rate by 20 BPS

- ★ India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) raised minimum rate for home loans to 7.55% which is effective from 15 June.
- ★ The bank has increased its Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 20 basis points effective 15 June.
- ★ The MCLR on six months tenure will rise to 7.35% from the present 7.15%.
- ★ One basis point is 0.01%.

CCI Approval

- ★ Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of "Air Asia India" by Air India.
- ★ 'Omnocard' = First RBI licensed Prepaid Instrument to launch cash withdrawal across all ATMs in India.

NPCI Signs MoU with Lyra Network

- ★ National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) international arm has signed a memorandum of understanding MoU with Lyra Network of France for acceptance of UPI and Rupay in the country.
- ★ It will allow Indian to pay using UPI and Rupay cards at terminals and machines of Lyra Networks in France.
- ★ It will be the first time that UPI will be accepted in any European Country.
- ★ Countries like Singapore, UAE, Bhutan, and Nepal have adopted India's UPI payment system.
- ★ With the MoU between NPCI International and Lyra Network, Indian tourists will be able to make seamless payments during their travel to France.

Indian Bank launches KCC Digital renewal scheme

- ★ Public sector Indian Bank has launched Kisan Credit Card (KCC) digital renewal scheme enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes.
- ★ The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' – World of Advanced Virtual Experience.

- ★ The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndOASIS mobile app, internet banking through its website.
- ★ The facility is available through SMS for feature phone users with no internet or with limited internet access.
- ★ It is being offered to customers having outstanding loans below ₹60 lakh.

RBI Lifts Restrictions on Mastercard

- ★ On 16 June 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the restrictions imposed on Mastercard.
- ★ The Central bank had announced restrictions on Mastercard in 2021 for failing to comply with the local data storage norms.
- ★ Under RBI Mastercard restrictions, the US-based payment gateway was restricted from onboarding the new customers until it complies with the Storage of Payment System Data norms.
- ★ The RBI had given Mastercard almost three years to comply with the regulatory directives.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- ★ The first tranche of Sovereign gold bond for 2022-23 will open from June 20 for first five days, said by RBI.
- ★ The RBI further said that the second tranche (2022-23 Series II) will be available from August 22-26.
- ★ The scheme was launched in the year of 2015.
- ★ The Central bank issues the bond on behalf of government and these bonds are sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.
- ★ The tenure of the bond will be period of 8years, with an option of premature redemption after 5th year to be exercised on the date on which interest is payable.
- ★ The minimum investment limit will be 1gm. of gold and maximum limit will be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities.

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance

- ★ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance renamed itself as Canara HSBC Life Insurance and launched its first brand campaign #PromisesKaPartner to its new positioning – 'Powering India to re-imagine their dreams and aspirations.
- ★ It is to increase financial inclusion, insurance awareness and accelerating wealth generation for the clients.
- ★ All existing policyholders will continue to enjoy the benefits of its existing policies under the new brand identity.
- ★ The new logo is based on 3 pillars of the Company's strong parentage, technology and people.
- ★ Canara HSBC Life Insurance's product offers more than 35 plans under child savings, long-term savings, retirement solutions, etc.

Equitas SFB to Launch ENJOI

- ★ Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, one of the leading SFBs in the country is set to launch the kids savings account called ENJOI on the occasion of Father's Day.
- ★ The account will also help them take their first step towards a new age and technology-oriented banking experience.
- ★ ENJOI will allow kids of 0-18 years to open savings account under the supervision of their parents.
- ★ Minors aged 10 and above will also get an option for a personalised Debit Card.
- ★ To promote higher growth in savings, the account offers 7% interest for savings balances between ₹5 Lakhs to ₹2 Crores.
- ★ The account offers flexibility to choose the savings mode as Savings Account, with a balance starting as low as ₹1,000, RD (Recurring Deposit) for ₹500 monthly and FD (Fixed Deposit) for ₹10,000.

ONDC Partners with NABARD

- ★ The newly minted Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has partnered with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to activate e-commerce in the agriculture domain.
- ★ It is one of the first initiatives to drive ONDC enablement in the domain.
- ★ It also aims to promote development of innovative solutions that are likely to aid adoption of e-commerce in the agriculture domain.
- ★ For the NABARD - ONDC hackathon, they have more than 400 entities registered, out of whom around 250 are agri-tech startups while 150 are non-agri tech startups.
- ★ It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

SBI and DoPPW

- ★ The Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will collaborate with the State Bank of India (SBI) to create an integrated pension portal.
- ★ The pension portal will enhance the ease of living of pensioners.
- ★ During the session, the central government noted that immediate efforts were needed for the creation of an integrated pension portal by linking the existing portals of the DoPPW and the SBI to provide seamless services to pensioners.
- ★ Four awareness programmes will also be conducted in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

BOB Financial and Nainital Bank

- ★ A wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) & Nainital Bank launched the Nainital Bank – BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card during the centenary year of Nainital Bank.

- ★ The card is designed to reward customers for everyday spending categories like grocery and departmental stores.
- ★ Cardholders of Nainital Bank – BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn 5 reward points (per ₹100 spent) for spending on grocery, departmental stores, and movies.
- ★ For all other spending, cardholders will earn 1 reward point per ₹100 spent.
- ★ In addition, cardholders will also benefit from a 1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases.
- ★ The card is offered at zero joining fee and a nominal annual fee that is waived on spends of ₹25,000 per year.

Max Life Partners with Policybazaar

- ★ Max Life Insurance Company Ltd partnered with Policybazaar to launch the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan', a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan.
- ★ The offer helps customers meet short-term financial goals with a minimum policy tenure of five years.
- ★ The plan offers guaranteed tax-free returns up to 6.14% along with life cover protection at monthly premiums as low as ₹3000.
- ★ It is also available to purchase on both Max Life's website and Policybazaar.com.
- ★ Features are
- ★ Simplified on-boarding process along with instant confirmation of issuance after journey completion.
- ★ Fully guaranteed returns payable as a lump sum at maturity.
- ★ Flexibility to pay premiums monthly or annually for just five years.

India Expects 7.5% Economic Growth Rate in 2022

- ★ Prime Minister announced the government is expecting the Indian economy to grow by 7.5 per cent in 2022 at the BRICS Business Forum meeting held virtually.
- ★ The value of the Indian digital economy will reach one trillion dollar by 2025.
- ★ The Prime Minister added that India's success is based on, technology-laid growth with innovation and startups.
- ★ He also announced that the Government emphasised on Ease of Living, building infrastructure with PM GatiShakti and digital transformation and digital economy.

World Bank Approves Additional \$250m to Gujarat

- ★ The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved additional financing of \$250 million to the state of Gujarat.
- ★ The fund is for Outcomes for Accelerated Learning (GOAL), a program which aims to improve education results for children across the state of Gujarat.
- ★ This financing will benefit an additional 3,000 schools that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

AU Small Finance Bank Launches Innovative Credit Card

- ★ AU Small Finance Bank has launched an innovative Credit Card named LIT (Live-It-Today).
- ★ It brings a revolutionary change in the credit card landscape. The AU Bank LIT (Live-It-Today) Credit Card offers a unique value proposition to cardholders - to choose the features they want and for the time period they want.
- ★ With the LIT Credit Card, the Bank has put the power to choose these features in the hands of the customers - all categories in one card.
- ★ LIT credit card provides a higher degree of engagement to customers, through the AU0101 app as they can track their saving and earnings daily to maximize their benefits.
- ★ The default validity period for each feature is 90 days.

SEBI Forms Advisory Committee on Hybrid Securities

- ★ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities.
- ★ The committee will advise SEBI on issues related to the development and regulation of primary and secondary markets of hybrid securities in the country.
- ★ The 20-member committee will be chaired by K V Kamath, Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.

World Bank Approves Project in Uttarakhand

- ★ The World Bank has approved a project named Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming worth ₹1,000 crore to promote rain-fed farming in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.
- ★ The Project will be implemented by the watershed department.
- ★ The project will help in springshed management, boosting agricultural productivity, controlling migration, and promoting cluster-based agriculture.
- ★ It will also boost climate-friendly activities in the agriculture sector so that it becomes an economically viable option for the youth and farmers.

Freo Partners with Equitas Small Finance Bank

- ★ Freo, one of India's leading consumer neo banks, in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank launched its digital savings account 'Freo Save'.
- ★ With this launch, it has become the first consumer neo bank in the country to provide full-stack neo-banking products, including smart savings accounts, credit and payments products, cards, and wealth-growth products.
- ★ The neo bank is planning to open one million new accounts in the next ten months.
- ★ Freo Save will offer quick access to credit and shopping and through its partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank.
- ★ It will provide up to 7 percent interest on customer savings for balances above ₹5 lakh up to ₹2 crores.

World Bank to Indian Railways

- ★ The World Bank approved a \$245-million loan for the rail logistics project to help reduce India's high Carbon emissions and low modal freight share in the railways.
- ★ The project will help India shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport both freight and passenger which is more efficient and reduce millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) each year.
- ★ The project will also incentivise more private sector investment in the sector.
- ★ The loan financed through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has a maturity of 22 years including a grace period of seven years.

RBI Extends the Date for Implementing Provisions on Cards

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline to implement three provisions by three months, as part of new regulatory guidelines for issuing credit and debit cards from 01 July 2022 to 01 October 2022.
- ★ Regarding card issuers being mandated to seek one-time password-based consent from the cardholder for activating a credit card, if not activated by the customer for more than 30 days from the date of issuance
- ★ Card issuers will have to ensure that the credit limit as sanctioned and advised to the cardholder is not breached at any point in time without seeking explicit consent from the cardholder.
- ★ The issuers shall not capitalize on unpaid charges for the compounding of interest.

