



September 2022 - Week 2

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Minister for Road, Transport, & Highways (MoRT&H) **Nitin Gadkari** has unveiled India's **first** prototype of drone transportation of human organs to facilitate quick organ transplants in hospitals. This is an initiative by Chennai-based **MGM Healthcare**. These 'human organ transporting drones' will be able to cover a distance of a maximum of **20 kilometres**.
2. I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map) has launched a new initiative called "**Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)**". The initiative has been launched by Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.
 - The WEST programme will cater to women with a STEM background and empower them to contribute to the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem.
 - I-STEM will provide a separate platform to scientifically inclined women researchers, scientists, and technologists for pursuing research in basic or applied sciences in frontier areas of science and engineering.

- The Skill Development programme will provide training for women with Science & Technology (S&T) backgrounds to brush up on their abilities.
3. In addition, a digital consortium **“Connect Quickly”** for an online discussion and immediate support has also been established through the I-STEM WhatsApp and Telegram platforms.

I-STEM:

It is a national web portal for sharing research equipment/facilities and for promoting collaborations in R&D and technological innovation among and between academia and industry, especially startups. It is an initiative of PSA under Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.

4. The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** (MoPR), Government of India and the **Institute of Rural Management Anand** (IRMA), Gujarat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in Gram Panchayat Development Planning for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (**LSDGs**) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). This MoU has been signed at the IRMA Campus in Anand, Gujarat.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first of its kind two-day **‘Centre-State Science Conclave’** at Science City in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat. He has addressed the event via video conferencing, and highlighted the importance of ‘Sabka Prayas’ in the ‘Centre-State Science Conclave’.
- The conclave aimed to build robust science, technology, and innovation ecosystems. It has been organized to strengthen the coordination between Centre and state governments and collaboration mechanisms in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - **Note:** India ranked 46th on the Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2021. In 2015, India ranked 81 in GI.
6. Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has constituted a **47-member** National-level committee for drafting a new **National Cooperation Policy Document**. The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of former Union cabinet minister **Suresh Prabhu**.
- The new National Cooperative Policy will realise the vision of **‘Sahakar Se Samridhi’**, and will have a holistic approach from PACS upwards.
 - The committee comprises experts from cooperative sector, representatives of national/state/district & primary cooperative societies, secretaries (Cooperation) & Registrars of Cooperative Societies of States / UTs, and officers from central ministries and departments.

- The new policy document is being formulated to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach, promote cooperative-based economic development model, create an appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework to help cooperatives realise their potential.

The existing National Policy on Cooperatives, was formulated in 2002 with the objectives of facilitating all round development of cooperatives and providing necessary support, encouragement and assistance to them.

7. The **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**, India and the **United Kingdom (UK)** Government, in collaboration with **BAE Systems**, have successfully designed and conducted a Cyber Security Exercise, a virtual ransomware drill for 26 countries. The aim is to simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country.
- The exercise is being conducted as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative (**CRI**) - Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of NCSC.
 - The exercise has been facilitated by BAE Systems via the Immersive Labs platform.
 - The theme of the exercise is based on **Energy Sector** in which the respective National Cyber Crisis Management Teams of the CRI Partner Nations will have to deal with a ransomware attack on multiple electricity distribution companies.
8. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** have recently unveiled Unit-1 of the **Maitree Super Thermal Power Project**. It is located at Rampal in Bagerhat district of Khulna division of Bangladesh.
- The **1320 MW** coal-fired power plant is being set up at a cost of approximately \$2 billion.
 - It is being built by **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** for Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Private Limited (BIFPCL).
 - It is being set-up as Indian Development Assistance under Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS).
 - Unit-II of the power plant, also known as the Rampal coal-fired power project, is expected to be commissioned early next year.

Other key inaugurations/announcements:

- Both nations have inaugurated the 5.13 kilometre long **Rupsha rail bridge** built under the concession Line of Credit (LOC) provided by India. The bridge is a key part of the 64.7 kilometre long Khulna-Mongla port single track broad gauge rail project.
- The **Khulna Darshana railway line link project** which involves upgradation of the existing infrastructure linking the current cross border rail link at Gede-Darshana to Khulna has also been announced. The project cost is estimated at USD 312.48 million.

- Another railway project estimated to cost USD 120.41 million for the conversion of the existing Metre Gauge line to Dual Gauge line between **Parbatipur and Kaunia** has also been announced. The project will connect to the existing cross border rail at Birol (Bangladesh)-Radhikapur (West Bengal) and will enhance bilateral rail connectivity.

Key agreements signed between the two countries:

Seven agreements related to water resources, railways, science and technology and space technology etc. have been signed during India-Bangladesh bilateral talks.

- An agreement has been signed between **Prasar Bharati** and Bangladesh Television to enhance cooperation in the broadcasting sector.
- An agreement has also been signed on the sharing of the waters of the **Kushiyara River** to benefit the Sylhet region of Bangladesh and the southern Assam region of India.
- Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed to deepen the inter-governmental railway cooperation between the two countries. This include "Training of Bangladesh Railway Employees in the Training Institute of Indian Railways" and "Collaboration in IT Systems such as FOIS and other IT applications for Bangladesh Railway".
- MoU on scientific cooperation between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Bangladesh Council of Scientific Industrial Research (BCSIR).
- MoU to promote capacity building between the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and the Bangladesh Supreme Court.
- MoU to promote cooperation in space technology and scientific and research collaboration.

The PM Sheikh Hasina has also presented the book containing translation of the historic '**7th March Speech**' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 23 Indian and 5 languages of other South Asian countries to PM Narendra Modi.

9. The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has launched the US Startup **SETU - Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling** programme in the Bay Area of **San Francisco**, USA.
- The initiative will connect start-ups in India to US-based investors and start-up ecosystem leaders with mentorship and assistance in various areas including funding, market access and commercialization.
 - The initiative will be supported through the mentorship portal under the Startup India initiative **MAARG** (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) program, which is a single-stop solution finder for startups in India.

- The MAARG portal has been developed with the idea to be accessible from every corner of the country to connect with a mentor. A mentor will offer human intelligence in guiding the startups.
10. The Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test fired an enhanced Range **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** at Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Pinaka Rockets:

- It is a multi-barrel rocket launcher produced in India for the Indian Army, and comprises a free-flight artillery rocket.
- It is designed by the Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (**ARDE**).
- Munitions India Limited and Economic Explosives Limited manufactured the system.
- Pinaka Mark-I has a maximum range of **40 km** while the Pinka Mark-I enhanced version has a maximum range of **60 km**.

Recently, DRDO and the Indian Army have successfully completed 6 flight tests of the **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)** system from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, and is now ready for induction into the Army.

11. **AgriBazaar**, a private electronic Agri mandi, has introduced the '**Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card**' to help farmers meet their pre and post-harvest farm requirements and allied expenses.
- In Phase-I, the card will be available to farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Delhi National Capital Region (NCR).
 - The card has a **12-month** repayment period, and the repayment can also be rescheduled.
 - The card amount is adjustable for marginal farmers, ranging from **Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000**.
 - The maximum limit of the card can be increased annually following an annual review based on the recent crop yield and farmer repayment history.
12. The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a committee to **review the pricing formula for locally produced gas** to ensure "*fair price to the end consumer*". The committee, headed by Energy Expert **Dr Kirit Parikh**, will include members from the fertiliser ministry, gas producers and buyers. The committee aims to lower inflation and promote the use of cleaner fuel.
- The committee will also recommend a market-oriented, transparent, and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy.
 - The committee will submit its report to the government by the end of September 2022.

13. The Union Cabinet has recently approved a policy on the long-term leasing of **Railway Land** for implementing the **PM Gati Shakti framework**. As per the new policy, the land can now be leased for a longer period of up to **35 years** (earlier 5 years) at **1.5%** of market value of land per annum, down from 6% earlier. Additionally, 300 cargo terminals will be developed in five years and will generate 1.25 lakh jobs.

Other Cabinet approvals (September 2022):

- The Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Phase-II of **Kochi Metro Rail project** from Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium to Infopark through Kakkanad. Over 11 Kilometer long metro route will have 11 stations and the project cost will be over Rs.1957 crore.
- The Cabinet has approved the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of Prime Minister Schools for Rising India, (**PM-SHRI Schools**). The scheme will be implemented with a total project cost of **Rs.27,360 crore** for five years (2022-23 to 2026-27), of which the central share will be **Rs 18,128 crore**.
- Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between **India and Maldives** in the field of disaster management.
- Cabinet has approved an MoU signed between Ministries of Education in **India and UAE** on cooperation in the field of education. It will be valid for 5 years.
- Cabinet has approved an MoU between **India, the UK and Northern Ireland** on mutual recognition of academic qualifications to promote academic collaboration and student mobility. Professional degrees like Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Para-Medical Education, Pharmacy, Law, and Architecture are **out** of the purview of this MoU.