CARD91 Partners with YES BANK and RuPay

- ★ CARD91 is a global payment infrastructure powering Business Business (B2B) payments partnered with YES BANK and RuPay, the flagship product of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ★ Through this partnership, CARD91 will create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments as well as maintain a real-time dashboard to generate insights.
- ★ It will enable CARD91 to expand its presence in the Indian payments market.
- ★ The Partnership will enable the company to provide businesses of all kinds across various sectors with a range of card instruments for managing and securing payments.
- ★ CARD91 is a plug-and-play Payment Issuance Infrastructure designed to help businesses launch co-branded cards and simplify payments.

South Indian Bank Launches EXIM Trade Portal

- ★ The South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched a new portal called 'SIB TF Online' for its corporate EXIM (Export-Import) customers.
- ★ The portal provides the customers with a platform for trade-related payments and remittances to foreign entities without visiting the bank's branches.

- ★ The customer can initiate the payment request over SIB TF Online after uploading the supporting documents for the transaction.

SIB plans to launch SIB TF Online in phases with the initial version allowing for 3 types of import remittances

- ★ Advance Remittance for Imports
- ★ Remittance against Import Bill received from overseas Bank for Collection (Bank-to-Bank Foreign Inward Collection Bill) and
- ★ Payment against Import documents received by Importer directly from overseas suppliers
- ★ SIB TF Online has been hosted on the home page of Corporate Internet Banking (SIBerNet) and would allow corporates to transact on the portal digitally and 24×7 in a safe and paperless manner.

Karnataka Bank Launches V-CIP

- ★ Karnataka Bank has launched Online SB Account opening facility through 'Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)'.
- ★ The facility empowers any prospective customer to open a Savings Account through online process and complete KYC verification through a video call at their place of convenience.
- ★ The end-to-end paperless digital process leverages the bank's Application Programming Interface (API) that auto-fills the account opening form, validates PAN/ Aadhaar number instantly and completes the Know Your Customer (KYC) process through a video call.
- ★ As a private sector bank its products and services include current account, demand, time, cumulative, cash certificates, insurance linked savings bank deposits, resident foreign currency accounts and senior citizens deposit schemes.

Liberty General Insurance and Peerless Financial Products Distribution

- ★ Liberty General Insurance (LGI), one of the fastest-growing General Insurance companies in India recently entered into a Corporate Agency agreement with Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd (PFPDL).
- ★ The collaboration will enable the distribution of Liberty's retail and commercial line of products through Peerless' extensive network of 42 branches across India.
- ★ The Partnership offers a wide range of health products including Liberty Complete Protect Group Policy Insurance.
- ★ It also provides annual benefit cover if the insured is hospitalized with vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, kala-azar, lymphatic filariasis, and Zika virus.

Bajaj Finance Partners with Worldline India

- ★ Bajaj Finance Limited, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited has partnered with Worldline, a global firm in payment services to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network.

- ★ With this tie-up, Bajaj Finance Limited aims to enhance its relationship with both existing and new network of merchant partners.
- ★ It will enhance by providing point-of-sale terminals and enabling acceptance of a wide range of payment instruments such as equated monthly instalments (EMI) cards, credit cards, UPI and wallets on those terminals.

SBI Ecowrap Research Report

- ★ As per the SBI Ecowrap Report, Inequality of Income in India has declined significantly since Financial Year 2017.
- ★ According to the report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, SBI India has performed well during pandemic in terms of navigating income shocks across deciles of population.
- ★ India's poverty ratio has also declined to 17.9 per cent in 2020-21 from 21.9 per cent in 2011-12.

EGI Launches Out-Of-Network Cash Advance Facility

- ★ Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has launched an out-of-network cash advance facility to help customers with monetary support at any hospital that is not part of EGI's network.
- ★ The launch of this service has been based on the insights gained from qualitative research conducted by EGI across 4 cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata.
- ★ Under the new "Cash Advance" facility customers will receive money up to 10,000 to take care of admission charges or other expenses during the hospitalization.

India's Mufin Finance-PPI Licence

- ★ Mufin Finance, an India-based non-banking financial institution, has secured in-principal approval for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments (PPIs).
- ★ The licence enables fintech firms, digital lender and large consumer-facing applications to launch digital payment solutions and other features that supports lending.
- ★ The licence will enable the company to provide an array of complementing products for customers and build enhance partnerships with consumer firms and corporates.
- ★ PPI act as a store of value against which goods and services can be purchased and used to transfer funds.
- ★ It can be in the form of gift cards, payment wallets, smart cards and vouchers.

Airtel Payments Bank Partners with Axis Bank

- ★ Airtel Payments Bank has partnered Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank to digitise the cash collection system in the country's tier III cities and semi-urban regions.

- ★ This partnership with Airtel Payment Bank is yet another step towards embracing digitisation, offering greater convenience and faster solutions to our vast customer base in the semi-rural regions of the country.
- ★ It would also speed up the payment cycle.
- ★ Axis Bank's agents will no longer have to travel back to the branch to deposit the collected EMI amount as they can deposit the amount at any Airtel Payments Bank outlet in the neighbourhood, and it will be immediately transferred to the Axis Bank accounts.

SBI's Establishment of Operations Support Subsidiary

- ★ The State Bank of India (SBI) has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its proposed operations support subsidiary aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio.
- ★ The pilot will be launched soon within a quarter or so in a few circles and once the results are seen, it would be rolled out across India.
- ★ This subsidiary is expected to provide support services mainly for agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises, other micro-loans, data entry operations, and activities that can be undertaken as allowed for Business Correspondents, among others.
- ★ SBI's cost-to-income ratio stood at 53.3 percent in FY22, an improvement of 240 basis points over FY19 levels.

BUSINESS NEWS

CASHe Has Launched an Industry-First Credit Line Service

- ★ Financial wellness platform, CASHe has launched the industry's first line of credit that uses AI-powered chat on WhatsApp.
- ★ It is to provide customers with a fast, seamless and convenient way to access instant lines of credit by simply entering their name.
- ★ The company offers instant lines of credit without the need for documents, downloading apps or filling out tedious application forms.
- ★ CASHe's WhatsApp chat service is based on the WhatsApp Business Platform, an enterprise solution that allows businesses to communicate with new and existing customers on WhatsApp easily, securely and reliably.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Part-Time Member of PFRDA

- ★ The Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Pankaj Sharma has appointed as a part time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

- ★ He succeeds Vandita Kaul.
- ★ PFRDA consists of a chairman 3 whole time members and 3 part time members.

Director General of NIC

- ★ Senior scientist Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the Director General of National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ★ At present Gera is Deputy Director General in the NIC.
- ★ The NIC, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), was established in 1976 with the objective to provide technology-driven solutions to central and state governments.

MD & CEO Of NARCL

- ★ National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) has appointed former State Bank of India executive as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ★ NARCL has also appointed former MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank Karnam Sekar as the independent director and non-executive chairman of the board.
- ★ NARCL is a special organization setup as a joint initiative of Public and Private Sector Banks, which is expected to take over bad loans from banks and focus on resolution and recoveries.
- ★ NARCL will try to identify and acquire assets in the ratio of 15:85 for cash and Security Receipts (SRs).

COO of Meta

- ★ Meta, formerly known as Facebook appointed Javier Olivan as the company's next Chief Operating Officer.
- ★ He will replace Sheryl Sandberg as she announced her departure from Meta, formerly Facebook, after 14 years.
- ★ Olivan has been responsible for the company's growth for the past 15 years.
- ★ It is an American multinational technology conglomerate based in Menlo Park, California.

Director General of BCAS

- ★ Senior IPS officer, Zulfiqar Hasan has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- ★ West Bengal-cadre 1988-batch IPS officer, Zulfiqar Hasan has been serving as the Special Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.
- ★ The official order stated that Zulfiqar Hasan has been appointed for a tenure up to 31 October, 2024.
- ★ The BCAS is tasked with framing security related protocols for aviation operations.

Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal

- ★ A 1988-batch Indian Police Service Officer S L Thaosen has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- ★ Thaosen, a Madhya Pradesh-cadre IPS officer, has been serving as the Special Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ★ The Sashastra Seema Bal force guards the country's borders with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km).

Co-founder and CEO of LXME

- ★ Financial platform LXME, has appointed Jasmin B Gupta as co-founder and CEO.
- ★ LXME is India's 1st financial planning platform for women.
- ★ Gupta will spearhead the team towards creating India's first neo-bank for women.
- ★ Prior to joining LXME, she was associated with Equitas Small Finance Bank as their national head, neobank, fintech accelerator and alliances and digital business.

MD & CEO of Union Bank of India

- ★ The government appointed Canara Bank executive director A. Manimekhalai as the new managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of Union Bank of India.
- ★ She has been appointed for a period of three years.
- ★ She will succeed G Rajkiran Rai.
- ★ She started her career in 1988 with Vijaya Bank where she held various leadership roles such as general manager, branch head, regional head and functional head of various departments at the lender's corporate office.
- ★ Manimekhalai holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in marketing from Bangalore University.