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14. NITI Aayog, in partnership with World Resources Institute (**WRI**), India, has launched India's first national electric freight platform, **e-FAST India** (*Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India*) to enable road based electric freight transition.

- The platform is supported by the World Economic Forum (**WEF**), **CALSTART** and Rocky Mountain Institute (**RMI**) India to bring different stakeholders together, from across the freight ecosystem.
- The platform also aims to raise awareness on freight electrification bolstered by on-ground demonstration pilots and evidence-based research.

During the event, NITI Aayog and RMI India & WRI have released a report ***titled 'Transforming Trucking in India: Pathways to Zero-Emission Truck Deployment'***. The report states that the number of trucks in India is expected to more than quadruple, from 4 million in 2022 to roughly 17 million trucks by 2050. India's trucking market is expected to grow over four times by 2050

*As per the report, transportation costs are a major driver (62%) of overall logistics costs in India, accounting for **14%** of India's GDP.*

Note: India is the 3rd largest truck market, after China and the USA.

- 15.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **'Kartavya Path'**, stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, in New Delhi. It will include the entire stretch and the area from the Netaji statue under the Grand Canopy to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The name symbolizes *'public ownership and empowerment'*.
- It should be noted that Kartavya Path is the first of the **Rs.13,450 crore** Central-Vista Projects to be completed.
 - **Note:** Rajpath was called Kingsway during British rule. It is a three-km stretch built as a ceremonial boulevard by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.
 - He has also unveiled the statue of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** under the canopy at India Gate that previously featured a bust of Britain's King George V, which was removed in 1968. The statue is also a part of the Central-Vista project.
 - It is a **28 feet** tall statue that is a little taller than a two-storey building.
 - It has been carved out of a monolithic block of granite weighing 280 tonnes.
 - The statue stands at the same place where a hologram statue of Netaji was unveiled earlier this year on Parakaram Diwas (23rd January) by the Prime Minister to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji.
- 16.** The Kharga Corps of the Indian Army and the Air Force has conducted a joint exercise **'Gagan strike'** in **Punjab**. The exercise has showcased precision firepower of the attack helicopters in coordination with ground forces' mechanised columns. The exercise has been held for 4 days. Lt Gen **Pratik Sharma**, General Officer Commanding, Khagra Corps spearheaded this exercise.
- Kharga Corps, also known as II Corps, is a corps of the Indian Army. It is based in Ambala. It is a part of Western Command. It was raised in 1971.
- 17.** An Empowered Committee chaired by Parameswaran Iyer, CEO of **NITI Aayog**, has approved **32 beneficiaries** under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for **Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing**.

- This is the first-ever disbursement under any PLI scheme, and 10 (5 global and 5 domestic companies) of the 32 beneficiaries have been approved for mobile manufacturing.
- Padget Electronics Private Limited in Noida, Uttar Pradesh is the first beneficiary approved by the Empowered Committee.

PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing:

It was approved on 1st April 2022 with a total outlay of Rs.38,645 crores. The objective is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to create domestic Champions in manufacturing. This scheme will provide eligible companies with an incentive of 4% to 6% on net incremental sale of manufactured goods.

18. The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, has virtually launched the '*Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan*' and the *Nikshay 2.0* portal to eliminate TB (Tuberculosis) by 2025.

'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan':

Under this campaign, any person, any representative or organization can adopt TB patients and the adopted patients will be taken care of. More than 66 percent TB patients currently undergoing treatment in the country have given their consent for adoption under this campaign.

Ni-kshay 2.0 Portal:

The portal provides a platform for **community support to TB patients**. Under this initiative, individuals, organisations, corporates, cooperative organisations, elected leaders and NGOs can provide support to persons suffering from TB by adopting them.

- The people and institutions who come forward to take care of the patients will be called "**Nikshay Mitras**".
- Around 13.5 lakh TB patients are registered in the NIKSHA portal, out of which 8.9 lakh active TB patients have given their consent for adoption.