Head of Punjab & Sind Bank

- ★ Shri Swarup Kumar Saha was appointed as the MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
- ★ Prior to this, he was Executive Director of Punjab National Bank since March 10, 2021.
- ★ He succeeded S Krishnan.
- ★ Saha is a graduate in Science from University of Calcutta, Kolkata, started his career in Banking in Oriental Bank of Commerce in the year 1990 as Probationary Officer.
- ★ He is a Certified Associate member of Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

New President of Albania

- ★ Albanian lawmakers elected Bajram Begaj as the new president of Albania who held the post of the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF).
- ★ Begaj is post-communist Albania's eighth President and the third from the military ranks.
- ★ He will replace President Ilir Meta.

New MD of SBI

- ★ The central government has appointed Alok Kumar Choudhary as the managing director of India's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI).
- ★ Choudhary will remain in the post for two years till the time of his retirement.
- ★ Choudhary replaces former SBI MD Ashwani Bhatia who took charge as a whole -time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India days ago. Alok Kumar Choudhary currently serves as the deputy managing director of SBI.
- ★ As the SBI MD, Choudhary will look after the corporate banking and information technology sectors of the lender. Previously, he was in charge of the finance portfolio at SBI.

New chairman of International Aluminium Institute

- ★ International Aluminium Institute (IAI) appointed Satish Pai as its new Chairman.
- ★ He succeeds Ben Kahrs, who is the Chief Innovation Officer of Alcoa Corporation.
- ★ The objective of IAI is to promote the sustainable development of aluminium industry and to increase demand for aluminium products by raising awareness of their unique and valuable properties.
- ★ It represents the global primary aluminium industry.

CEO of Prasar Bharati

- ★ Mayank Kumar Agrawal, director general of Doordarshan and Doordarshan News has been given additional charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prasar Bharati.
- ★ Agrawal succeeded Shashi Shekhar Vempati who completed his five-year tenure as CEO of the public broadcaster.
- ★ Prasar Bharati is India's Public broadcaster and has headquarters in New Delhi.

Director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD)

- ★ Indian economist Krishna Srinivasan has been appointed as the Director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) by International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.
- ★ Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee who was nominated as a candidate for Governor of the Central Bank of Korea.
- ★ He is currently a Deputy Director in APD where he oversees the department's surveillance work on a number of large and systemically important countries such as China and Korea, and smaller states in the Pacific such as Fiji and Vanuatu. He will assume charge on June 22.

Female Foreign Minister of North Korea

- ★ Choe Son-hui, a long-time diplomat has become North Korea's first woman foreign minister.
- ★ She succeeded Ri Son Gwon who was a former military official.
- ★ Choe has formerly served as North Korea's vice foreign minister.

Chairman and Managing Director of GRSE

- ★ P R Hari took over as the chairman and managing director of Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.
- ★ Hari has been in charge of production planning of all new construction ships built at the shipyard since 2016 and became director (personnel) of the warship builder in October 2019, heading human resources, corporate planning and technical functions of GRSE.
- ★ He served for over 28 years in the Indian Navy where he has served in senior appointments onboard warships and naval repair organisations.

MD & CEO of RBL Bank

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of veteran banker R Subramaniakumar as the private sector lender's new managing director and chief executive officer of RBL Bank for a period of three years.
- ★ As a banker with Punjab National Bank (PNB), Subramaniakumar has more than 40 years' experience in the finance sector.
- ★ He succeeded Vishwavir Ahuja who stepped down in 2021 and appointed Rajeev Ahuja as the interim chief to take care of the day-to-day operations.

MGNERGS' Ombudsman

- ★ The former in-charge registrar and university engineer for MS University, Mr. N J Ojha has been appointed as ombudsman under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNERGS) for a period of 2-year term.
- ★ An ombudsman has the power to receive complaints from MGNREGA workers, consider such complaints, resolve within 30 days from the date of receipt of the complaint and issue directions for conducting a spot investigation.
- ★ Based on the recommendation of the ombudsman state selection committee, the state government approved Ojha's appointment for Vadodara district.
- ★ Sajjansinh Amarsinh Padwal was appointment for neighboring Panchmahal district as well as Dr. Ranjitsinh Nayak and Bhargav Trivedi for Dahod and Chhota Udepur districts of Central Gujarat.

RBI Board of Directors

- ★ The government has named Anand Mahindra, Ravindra Dholakia, Venu Srinivasan and Pankaj Patel as non-official directors on the central board of the RBI.
- ★ They were appointed for a period of 4 years term.
- ★ The RBI's affairs are governed by a central board of directors.

Scientific Advisor to US President

- ★ President of United States Joe Biden nominated Indian-origin physicist Aarti Prabhakar as his Scientific Advisor.

- ★ Arati Prabhakar was as the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
- ★ She will replace Eric Lander.
- ★ Arati also served in top roles during the presidential tenures of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

New Chairperson of PCI

- ★ Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court was appointed as the chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI).
- ★ She succeeded Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad.
- ★ Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, which was set up to redraw the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.
- ★ Justice Desai is also a former judge of the Bombay high court.

Chairperson of COAI for 2022-2023

- ★ Industry body COAI appointed Pramod K Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, as the new Chairman of the association for 2022-23.
- ★ Prior to this, Mittal was the Vice Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI).
- ★ Mittal will replace Ajai Puri who held the position for the two consecutive terms.

Prime Minister of Somalia

- ★ 48-year-old MP and member of the president's party, Hamza Abdi Barre becomes the 21st prime minister of Somalia.
- ★ Hamza succeeded Mohamed Hussein Roble, who has held the post since September 2020.
- ★ He was appointed by Somalia's President Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.
- ★ He has served in several public and political roles and from 2011 to 2017. He was secretary-general of the Peace and Development Party (PDP).

President of Colombia

- ★ Gustavo Petro, a former rebel has been elected as the Colombia's first leftist president.
- ★ He won against Rodolfo Hernandez and will take office in August 2022.
- ★ Francia Marquez will become the country's first black women Vice President.
- ★ She won the Goldman Environment Prize in 2018 for opposing gold mining in Suarez.

India's Permanent Representative to UN

- ★ Senior diplomat Ruchira Kamboj was appointed as the next Ambassador and India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

- ★ Kamboj, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan.
- ★ She will succeed T S Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the UN.

NDB Appointed Head for its Regional Office in GIFT City

- ★ Shanghai-headquartered New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has appointed former bureaucrat Dr D J Pandian as the Director-General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City).
- ★ The NDB has approved 20 projects in India for about USD 7.2. billion.
- ★ The IRO will support the effective and efficient implementation of these projects and work closely with Project Implementation Agencies on achieving desired project outcomes.
- ★ IRO will also play an important role in preparing new projects and assisting government institutions in capacity building and in providing technical assistance.

Chairman and Managing Director of NSIC

- ★ P. Udayakumar, Director (Planning & Marketing) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) assumes an additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director, NSIC.
- ★ He is a Mechanical engineer from College of Engg, Guindy with post-graduation from IIM Bangalore with 12 years of Board experience.
- ★ He is an Investment Committee member of the PE growth fund namely the SRI Fund, the Fund of the Ministry of MSME.

First Woman President of FICA

- ★ Legendary Australian cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has become the first woman president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA).
- ★ Her appointment was made at a meeting of the organization's executive committee in Nyon, Switzerland, the first in-person meeting since the start of the Covid pandemic.
- ★ Earlier, Sthalekar had been on the board of FICA as an independent director.
- ★ Sthalekar represented Australia in 187 international matches across the 3 formats.

Director General of NIA

- ★ Dinkar Gupta, the former Punjab DGP was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ★ He will hold the post of NIA chief till 31 March 2024.
- ★ NIA is an anti-terror probe agency that was formed after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai.
- ★ Dinkar Gupta held the position of the Director General of Punjab Police in 2019 and served in the post for a period of two years and seven months.

- ★ Dinkar Gupta also held the post of Director General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab which involved the direct supervision of the Punjab State Intelligence Wing, Organised Crime Control Unit (OCCU) and State Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS).

Member of Advisory Committee of Srei Group

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as a member of the advisory committee of Srei Group.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to retain the three-member advisory committee of two Srei Group companies - Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Srei Equipment Finance Limited.
- ★ The Advisory Committee shall advise the Administrator in the operations of the SIFL and SEFL during the corporate insolvency resolution process.

President of India International Centre

- ★ Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran has been elected as the new president of the India International Centre.
- ★ He succeeds N N Vohra.
- ★ The President of the India International Centre is elected once in five years.
- ★ Saran has also served as Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change.
- ★ Saran was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award, in 2011 for his contributions to civil service.

Head of R&AW

- ★ The Government extended the tenure of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Kumar Goel by another one year.
- ★ Samant Kumar Goel is an IPS officer from the Punjab cadre class of 1984 and will hold the position of agency secretary through 30 June 2023.
- ★ In June 2019, Samant Kumar Goel succeeded Anil Dhasmana as the Chief of RAW.
- ★ The appointment of Tapan Kumar Deka as the next director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) was also confirmed by the Cabinet's Appointments Committee.
- ★ Deka, a 1988 IPS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre will take over the position on June 30 and hold it for two years.

CEO of NITI Aayog

- ★ Former Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer, who appointed as the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- ★ He will replace Amitabh Kant and will take charge on 30 June 2022.
- ★ Iyer has been appointed for a period of two years term.

- ★ A 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Iyer is a well-known sanitation specialist and best known for spearheading Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's flagship scheme the Swachh Bharat Mission between 2016 and 2020.

Chairman Of Advisory Committee to Assist CoA

- ★ Entrepreneur Ranjit Bajaj has been named Chairman of an advisory committee to assist the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).
- ★ CoA runs the day-to-day affairs of All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- ★ The 12-member advisory committee was appointed by the CoA to oversee the day-to-day matters of various departments of the AIFF.

New Chairman of CBDT

- ★ Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new chairman of Central Board Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- ★ Nitin Gupta, an Indian Revenue Service officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre, is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board of CBDT.
- ★ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Nitin Gupta.
- ★ The post of the CBDT chief was being held in an additional capacity by Board member and 1986-batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh.
- ★ The CBDT is headed by a chairman and have six members who are in the rank of special secretary. It is the administrative body for the Income Tax department.

KK Venugopal to Continue as Attorney General

- ★ Attorney general KK Venugopal has been given another three months of extension as his present tenure was to end on June 30, 2022.
- ★ KK Venugopal was appointed by the President of India as Attorney General for India in July 2017.
- ★ Tushar Mehta was appointed as the solicitor general, Venugopal was appointed AG.

President of the International Weightlifting Federation

- ★ Mohammed Jalood was elected as the new President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) at the 2022 IWF Special & Electoral Congress in Tirana, Albania.
- ★ He Succeeds the incumbent interim leader, Michael Irani.
- ★ Mohammed Jalood is the first Asian to become President of IWF.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKS

FIH World Ranking

- ★ The Indian Men's Hockey team with score 2366.990 has slipped to the fourth spot in FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022.
- ★ The Indian Women's Hockey Team with 2029.396 points has been placed sixth in the World Hockey Rankings.
- ★ Australia with score 2842.258 and the Netherland with score 3049.495 continued to be the world's number one ranked teams in the Men's and Women's FIH World Ranking.
- ★ In men's Hockey rankings, the Netherlands has replaced India in the third position.
- ★ In women's hockey world rankings Australia, England and Germany remain in third, fourth and fifth place respectively.

4th State Food Safety Index

- ★ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI).
- ★ The main objective of the index is to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety.
- ★ The index will help in providing safe and nutritious food to our citizens.
- ★ Among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top-ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ★ Among the smaller states, Goa secured first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- ★ Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.
- ★ Dr. Mandaviya also felicitated states which showed significant improvement in the State Food Safety Index.

Environmental Performance Index

- ★ The Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University published Environmental Performance Index (EPI).
- ★ India has been placed at the bottom on a list of 180 countries in the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).
- ★ Denmark topped in the list of 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) as the world's most sustainable country.
- ★ EPI is an analysis by researchers which provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world.

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

- ★ In QS world university rankings - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, tops among Indian universities where as it secures 155th in world level ranking.
- ★ In global level, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) gets top rank.

UNCTAD Report

- ★ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a report on Foreign Direct Investment.
- ★ India's rank moved one position up to the seventh position among top recipients of Foreign Direct Investment in 2021 despite drop in inflows.
- ★ Flows to India declined to \$45 billion.
- ★ The US (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI, followed by China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$ 141 billion) secured 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

2nd Biggest Oil Vendor to India

- ★ Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil.
- ★ Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil in May or more than 16% of all their oil imports. Russian origin crude hit 5% of India's total seaborne imports in April for the first time, rising from under 1% throughout 2021 and Q1 2022.
- ★ Iraq remained the top supplier to India in May and Saudi Arabia is now the third biggest supplier.

Global Startup Environment Report

- ★ Kerala has been placed top in Asia in the Affordable Talent in Global Startup Environment Report, providing a boost to the state's start-up ecosystem (GSER).
- ★ The State has been placed fourth in the GSER 2022.
- ★ The report was given by Startup Genome, a policy advisory and research organization and the Global Entrepreneurship Network.
- ★ Bengaluru has climbed to number 22 in the Global Startup Ecosystem rating.
- ★ It brings together global governments and business leaders, as well as inspirational start-up founders and investors, to explore the impact of technology on society.
- ★ Kerala was placed 5th in Asia and 20th globally in the first GSER issued in 2020.

IMD's World Competitiveness Index

- ★ The annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) was released.
- ★ India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a jump from 43rd to 37th rank.
- ★ Denmark has risen to the top of the 63-nation list followed by Switzerland.
- ★ The top-performing Asian economies are Singapore which secured 3rd position, Hong Kong secured 5th, Taiwan secured 7th, China secured 17th and Australia secured 19th positions.

Kantar Brandz- 2022 Most Valuable Global Brands Report

- ★ IT services and banking companies have retained top positions in the Kantar Brandz, 2022 Most Valuable Global Brands report.

- ★ The number of Indian brands in the Global Top 100 for 2022 rose to four: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- ★ TCS jumped 12 positions to 46th position from 58th in 2021.
- ★ Its brand value was 61 percent.

Ookla Speedtest Global Index

- ★ The Speedtest Global Index released by Ookla showed that India recorded 14.28 Mbps median mobile download speeds in the month of May, slightly better than 14.19 Mbps in April 2022.
- ★ India gained three spots in the global ranking on median mobile download speed and ranked 115th in the world for mobile speeds during May 2022.
- ★ India also improved its global ranking for overall fixed median download speeds from 76 in April to 75 in May 2022.
- ★ According to the May Speedtest Global Index, Norway and Singapore are on the top spots for global mobile speeds (median download speed of 129.40 Mbps) and fixed broadband speeds (209.21 Mbps) respectively.

Renewable Energy Installations in 2021

- ★ The 2022 report titled, Renewable Energy 2022: Global Status Report (GSR 2022) was published by REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century).
- ★ India ranked third in Renewable Energy installations in 2021. India installed 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of Renewable Energy projects in 2021.
- ★ It also ranked 4th in total solar installations.
- ★ According to the report China secured first position followed by Russia.

‘Gold refining and recycling’ Report

- ★ A World Gold Council (WGC) released a report titled ‘Gold refining and recycling’.
- ★ India ranked 4th in global gold recycling in 2021.
- ★ The report estimated that from 2013 to 2021, India’s gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes or 500% to 1,800 tonnes.
- ★ India’s gold refining landscape has changed over the last decade, with the number of formal operations increasing from less than five in 2013 to 33 in 2021.
- ★ China emerged top in the gold refining and recycling report by the WGC followed by Italy.
- ★ The United States of America secured third place.

Mobility Report by Ericsson

- ★ The Mobility Report by Ericsson predicts a rapid increase in 5G subscriptions in the coming years.

- ★ India's 5G services are likely to be rolled out in the second half of 2022 and the subscriptions are expected to reach 50 million by the end of 2023 and about 500 million or 39% of all subscribers by 2027.
- ★ The report notes an almost four-fold increase in mobile data traffic in the Indian region between 2021 and 2027. The report attributes this growth to the increasing availability and affordability of 5G smartphones, along with the rapid adoption of smartphones in urban and rural areas.
- ★ The report notes that the low average revenue per user and high prices of spectrum poses financial challenges to the telecom companies and inhibits their ability to invest in infrastructure.

EIU Global Liveability Index 2022

- ★ Global Liveability Index 2022 was published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ★ According to a report, the Austrian capital Vienna is the world's most livable city for the 3rd time in the past 5 years.
- ★ New Delhi, Capital of India ranked 112th on the list of the most liveable cities and Mumbai ranked 117th place.
- ★ As for the bottom of the list, Damascus in Syria (172), Lagos in Nigeria (171) and Tripoli in Libya (170) continue to lag.
- ★ In EIU's index every city is assigned a rating for relative comfort for over 30 factors across 5 general categories namely Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education and Infrastructure.

BNEF Report

- ★ According to a BloombergNEF (BNEF)'s report titled Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition, published in association with the Power Foundation of India, India will need USD 223 billion of investment to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030.
- ★ The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- ★ As per the report, corporate commitments from Indian companies could help India achieve 86 percent of its 2030 goals of building 500GW of cumulative non-fossil power generation capacity.

Report on India's Gig and Platform Economy

- ★ NITI Aayog launched a report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy'.
- ★ The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, CEO Amitabh Kant and Special Secretary Dr. K Rajeswara Rao.
- ★ The report is a first-of-its-kind study that presents comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the gig-platform economy in India.
- ★ The report provides a scientific methodological approach to estimate the current size and job-generation potential of the sector.
- ★ It also highlights the opportunities and challenges of this emerging sector and presents global best practices on initiatives for social security and delineates strategies for skill development and job creation for different categories of workers in the sector.

Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

- ★ The Ministry of Education released the first-ever Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- ★ The PGI-D index assesses the performance of the school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- ★ Based on the success of State PGI, the PGI-D structure comprises a total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under 6 categories.
- ★ The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) devised Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States.
- ★ Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Jaipur of Rajasthan have emerged as the best performers in the index.

AI Adoption Index

- ★ National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) have collaborated with Microsoft, Capgemini, Ernst & Young and EXL to develop the NASSCOM AI Adoption Index, the first-of-its-kind assessment in the India.
- ★ The index has been designed to track and measure the degree of AI penetration in India.
- ★ Considering the centrality of Artificial Intelligence as a technology and its contribution to India's GDP, it is important to track, assess and monitor its adoption at the enterprise level.

SPORTS

ISSF World Cup 2022

- ★ Indian women's shooting team of Elavenil Valarivan, Shreya Agarwal and Ramita bagged a gold medal in the 10m air rifle women's team event at the ISSF World Cup 2022 held in Baku.
- ★ The trio from India defeated Denmark 17-5 in the match.
- ★ This was India's first medal on the ongoing ISSF World cup 2022.

Monaco F1 Grand Prix 2022

- ★ Racing driver Sergio Perez (Red Bull) won the Monaco Grand Prix 2022.
- ★ The event was held at Circuit de Monaco, Europe.
- ★ With this victory Sergio Perez has become the first Mexican to win the Monaco Grand Prix.
- ★ Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari) occupied the second position.