19. '**Taragiri**', the **third stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy's **Project 17A**, has been launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (**MDL**) and is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house design organisation viz. **Bureau of Naval Design**.

- Taragiri is named after a hill range in Himalayas located at Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
- The vessel has an approximate launch weight of 3510 Tons.
- The 149.02 metre long & 17.8 metre wide ship, is propelled by a combined diesel or gas (CODOG) combination of two Gas Turbines and 02 Main Diesel Engines which are designed to achieve a speed of over 28 knots at a displacement of approx. 6670 Tons.

- It will have state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advanced action information system, an integrated platform management system, world-class modular living spaces, sophisticated power distribution system and a host of other advanced features.
- It will be fitted with supersonic surface-to-surface missile system.
- The keel of Taragiri was laid on the 10th September 2020 and the ship is expected to be delivered by August 2025.

Project 17A:

Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019 to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.

- A total of seven ships are being constructed, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai and three at Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The first stealth ship launched under Project 17A was the **Nilgiri**, which was launched in 2019.
- **Udaygiri**, the second ship, was launched in May 2022, and will likely be commissioned in 2024.

20. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (**CCRAS**) will offer research fellowship to young undergraduate (UG) students enrolled in recognized Ayurveda colleges across India under the **Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)**.
- The SPARK program will support the innovative ideas of young UG students and will promote evidence based scientific research in the field of Traditional Medicine. The selected fellows will be offered a financial support of Rs.50,000 under the fellowship.

21. **All India Institute of Ayurveda (Alla)**, under the Ministry of AYUSH, has launched the **Ayurveda Day 2022** programme. Alla has been chosen as the nodal agency for driving the Ministry's mandate for Ayurveda Day this year.

- The six-week programme will be held from 12th September to 23rd October 2022.
- The theme for the celebration is **"Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda"**.

22. The Ministry of AYUSH celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and this year it will be celebrated on **23 October**. This year the day will be observed in collaboration with all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India so that every person of the nation is made aware of traditional system of medicine.

23. The Ministry of Finance has constituted a **six-member expert committee** to suggest measures to boost Venture Capital and Private Equity (VC/PE) investments. The committee will be chaired by **M. Damodaran**, former Chairman of SEBI.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on February 1, had stated that the government was considering to form a committee that will encourage PE/VC investments and address the industry's concern.
- **Members of the committee:** G. Mahalingam, D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Ashish Verma, Poonam Gupta, and P.R. Acharya.
- The committee will also suggest measures to further accelerate investments into start-ups and sunrise sectors, and to suggest forward looking measures and future ready regulatory practices, in addition to studying and emulating global best practices.

24. The first inter-modal digital **TIR (International Road Transports)-based pilot transport** along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) corridor between **India and Iran** has been flagged off from Nhava Shewa (Jawaharlal Nehru Port), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The aim is to facilitate paperless cross-border transit under the customs guarantee of TIR systems.

TIR:

The TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers' or International Road Transports) system plays an important role in facilitating cross-border trade, and prevents delay in operations by minimizing transportation costs. This system provides many benefits by simplifying the movement of national and international transport, giving access to over 64 TIR operational countries.

25. The Technology Development Board (**TDB**), a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology (DST), has signed an agreement with M/s Ghaziabad Precision Products Private Limited, (**GPP**), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to support manufacturing of indigenous components critical to SU-30MK1 Aircraft & 1500 HP Battle Tank Engine.

- **Objective:** To set up a facility for the development and supply of critically machined accessory components of '**SUKHOI-30MKI**' to Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd (HAL) and valve train components of **1500 HP 12V**, 25 Litres capacity diesel engine of Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) being developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development establishment (CVRDE), Avadi an
- d regular Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) engine to BEML.
- TDB has approved assistance of **Rs.5.5 crores** out of Rs.14.2 crores of the total project cost.

Achievements under SRIJAN Portal:

The portal was launched by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) in **2020**. The portal provides information about **defence equipment and items** that can be taken up for indigenisation by private sector companies.

- The portal has received a total of **19, 509** defence products for indigenization that were previously imported.
- From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the import burden has decreased largely due to the government's measures, which have resulted in the reduction of the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources has reduced from 46% to **36%**.
- The value of production of public & private sector defence companies have increased from Rs. 79,071 crores to **Rs. 84,643 crores** in last two years i.e., 2019-20 and 2020-21.