Norway Chess Tournament 2022

- ★ The Filipino-American chess Grandmaster Wesley Barbossa So won the 10th edition of the Norway Chess Blitz 2022.
- ★ The event was held in Finansparken, Stavanger, Norway.

- ★ GM Viswanathan Anand from India secured fourth place.
- ★ The Norway Chess 2022 consists of Blitz tournament and Classical tournament.
- ★ The Blitz tournament was played to decide the play order for the main tournament.

ISSF Shooting World Cup

- ★ Indian Olympian Anjum Moudgil won a silver medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ★ It is Anjum's second individual World Cup silver in the event.
- ★ With this win, India has climbed to the third spot on the medal tally.

Mens Hockey Asia Cup

- ★ India defeated Japan 1-0 to win bronze at the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ★ Japan had seven penalty corners while India had two but India led the circle penetration status 11-10.

French Open 2022

- ★ Spaniard Rafael Nadal defeated Casper Ruud of Norway in three straight sets to win 14th French Open men's singles title in Paris.
- ★ It is his 22nd Grand Slam title.
- ★ With this victory, 36-year-old Nadal has become the oldest champion of the French open.
- ★ This is also the first time in his professional career that Nadal has completed the double of winning Australian Open and French Open in the same year.
- ★ In women's singles, World Number One Iga Swiatek of Poland won the 2022 title by defeating Coco Gauf in Paris.

ISSF World Cup

- ★ Swapnil Kusale and Ashi Chouksey from India won the gold medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) mixed team competition at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ★ The pair of Swapnil Kusale and Ashi Chouksey defeated Serhiy Kulish and Daria Tykhova from Ukraine by 16-12.
- ★ This was India's second gold in the tournament.
- ★ With two gold and three silver, India finished second on the medals tally behind Korea.

Youngest Kabaddi Entrant at KIYG 2021

- ★ At 13 years, Eitu Mandal from Jharkhand is the youngest kabaddi entrant in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021.
- ★ Mandal is playing in KIYG 2021 as a part of the Under-18 Youth team.

- ★ This is the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games which is being organized in Panchkula, Haryana.
- ★ Jharkhand's Eitu Mandal had entered the record books.20

IRONMAN Triathlon

- ★ Shreyas Hosur from South Western Railway has become the first ever Railway officer and also the first ever officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the 'IRONMAN' Triathlon.
- ★ The event included 3.8 km Swim, 180 km Cycling and 42.2 km Running.
- ★ Shreyas completed the event in 13 hrs 26 mins in Hamburg, Germany.
- ★ The finishers of the event are popularly known as 'IRONMAN' befitting the mental and physical strength the event demands.

Para Shooting World Cup

- ★ Indian shooter Avani Lekhara won gold medal at the Para Shooting World Cup in France with a record score.
- ★ Avani created a world record by scoring 250.6 in the women's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 event.
- ★ The 20-year-old shooter broke her own world record of 249.6.
- ★ The SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.

ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings

- ★ ICC Women's ODI batting Ranking released on 07 June 2022.
- ★ Australia's Alyssa Healy continued to lead the rankings chart followed by England's Natalie Sciver.
- ★ Indian batter Mithali Raj continued to hold on to her seventh position and Smriti Mandhana also remained in the ninth position.
- ★ The bowling rankings was led by England's Sophie Ecclestone, while South African Shabnim Ismail and Australia's Jess Jonassen took the second and third positions.
- ★ Veteran Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami continued to be in the fifth position on the bowling list.

Mithali Raj Retires From all Forms of Cricket

- ★ Indian women cricketers, Mithali Raj announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- ★ She made her international debut as a 16-year-old in 1999 and last played for India in the ICC Women's World Cup in New Zealand in March 2022.
- ★ Mithali retires as the leading run getter in Women's ODIs.
- ★ She represented India 232 matches scoring 7805 runs at an average of 50.68.

Para Shooting World Cup

- ★ Sriharsha Devaraddi Ramakrishna become second Indian para shooter to win Gold at para shooting world cup which held in Paris in the 10m air rifle category.

Para-Shooting World Cup

- ★ Manish Narwal and Singhraj Adhana won silver in the Mixed Team 50m Pistol SH1 event Chateauroux Para-shooting World Cup 2022 in Paris.
- ★ Akash was the only Indian to qualify for the P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 finals. He was eventually placed fifth with a score of 159.4 points.
- ★ With this, India has secured three gold medals and two silver medals.

Azerbaijan F1 Grand Prix

- ★ Max Verstappen (Red Bull) won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix to extend his lead at the top of the Formula One drivers' championship to 21 points.
- ★ This is Verstappen's 25th Grand Prix win of his career.
- ★ This is also his maiden win at Azerbaijan Grand Prix.
- ★ Sergio Perez (Red Bull) secured second placed George Russell (Mercedes) finished third place.

Norway Chess Open

- ★ 16-year-old Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa emerged as winner in the Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament.
- ★ He scored 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- ★ He will be part of the India B team in the open event of the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai.

Para-Shooting World Cup

- ★ Avani Lekhara won gold in the R8-Women's 50m 3P SH1 category of Para Shooting World Cup 2022. This is her second gold medal from this tournament.
- ★ She beat Veronika Vadovicova of Slovakia to win this title and gold for India.
- ★ She has won in the R8 event - women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 with a score of 458.3.
- ★ On 7 June 2022, Avani had won a gold medal with a world record score of 250.6 in the Women's 10m Air Rifle and secured a place at the Paris Paralympics 2024.

Youth World Championships

- ★ In weightlifting, Akanksha Vyvahare has won a silver medal for India in the Youth World Championships in Mexico.
- ★ Akanksha won the medal in the Women's 40 kg category.
- ★ She finished first in the Snatch portion of the event, lifting 59 kg and third in the Clean and Jerk section, lifting 68 kg earning her the silver medal with a total of 127 kg.

- ★ Indian weightlifter Saanapathi Gurunaidu won gold medal in men's 55-kilogram event at the IWF Youth World Championships.
- ★ He lifted 104 kilogram in Snatch winning Silver while 126 kilogram lifting in Clean and Jerk to finish on the top to grab the gold medal.

ICC Players of the Month of May

- ★ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Sri Lanka's batting star Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation Tuba Hassan have been voted the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2022.
- ★ Mathews becomes the first Sri Lanka player to be named the ICC Player of the Month.
- ★ Tuba is the first female player from Pakistan to win in the award.

Joe Root completes 10,191 runs

- ★ England batter Joe Root completed 10191 Test cricket runs and succeeded former India batter Sunil Gavaskar's record of 10122 runs.
- ★ He achieved this on day 4 of the second Test against New Zealand in June 2022, where he got a total of 176 runs.
- ★ He jumped to the 12th spot of the most runs in Test cricket tally.
- ★ The tally is led by Sachin Tendulkar with a massive total of 15921 runs.

Khelo India Youth Games 2021

- ★ The Khelo India Youth Games 2021 concluded on 13 June 2022 at Panchkula in Haryana.
- ★ The closing ceremony was organised at Indradanush Auditorium in Panchkula.
- ★ Haryana emerged in the top position in the medal tally by winning 137 medals with 52 gold, 39 silver and 46 bronze medals.
- ★ Maharashtra got second position by winning 125 medals including 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze medals.
- ★ Karnataka remained at third place with 22 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze medals.
- ★ The fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games saw athletes from over 36 states and Union Territories compete in 25 different sports.

New Javelin Record by Neeraj Chopra

- ★ Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra set a new national record of 89.30 metres at Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland.
- ★ Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal with his throw at the event.
- ★ Finland's Oliver Helander won the gold medal at the event with a throw of 89.83 metres.
- ★ Neeraj Chopra is India's first-ever Olympic gold medallist in athletics and only the second individual gold medallist at Olympics.

Praveen Chitravel Sets New RecordF Pic

- ★ In Athletics, Tamil Nadu triple jumper Praveen Chitravel set a new meet record of 17.18m at the National Inter-State Championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
- ★ The previous inter-state meet record was held by Punjab's Arpinder Singh - 17.17m in Lucknow in 2014.
- ★ Chitravel has qualified for the upcoming World Championships in Oregon.
- ★ The entry standard for worlds is 17.14m. Chitravel's jump of 17.18m is third on the all-time India list.

Asia Oceania Open Championships

- ★ Indian para-powerlifters Manpreet Kaur and Parmjeet Kumar have won bronze medals on the World Para-powerlifting 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships at Pyeongtaek in South Korea.
- ★ Manpreet Kaur won the bronze medal in the 41 kg category.
- ★ She had the best lift of 88 kg and the total lift of 173 kg.
- ★ In the men's category, Parmjeet Kumar also won the bronze medal in the 49 kg category.
- ★ He lifted 160 and 163 kilograms in two rounds.

2026 FIFA World Cup

- ★ A total of 16 cities across the US, Canada and Mexico will host the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- ★ It will be the first-ever tournament to include 48 teams instead of the current capacity of 32.
- ★ The US will host 60 of the 80 matches that will be played during the FIFA World Cup, while Canada and Mexico will host 10 matches each.
- ★ All knockout fixtures will be played at different venues across the US.

New Policy for Transgender Athletes

- ★ World swimming's governing body has adopted new rules for transgender athletes, only permitting swimmers who transitioned before age 12 to compete in women's events.
- ★ FINA, World swimming's governing body members voted 71.5% in favor of the new "gender inclusion policy".
- ★ It will apply to all its events from 20 June 2022.
- ★ It also created a working group to establish an "open" category for transgender athletes in some events as part of its new policy.

F1 Canadian Grand Prix

- ★ Red bull racer, Max Verstappen from Netherlands won Formula One Canadian Grand Prix at Canada.
- ★ This is his first Canadian victory in his career, his 6th in 2022 and the 26th of his career.

- ★ Ferrari driver, Carlos Sainz from Spain secured second place and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton from United Kingdom secured third place.

Rumeli Dhar Retires from All Forms of International Cricket

- ★ The right-handed batter and medium pacer Rumeli Dhar, the Indian allrounder has announced retirement from international cricket at the age of 38.
- ★ Dhar played her last international match in the tri-nation women's T20I series between India, Australia and England, at Brabourne in 2018.
- ★ She featured in 18 T20Is, 78 ODIs and 4 Tests for India.
- ★ She made her International Debut in 2003 against England playing an ODI in Lincoln.
- ★ She scored 1328 runs and picked 84 wickets in 100 matches.

Ranji Trophy Title

- ★ Under the leadership of Aditya Shrivastava, the Madhya Pradesh team defeated 41-time champions Mumbai by 6 wickets at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, to win their first-ever Ranji Trophy title.
- ★ Madhya Pradesh chased down 108 in the fourth innings for the fall of four wickets to lift the trophy.

Qosanov Memorial 2022 Athletics Meet

- ★ Indian women's discus thrower Navjeet Dhillon won the gold medal at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ★ Navjeet Dhillon, won the women's discus throw with a 56.24m effort.
- ★ Karina Vasilyeva (44.61m) from Kazakhstan and Yulianna Shchukina (40.48m) from Uzbekistan won the silver and bronze respectively.
- ★ Dhillon has also been named in India's Athletics squad for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

U23 Asian Wrestling Championships 2022

- ★ Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal in the 86kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ★ He defeated Maksat Satybaldy from Kazakhstan.
- ★ India won 25 medals in all in the U23 meet in the event, including 10 gold medals.

Eoin Morgan Announced Retirement

- ★ 2019 World Cup-winning captain of England Eoin Morgan announced his retirement from international cricket.
- ★ Morgan is England's all-time leading run-scorer in ODI and T20 cricket with 6,957 and 2,458 runs respectively.

- ★ He is the only man to lead the team to an ODI World Cup Success.
- ★ He steps down as England's leading run-scorer and most capped player in both white-ball formats.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Sitara-e-Pakistan Award

- ★ Former West Indian captain Darren Sammy received the Sitara-e-Pakistan award for his role in the revival of international cricket in Pakistan.
- ★ It is the third highest military award of Pakistan. It was established in 1957 after Pakistan became a Republic.
- ★ The former West Indian captain returned to Pakistan as part of the International Cricket Council (ICC) World XI and recognized the country for a three-match T20I series in an attempt to revive international cricket in Pakistan following the ICC's five-year ban imposed after a tragic attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009.
- ★ He was also awarded honorary Pakistani Citizenship by the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi for his part in helping bring International Cricket back to Pakistan.

Times Business Award 2022

- ★ Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand, Rashmi Sahoo has been awarded the Times Business Award 2022.
- ★ The award was given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY-TO-EAT brand.
- ★ Sahoo was given the award by renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood.
- ★ While working as director of Ruchi Foodline, she started and established Frozit – Odisha's first frozen food company.
- ★ She not only revolutionized the food processing segment in Odisha, but also changes lives of thousands of women by providing them employment opportunities.

Scripps National Spelling Bee 2022

- ★ Indian-American Harini Logan from San Antonio, Texas emerged as the winner of Scripps National Spelling Bee 2022.
- ★ Harini spelled 21 words correctly in that time period, beating Vikram who spelt 15 words in the same time period.
- ★ The winner of the National Spelling Bee 2022, Harini Logan has won more than USD 50,000 in cash and prizes.

UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards

- ★ Indian Railways have been awarded by the UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards (ISRA)

- ★ It was awarded in the category of “Best use of Zero-Carbon Technology” for feeding Solar Energy directly to 25 KV AC Traction System.
- ★ Indian Railways is observing World Environment Day on 5th June, 2022 in an appropriate and befitting manner keeping in line with the theme of this year’s World Environment Day.
- ★ For environment protection, Railways have been continuously taking major initiatives that have positive impact on the environment by way of reducing pollution/GHG emissions, promoting resources and energy efficiency and contributing to sustainability.

Golden Conch Award at MIFF 2022

- ★ The Dutch documentary film “Turn Your Body to the Sun” that tells the incredible story of a Soviet Prisoner of War, has won the Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film at MIFF 2022.
- ★ The top award of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films was presented by the Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the ceremony held at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai.
- ★ The Award carries a Golden Conch, a Certificate and cash prize of ₹1 million (₹10 lakhs).
- ★ In the Short Fiction category, Malayalam film ‘Saakshatkaaram’ shares the Silver Conch award with Gudmund Helmsal’s ‘Brother Troll’ a film from Faroe Islands of Denmark.
- ★ ‘Prince in a Pastry Shop’ directed by Polish filmmaker Katarzyna Agopsowicz, won the Silver Conch for Best Animation Film in International Competition category.

Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development

- ★ The 2nd edition of Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning, DSDP was organised in New Delhi.
- ★ The top 30 districts were awarded for their innovative best practices in skill development in the region.
- ★ Rajkot in Gujarat, Cachar in Assam and Satara in Maharashtra ranked top three among all participating districts.
- ★ The award was provided by Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship - Shri.Dharmendra Pradhan.

D.Litt by HSNC University

- ★ Tata Group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata has been conferred honorary D.Litt. award by HSNC University of Maharashtra.
- ★ He has been conferred with this award as a mark of appreciation towards his unparalleled contribution for the society.
- ★ The Governor of Maharashtra and the Chancellor of the university Bhagat Singh Koshiyari given the award to Tata at a special convocation ceremony of the university.
- ★ The university believes that Ratan Tata reflects the philosophy of development, education and upliftment of all which also resonates with the vision of HSNC University, Mumbai.

First Type Certificate Award

- ★ On 14 June 2022, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia awarded the first Type Certificate under Drone Rules to IoTech World Aviation Private Limited in New Delhi.
- ★ This company is one of India's leading manufacturers of Kisan drones.
- ★ It received the Type Certificate in 34 days after submission of its online application.
- ★ India has set a target to become a drone hub by 2030.
- ★ The Drone Certification Scheme will create an eco-system for manufacturing of world class drones in India.

Mrs India World 2022-2023

- ★ Mrs. India World 2022-2023 was held on 15 June 2022 in Mumbai.
- ★ Mrs. Sargam Koushal was crowned the winner and will represent India at Mrs. World 2022.
- ★ She was followed by Mrs. Juhi Vyas as first runner and Mrs. Chahat Dalal secured third position.

Best Regional Airport in India & South Asia

- ★ The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru has bagged the best regional airport in India and South Asia title in the 2022 skytrax World Airport awards.
- ★ The award is based on the feedback from the customers in a survey conducted globally.
- ★ The survey evaluates the customer experience from check-in to arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, immigration and arrangements in the departure's gates.
- ★ The Bengaluru airport had won the Best Airport and Aviation Innovation Award at Wings India Awards 2022.

Prime Minister's Awards

- ★ The Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion of Yoga has been announced for the year 2021.
- ★ Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, The Divine Life Society from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for the award.
- ★ Ayush Ministry announced that the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate and cash award of 25 lakh rupees.
- ★ The award was announced by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the second International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh in 2016.

National MSME Award 2022

- ★ The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Government of Odisha has been awarded the first prize in the category National MSME Award 2022.

- ★ It has been awarded in the category of States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the Promotion and Development of MSME Sector'.
- ★ The state has won the award for various developmental initiatives taken up for the development of MSMEs.
- ★ Bihar and Haryana have secured second and third positions respectively.
- ★ The Government of India instituted the National MSME Award 2022 comprising of 44 categories including Manufacturing Entrepreneurship (12 awards), Service Entrepreneurship (09 awards), Special Category Enterprises (14 awards) and the institutional support to MSMEs (09 Awards).

Golden Achievement Award by ITF

- ★ The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.
- ★ India's Vijay Amritraj has been emerged as the winner and named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award.
- ★ The award is given to a person who has made important contributions internationally to tennis in the fields of administration, promotion or education and has devoted long and outstanding service to the sport.
- ★ The award was presented at a special celebration hosted in Amritraj's honour in London.

Miss India Worldwide 2022

- ★ Khushi Patel, a biomedical scholar from the United Kingdom, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant exterior of India.
- ★ Vaidehi Dongre from the US was declared the first runner up.
- ★ Roshani Razack from Guyana was declared Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022.
- ★ The highest 12 contestants on the pageant have been the winners of varied different contests globally.
- ★ The pageant was held after 3 years.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

‘Loktantra ke Swar’ & ‘The Republican Ethic’

- ★ Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Shri Anurag Thakur released a book ‘Loktantra ke Swar’ and ‘The Republican Ethic’
- ★ The book describes selected speeches of the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
- ★ This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

- ★ This book captures the President's thoughts on varied topics such as public service, ethics, education, aspirations of our youth, and contemporary global issues.

A New Book by R.N. Bhaskar

- ★ Renowned author R N Bhaskar authored a book titled 'Gautam Adani: The man who changed India'.
- ★ It is the biography of Gautam Adani, Adani Group Chairman and founder.
- ★ It was announced by Penguin Random House.
- ★ Bhaskar is also the author of 'Game India: Seven strategies that could steer India to Wealth' in 2019.