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26. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF**), the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and The Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**) have jointly collaborated to launch the **"Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)"**.

- The programmes provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing the lives of local communities.
- The programme aims to study and work on the themes of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation through NGOs.
- The year 2022 marks the 7th operational phase of the programme.
- **Virudhunagar & Ramanathapuram** are selected as two districts representing the Indian coastal region in Tamil Nadu.

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP):

It was established in 1992, which is also the year of the Rio Earth Summit. It is implemented by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. It is specifically designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples. The programme funds grants up to a maximum of USD 50,000.

27. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has planned to build a **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at the site of the Indus Valley civilization in **Lothal**, Gujarat. This complex will showcase India's rich and diverse maritime heritage.

The foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

The project is planned to be completed in different phases.

- **Phase 1A:** A museum will be built with 5 galleries and a naval gallery on 35 acres of land at an investment of Rs.774.23 crore.
- **Phase 1B:** Remaining portions of the museum will be built, including galleries, light house, 5D dome theatre, Bagicha Complex and other infrastructure.

Total cost of the NMHC project including Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode is Rs.3,500 Crores. The commissioning of NMHC Phase 1A is targeted to be completed by March 2024.

Architecture firm Hafeez Contractor has been appointed as the principal management consultant of the project. The EPC contract for Construction, Testing and Commissioning of NMHC Phase 1A is awarded to Tata Projects.

Lothal:

Lothal is one of the southernmost cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization located in Gujarat. It was first excavated in 1957 by S R Rao.

The notable structures at Lothal include an artificial dockyard, warehouse, workshop for manufacturing of stone beads, evidence of shell working, rice husk, and a cemetery.

28. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has extended the deadlines for **Thermal Power Plants (TPPs)** to install pollution control technologies and comply with new emission norms.

- The deadline for the power plants within a 10-km radius of Delhi-NCR and cities with a population of more than 10 lakh has been extended from 31st December 2022 to **31st December 2024**.
- For the power plants in a 10-km radius of critically-polluted areas or non-attainment cities, the deadline has been pushed from 31st December 2023 to **31st December 2025**.
- For all other power plants across the country, the deadline has been pushed from 31st December 2024 to **31st December 2026**.

29. The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (**NIESBUD**) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (**IIE**), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), individually have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian School of Business (**ISB**), a top-ranked global business

school, to provide world class management education through entrepreneurial programmes targeted towards youth, job seekers and budding entrepreneurs.

30. The Ministry of Home Affairs has granted a one-year extension to the ceasefire agreement with **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki group**, a split-off faction of the Naga insurgency organization NSCN, with effect from 8th September 2022 to 7th September 2023.
31. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Family Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the **Project Management Unit (PMU)** on Public-Private Partnership (**PPP**) in **Agriculture** in New Delhi.
- The PMU is a joint initiative of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**).
 - **Objective:** To enhance the income of small farmers by creating additional value, from provisioning of quality inputs, technology extension to market linkages, and value addition.
 - This will accelerate large scale PPP projects in Agriculture by leveraging the private sector investments and bring convergence of Government schemes and subsidies.
32. The **Ministry of Coal** has aimed to enhance coal production to **1.23 billion tonnes** by **2024-25** to ensure the energy security of the country. In order to support the vision, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has adopted an integrated planning approach by strengthening evacuation infrastructure for one billion tonne production and seamless transportation of coal to the end users.
33. Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, during the fourth Governing Council Meeting of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has released a handbook on the subject **"Safety in Electrical Installations – A way forward to Safety by National Electrical Code of India"** and **Guide for Using National Building Code of India 2016**.

The handbook on Safety in Electrical Installations is jointly developed by BIS and International Cooper Association (ICA) India. This handbook will create awareness about Electrical Safety and provides technical guidance for wiring installations in buildings.