A New Book by Sonu Phogat

- ★ 'On the eighth International Yoga Day, Haryana Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar published the book 'Ashtang Yoga' authored by Sonu Phogat.
- ★ Every person, according to Manohar Lal Khattar, should have a resolution for yoga and must identify with that resolution.
- ★ The Yog to Sehyog Mantra will illuminate a fresh path into the future.
- ★ It is a source of pleasure that the yoga book was published on the International Yoga Day, recognizing the efforts of author Dr. Sonu Phogat.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Successfully Test Fires IRBM Agni-IV

- ★ India successfully tests fired Agni-4 intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- ★ It can hit a target at more than 4,000 kms and cover many cities of China.
- ★ It is also capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
- ★ Agni-IV is the fourth in the Agni series of missiles developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ★ It is a two stage Surface to Surface missile with range of around 3500-4000 kilometers. It can carry a 1,000 kg payload.
- ★ The test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Geological Map of The Moon

- ★ China has released the World's 'most detailed to date' new comprehensive geologic map of the moon.

- ★ The new map of Scale 1:2,50,000 was published by Science Bulletin.
- ★ The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures, providing abundant information about the geology of the Moon and its evolution.
- ★ it is expected to contribute greatly to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the Moon.
- ★ The “high-resolution topographic map” is based on data collected by Chang’e.
- ★ Chang’e is the Chinese lunar exploration project, attributed to collecting data based on various research.
- ★ The Institute of Geochemistry under the Chinese Academy of Sciences led the project of mapping the Moon.

IN-SPACE

- ★ PM inaugurated IN - SPACE = Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center in Bopal, Ahmedabad.
- ★ The centre will act as regulator and facilitator of space activities in India.

South Korea Launches First Satellite

- ★ South Korea conducted its first successful satellite launch using a domestically developed rocket named Nuri-Korea Satellite Launch Vehicle (KSLV).
- ★ It was launched from Naro Space Centre at a launch site in Goheung, South Korea.
- ★ The launch made South Korea the world’s 10th nation to place a satellite into space with its own technology.
- ★ Nuri is a 3-stage rocket developed to put a 1.5-ton satellite into the low orbit of 600-800 kilometers above the Earth.
- ★ During the launch it carried a 1.3 -ton dummy satellite into space.

India's Communication satellite GSAT-24

- ★ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched communication satellite GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana.
- ★ GSAT-24, built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was launched by French company Arianespace. GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs.
- ★ It was the first demand driven communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms.
- ★ NSIL, a Government of India company under the Department of Space, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

China to Launch Remote Sensing Satellite

- ★ On 23 June 2022, China successfully launched three new remote sensing satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province Thursday.
- ★ The satellites were launched as the second batch of the Yaogan-35 family by a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully.
- ★ The satellites will be mainly used to conduct science experiments, land resource surveys, yield estimation of agricultural products and disaster prevention and reduction.
- ★ This launch marked the 424th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

NASA Launches First Rocket from Australia

- ★ NASA has successfully launched a rocket from the Australian soil for the first time in 27 years.
- ★ The suborbital sounding rocket successfully took off from the Arnhem Space Center in the Northern Territory (NT).
- ★ The Arnhem Space Center is owned and operated by Equatorial Launch Australia (ELA), which is aiming to host 50 launches a year by 2024.
- ★ It marks the first time since 1995 that the US space agency has launched a rocket from Australia and its first-ever launch from a commercial launchpad on foreign soil.
- ★ It will travel more than 300 km into space on its mission to observe the Alpha Centauri 'A' and 'B' constellations, the nearest star systems to the Earth.

Iran Launches a Solid-Fueled Rocket into Space

- ★ Iran has launched a solid-fueled rocket into space named Zuljanah.
- ★ Zuljanah, a 25.5-meter-long rocket, is capable of carrying a satellite of 220 kilograms that will ultimately gather data in low-earth orbit and promote Iran's space industry.
- ★ Zuljanah is named for the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Day of Parents

- ★ Global Day of Parents is celebrated every year on 01 June.
- ★ The day is celebrated in honour of the role of parents in a life of a child.
- ★ The theme for this year Global Day of Parents is 'Appreciate All Parents Throughout the World'.
- ★ On September 17, 2012, UN General Assembly passed the resolution 66/292 to observe June 1 as the Global Parents Day.

World Milk Day

- ★ World Milk Day is celebrated every year on 01 June.

- ★ World Milk Day is an international day established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food since 2001.
- ★ The day will highlight the work done to accelerate climate action and help reduce the dairy sector's impact on the planet.
- ★ This day is marked to celebrate the dairy industry.

Telangana Formation Day

- ★ Telangana Day commonly known as Telangana Formation Day is observed annually on 02 June since 2014.
- ★ It is India's 28th state and was separated out of Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ The Ministry of Culture is set to organise Telangana Formation Day celebrations in Delhi
- ★ This programme aims to highlight the roots of the land of culture, heritage, architectural magnificence which is celebrating its eighth anniversary this year.

World Bicycle Day 2022

- ★ World Bicycle Day is observed every year on 03 June.
- ★ The main objective of the day is to recognise bicycling as a way to get a sustainable form of travelling that also ensures one's physical well-being.
- ★ The day celebrates the tradition of cycling and its significant role in keeping our health fit.
- ★ Cycling is a multidimensional exercise with numerous health benefits.
- ★ It was first celebrated in the year 2018.

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World Environment Day

- ★ World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 05 June.
- ★ The day is celebrated for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
- ★ The day was established in 1972 by the UN General Assembly at the time of Stockholm Conference.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Only One Earth'.

UN Russian Language Day

- ★ UN Russian Language Day is celebrated every year on 06 June.
- ★ It is to create awareness about the history, culture and development of the Russian language.
- ★ It also aims to celebrate cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ★ The event was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) in 2010.

World Food Safety Day

- ★ World Food Safety Day is celebrated every year on 07 June.
- ★ The day is marked to raise awareness of the health hazards associated with unsafe food, and to highlight the significance of hygiene in daily life.
- ★ The theme for World Food Safety Day 2022 is 'Safer food, better health'.
- ★ The theme was announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) and underlines the fact that safer food is the key to better human health.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly established World Food Safety Day in 2018.

World Oceans Day

- ★ World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 08 June.
- ★ It is to raise awareness regarding the imperative role that oceans play in sustaining our ecosystems.
- ★ The day aims upon the world's attention to need to protect oceans from dying an unnatural death due to reckless human activities.
- ★ The day is also observed to make raise public awareness of the ocean and its resources in order to promote global ocean and resource sustainability.
- ★ The day is commemorated worldwide since 2008, when the United Nations (UN) declared World Oceans Day.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is "Revitalization: Collective action for the ocean".

World Brain Tumour Day

- ★ World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year on 08 June.
- ★ It is observed to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours.
- ★ The German Brain Tumor Association started this international commemoration day in the year 2000 as a tribute to all brain tumour patients and their families.

World Accreditation Day

- ★ World Accreditation Day is celebrated on 09 June.
- ★ The day was celebrated to create awareness about accreditation activities.

- ★ Theme of this year is Accreditation - Sustainability in Economic growth and Environment.

International Albinism Awareness Day

- ★ International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 13 June.
- ★ It is organized by the United Nations to battle the discrimination against those diagnosed with albinism.
- ★ The day is celebrated to highlight the achievements of people with albinism around the world.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'United in making our voice heard'.
- ★ Albinism is a non-contagious, genetically inherited ailment that results in the lack of melanin in the skin, eyes and hair.

World Day Against Child Labour

- ★ World Day Against Child Labour is observed every year on 12 June
- ★ It is celebrated as an awareness event to protect children against labor.
- ★ Around 100 countries throughout the world commemorate World Day Against Child Labour.
- ★ The International Labour Organization established the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002.
- ★ Theme for the year 2022 is "Children Shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams".
- ★ World Day Against Child Labor will concentrate on the effect of emergencies on child work.

World Blood Donor Day

- ★ World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on 14 June.
- ★ It to create an awareness event to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- ★ The day is observed to promote blood donation and to encourage people to donate blood to save lives.
- ★ The theme for this year 2022 is "Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives".
- ★ World Blood Donor Day was established in 2004 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ★ June 14 also marks the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1930 for his work in classifying blood types.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- ★ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 15 June.
- ★ The primary goal of this day is to provide communities all around the world a chance to develop a better understanding of elder abuse and neglect by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic factors that influence senior abuse and neglect.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is "Digital Equity for All Ages".

- ★ The day was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.

Global Wind Day

- ★ Global Wind Day is observed every year on 15 June.
- ★ The day is celebrated all over the world annually and it is marked as a day of discovering the possibilities of wind power.
- ★ The purpose of the day is to increase public knowledge of wind energy and its uses.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is celebrate to enjoy the benefits of wind energy and providing education to the individual about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.
- ★ In 2007, The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) organized the first Wind Day.

International Day of Family Remittances

- ★ International Day of Family Remittances is celebrated every year on 16 June.
- ★ This day highlights the great resilience of migrant workers during economic insecurities, natural and climate-related disasters and a global pandemic.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion.'
- ★ The day observes the efforts of the migrant workers who help to improve the living standards of their families back at home.
- ★ The day was first observed in 2015.