Three pamphlets for awareness of general public about their rights and duties while constructing their own home or buying one from a builder have also developed. These pamphlets have been published in both Hindi and English and are titles as:

- Guide for Homeowners – Series 1 Building Permit Process
- Guide for Homeowners – Series 2 Constructing your Independent House

- Guide for Homeowners – Series 3 Buying an Apartment from a Developer/Builder

STATES AFFAIRS

- 34.** The Government of Odisha has launched the '**Community Harnessing and Harvesting Rainwater Artificially from Terrace to Aquifer (CHHATA)**' scheme with an investment of Rs.270 crore to implement the Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System (RRHS) in order to improve the groundwater table.
- A target has been set to harvest **373.52 crore litres** of water in five years. The scheme will be implemented in 52 water-stressed blocks and 27 urban local bodies of the state, including five municipal corporations.
- 35.** The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma has launched an online portal of the "**Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA)**" in Shillong. The online portal will provide a digital platform to ensure the safety and security of the residents and act as a strong intelligence gathering system for authorities. It will also assist in the health care sector and critical areas.
- This web-based online portal is first being rolled out in seven localities of Shillong- Nongrim Hills, Lapanlang, Nongmynsong, Nongrah, Pohkseh, Riat Laban, and Wahdienglieng.
- 36.** **Sikkim** will host three **Ranji trophy** matches for the first time in December 2022. The state will welcome three northeast teams: **Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh**, at the Mining Cricket Ground near Rangpo. Along with Ranji Trophy matches, Sikkim will also play two Cooch Behar Trophy matches, and three Col CK Nayudu Trophy matches at Mining.
- 37.** The state government of **Rajasthan** has launched the '**Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme**' at the Ambedkar Bhawan in Jaipur, Rajasthan to provide **100 days** of employment in a year to families residing in urban areas.
- The state government has allocated Rs.800 crore for the scheme.
 - The scheme is open for people in the 18-60 age group.
 - Unskilled labour will be provided a wage Rs.259 per day, skilled workers will be given Rs.283 each day and mates will be given Rs.271 per day.
- 38.** The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a five-star rating to **Fatehgarh central jail**, Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh, for the quality of food it serves to inmates. A third-party audit, empanelled by the FSSAI, provided the five-star '**Eat Right Certificate**' to the jail.

39. The city of **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the firm **Pataa Navigations** to implement a fully digital addressing system. With this, Indore will become **India's First 'Smart City' with 'Smart Addresses'**.
- Pataa is working with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to develop a digital addressing system, and it also developed patented technology for smart city upgradation.
 - Under this MoU, **Patta app** can be used by government agencies and emergency services including police, fire department, and ambulance for providing services like E-KYC and geotagging.
 - The Pataa App is a free service and aims to help delivery providers find a specific geotagged location.
40. The fourth edition of **Cybercrime Investigation and Intelligence Summit 2022** has been organized by the **Madhya Pradesh Police** through the State Cyber Police and Parimal Labs from 12th September to 22nd September, in collaboration with Softclicks Foundation, Cleartel Technology, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The summit has been held in **Bhopal**, Madhya Pradesh.
 - Ten-day summit, of which a three-day offline summit has been hosted at RSVP Noronha Academy of Administration in Bhopal.
 - The objective of this summit is to improve the knowledge and abilities of police sub-inspectors and senior investigating officers in order to effectively prevent cybercrimes.
41. The **Kibithu** military camp in **Arunachal Pradesh** and the 22 km-long road stretch from Walong to Kibithu have been named in honour of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat, who was killed in a chopper crash in December 2021.
- The Kibithu military camp has been renamed as "**Gen. Bipin Rawat Military Garrison**" and the road has been renamed as "**Gen. Bipin Rawat Marg**".
 - **Note:** Kibithu is a small hamlet on the banks of the Lohit Valley in the eastern most part of India.
42. The Government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched a new scheme '**Mukhyamantri Govansh Mobile Chikitsa Yojana**' to provide mobile healthcare facilities for cattle. The scheme aims to deploy Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) in every district.
43. The first-ever **Naga Mircha (Naga King Chilli) Festival 2022** has been organised at Seiyhama Village under Kohima district of **Nagaland**. The festival has been sponsored by the Department of Horticulture.
- Naga Mircha was the first product to receive a GI tag from Nagaland in **2008**.

- **Other GI products from Nagaland:** Naga Tree Tomato, Chakhesang shawls, and Nagaland Sweet Cucumber.

Naga Mircha:

It is among the top five hottest chillies in the world based on Scoville Heat Units. It has a distinct flavour as well as aroma. It belongs to the kind Capsicum of the family Solanaceae. It is also called 'Raja Mircha', 'Bhoot Jolokia' or 'Ghost Pepper'.