World Sea Turtle Day

- ★ World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated every year on 16 June.
- ★ It is observed to highlight the need to save this aquatic species from extinction.
- ★ Sea turtles in India are protected by the wild life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ★ Plastic is one of the major threats to the survival of sea turtles.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- ★ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17 June.
- ★ The main aim of this day is to find out achievable solutions for combating desertification and need to restore the degraded land which in turn will help bring economic resilience, raise income and ensure food security.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Rising up from drought together.'
- ★ Established in 1994, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was declared by the United Nations General Assembly.

Autistic Pride Day 2022

- ★ Autistic Pride Day is celebrated every year on 18 June.

- ★ It is observed to raise awareness that autism is a condition, not a disease.
- ★ The day is celebrated annually and “Autistic pride” stands for pride in autism, about shifting views of autism from “disease” to “difference”.
- ★ It observes the diversity various neurological types express.
- ★ Theme for the day is ‘Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World’.
- ★ The very first autistic pride day was observed in Brazil in 2005.

World Refugee Day

- ★ World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June.
- ★ World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe.
- ★ It was first held globally on June 20, 2001 to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is ‘Right to seek safety’.

World Music Day

- ★ World Music Day is observed every year on 21 June.
- ★ The special day highlights the value of music in people’s lives.
- ★ It aims to recognise and honour musicians and young artists for their contribution to the music industry.
- ★ The concept of World Music Day originated in France and is called 'Fête de la Musique' which means a music festival in the year 1982.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is ‘Music at Intersections’.

International Yoga Day

- ★ International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on 21 June.
- ★ The world will celebrate the 8th International Yoga Day in 2022.
- ★ It is celebrated to spread awareness about the invaluable benefits of Yoga.
- ★ This theme for the year 2022 is “Yoga for Humanity”.
- ★ This year the main event demonstration will be led by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, at Mysuru, Karnataka.

United Nations Public Service Day

- ★ United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated every year on 23 June.
- ★ It highlights the importance of public service in the development process and recognises the work of public servants.

- ★ On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 57/277 to designate June 23 as Public Service Day.
- ★ The theme of this year's United Nations Public Service Day is "Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the SDGs."

International Widows Day

- ★ International Widows Day is observed every year on 23 June.
- ★ In the year 2010, the United Nations acknowledged 23 June as International Widows' Day. The global body mainly focused on highlighting the experiences of widows and the assistance they require.
- ★ The day was first observed by the Loomba Foundation in 2005.
- ★ On this day in 1954, founder Rajinder Paul Loomba's mother Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba became a widow.

International Olympic Day

- ★ International Olympic Day is celebrated every year on 23 June.
- ★ The day marks the founding of the International Olympic Committee in 1894 and aims to promote the idea of the Olympics and sports.
- ★ The International Olympic Committee was formed on June 23, 1894 in Sorbonne, Paris by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- ★ The first International Olympic Day was celebrated on June 23, 1948.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Together, For a Peaceful World'.

International Day of the Seafarer

- ★ International Day of the Seafarer is celebrated every year on 25 June.
- ★ It is observed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- ★ It is celebrated to pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
- ★ The theme of this year is 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future.'
- ★ The day was proposed by International Maritime Organization in 2010 to celebrate the contribution of the seafarer to the world economy and civil society.
- ★ Day of the Seafarer recognizes the invaluable contribution of seafarers to the worldwide commerce and economic system.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking

- ★ International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is celebrated every year on 26 June.
- ★ It is observed to raise awareness about the impact and negative consequences that drugs have on society.

- ★ It has been observed annually since 1989.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is 'Share Drug Facts, Save Lives'.
- ★ According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is to counteract misconceptions about drugs by disseminating facts about them, ranging from health dangers and remedies to evidence-based prevention, treatment and care.

World MSME Day

- ★ World MSME Day is observed every year on 27 June.
- ★ The day is celebrated to highlight the significance of MSMEs and how they play a crucial role in being the backbone of the country's economy.
- ★ World MSME Day 2022 also aims to raise public awareness regarding the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is announced by the United Nations is 'Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for Sustainable Development'.
- ★ The day was first marked by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in its 74th Plenary on 06 April 2017.

National Statistics Day

- ★ National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on 29 June.
- ★ The Government of India decided to celebrate the 29th of June every year as the National Statistics Day as recognition to Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis for his contribution in the fields of economic planning and statistical development.
- ★ For his contributions, Mahalanobis has been considered as the Father of Modern Statistics in India.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Data for Sustainable Development'.

OBITUARY NEWS

Former Albania President Bujar Nishani

- ★ Former President of Albania Bujar Nishani has died due to serious health problem. He was at the age of 55.
- ★ He served as President from 24 July 2012 to 24 July 2017.
- ★ Nishani was the youngest person to have been chosen as president of Albania.
- ★ Before his election as President, Nishani held a number of governmental and diplomatic positions.

Playback Singer Krishnakumar Kunnath

- ★ Popular playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, also known as KK passed away at the age of 53 in Kolkata.
- ★ KK was introduced by A. R. Rahman in a Tamil Film Kadhal Desam.
- ★ He got his Bollywood break "Tadap Tadap" from Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam.
- ★ The Delhi-born singer has recorded songs in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese and Gujarati languages.

Santoor Maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori

- ★ Santoor maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori passed away as he was suffering from colon cancer. He was at the age of 73.
- ★ Bhajan Sopori was born in 1948 in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- ★ He is an Indian instrumentalist. He is a player of the santoor, an ancient stringed musical instrument.
- ★ On the occasion of 67th Indian Republic Day 2016, Pandit Bhajan Sopori was accorded Jammu and Kashmir State lifetime achievement award.
- ★ He also ran a music academy called SaMaPa (Sopori Academy for Music and Performing Arts), which is actively involved in promoting Indian classical music.
- ★ Sopori was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992 and the Padma Shri Award in 2004.

Freedom Fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy

- ★ Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy, who fought for India's independence from colonial Britain died at the age of 102.
- ★ She was a trained soldier who fought under Indian nationalist 'Netaji' Subhas Chandra Bose, for Indian independence.
- ★ At the age of 21, Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment during the second world war and fought for India's freedom.

Distance Running Legend Hari Chand

- ★ India's distance-running legend Hari Chand passed away at the age of 69.
- ★ He was two-time Olympian (1976 and 1980) and winner of the 5000m and 10000m gold medals in the 1978 Asian Games as well as the 10000m gold in the 1975 Asian Athletics Championships.
- ★ Chand's national record time of 28:48.72 in 10,000m set in the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games stood for 32 years.
- ★ He was born in Ghorewaha village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district.

Renowned Critic and Linguist Professor

- ★ One of the most respected Urdu critics, theorists and linguists Professor Gopi Chand Narang has passed away. He was at the age of 91.

- ★ He was recipient of Padma Bhushan and Sahitya Akademi Awards.
- ★ Narang published more than 65 scholarly and critical books on language, literature, poetics and cultural studies in Urdu, Hindi and English.
- ★ He was born in Dukki, Pakistan.

Photojournalist R Raveendran

- ★ Veteran photojournalist R. Raveendran passed away at the age of 69.
- ★ He started his career as a teleprinter operator in AFP 1973.
- ★ Later, he became a photographer in 1984.
- ★ Presently, he was working with ANI as Photo Editor.
- ★ He was the recipient of numerous photography awards and is known for his iconic photo of Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal agitation in the Capital.

Former Chairman of BHEL

- ★ V Krishnamurthy, a former Chairman of steel PSU SAIL, BHEL and Maruti Udyog Ltd (now Maruti Suzuki) passed away at the age of 97 in Chennai.
- ★ V Krishnamurthy held many significant positions in his career and came to known as the 'Father of Public Sector Undertakings in India'.
- ★ He was also conferred with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by the Government of India.
- ★ He was also known as the 'turnaround man' and started his career as a technician on the airfields during World War II.
- ★ He did a diploma in electrical engineering and rose up through the ranks of the Madras Electricity Board.

Noted Lyricist, Author and Journalist Chowalloor Krishnankutty

- ★ Noted lyricist, author and journalist, Chowalloor Krishnankutty from Kerala passed away. He was at the age 86.
- ★ Krishnankutty penned over 3000 devotional songs and authored more than 200 books. He retired as an Assistant Editor with the Malayala Manorama daily.
- ★ He won several awards including the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award for satire, Poonthanam Jnanapana and Revathy Pattathanam Awards among others.
- ★ He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala Kalamandalam.

Business Tycoon Pallonji Mistry

- ★ Business tycoon Pallonji Mistry, who headed the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, passed away at the age of 93.
- ★ SP Group is the largest shareholder in the Tata Group with 18.37 percent holding in the \$100 billion conglomerate.

- ★ According to the latest Forbes Data, he had a net worth of over \$13 billion, ranking at 143 worldwide.
- ★ Pallonji Mistry had been felicitated with the Padma Bhushan, one of India's top civilian awards in 2016.

Malayalam Actor Ambika Rao

- ★ Malayalam actor and assistant director Ambika Rao, who is best known for her performance in 'Kumbalangi Nights' passed away. She was at the age of 58.
- ★ She has been working in the entertainment industry for nearly two decades.
- ★ Ambika Rao entered the movie industry as an assistant director.

Hockey Player Varinder Singh

- ★ Former Indian hockey player and one of the best right-half Indian players in the 1970s, Varinder Singh passed away.
- ★ 75-year-old Singh, who was a member of the 1972 Munich Olympics bronze medal winning Indian hockey team, was born on 16 May, 1947 in the village Dhannowali near Jalandhar in Punjab.
- ★ He was also part of the 1973 World Cup silver winning Indian Hockey team and the 1975 World Cup winning Indian hockey team.
- ★ In 2007, he was conferred with the Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.