Note: Scoville Heat Units is the measurement that is done to measure hotness of a pepper or a hot sauce.

44. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance scheme titled '**Pudhumai Penn**'. Under this scheme, girl students, who studied from Class V to Class XII in state government schools will be paid monthly assistance of **Rs.1,000** till they complete their graduation or diploma. The scheme aims to benefit 6 lakh girls every year and Rs 698 crore has been allocated in the budget for its implementation.

45. The Government of **Tamil Nadu** has issued a Government Order (GO) to establish the **17th Bird Sanctaury** at **Nanjarayan Tank** in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu. Around Rs.7.5 crore have been allocated for its development.

Nanjarayan Tank:

It is a protected birding hotspot in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu. It is spread over 125.86.5 hectares of land. It was built by King Nanjarayan as a source for irrigation. It is also known as Sarkar Periyapalayam Reservoir.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

46. Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has participated in the **G20 4th Education Working Group Meeting & Education Ministers' Meeting** in Bali, Indonesia. He has delivered the welcome address at the G20 Education Ministers' meeting under the theme "*Recovery, Re-imagine, and Rebuild Stronger*".

G20:

It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), founded in 1999, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Its members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

- **2022 G20 Presidency:** Indonesia
- **G20's current chairman:** Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia

47. India has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Madagascar** for the training of diplomats between India and Madagascar. The MoU has been signed between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) and the Foreign Affairs Minister of Madagascar. This MoU will encourage the exchange of information and content of training programmes for diplomats.

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service is the civil service training institute in New Delhi where Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers are trained.

48. The 6th edition of Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022 (**JIMEX 22**) has been held in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise has been hosted by Indian Navy.

JIMEX 2022:

- The Indian Navy is being represented by three indigenously designed and built warships; **INS Sahyadri**, a multi-purpose stealth frigate and Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes **INS Kadmatt** and **INS Kavaratti**.
- JIMEX 22 involves two Phases: Exercises at sea, and Harbour phase at Visakhapatnam.
- This edition marks the **10th anniversary** of JIMEX, which began in Japan in 2012.
- It also coincides with the **70th anniversary** of establishing of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- JIMEX 22 seeks to consolidate the high degree of interoperability that exists between maritime forces of the two countries, through complex exercises in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

49. United States (US) Air Force has successfully tested an unarmed **LGM-30G Minuteman III** Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) equipped with three test re-entry vehicles, armed with nuclear warheads from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA.

- The objective of the ICBM test launch program is to demonstrate the readiness of U.S. nuclear forces and provide confidence in the security and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear deterrent.

50. The 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) has been co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of UAE H.H. Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- Both nations reiterated commitment to achieving the goal of **USD 100 billion** of bilateral trade in the next 5 years. They also noted the possibility of linking instant

payment platforms in either country, such as through the United Payment Interface (UPI) of India.

During the meeting, the two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) have been signed:

- MoU between Wildlife Institute of India (**WII**) and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (**IFHC**) for the conservation of the **Great Indian Bustard** and the **Lesser Florican**.
- Another MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Cooperation of UAE and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on the Establishment of the **India-UAE Cultural Council Forum**.

Note: India-UAE bilateral trade in FY22 was about USD 72 billion.

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PRACTICE MOCK

51. China has successfully tested its first fully solar-powered Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) drone '**Qimingxing-50**' or '**Morning Star-50**' with all onboard systems functioning optimally.

Qimingxing-50:

- It is a large machine powered entirely by solar panels and has wingspan of **164-ft** (50 m).
- This High-Altitude, Long-Endurance (**HALE**) UAV can stay airborne for long durations.
- It flies above **20-km** altitude where there is stable airflow with no clouds.
- The drone can operate in near-space, 20 km to 100 km above the Earth's surface, making it capable of carrying out satellite-like functions.
- It can be used in the field of renewable energy, new materials, and aeronautical engineering.
- It is capable of conducting high-altitude reconnaissance, apart from monitoring forest fires, providing communication and environment relay.

REPORTS & INDICES

52. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released the **2021 Human Development Index (HDI)**. The report states around 90 percent of countries registered a decline in their HDI value in 2020 or in 2021. For the first time on record, the global Human Development Index (HDI) has dropped for two years in a row, taking the world back to just after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

The highest contributor to the HDI's recent decline is a global drop in **life expectancy**, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to **71.4 years** in 2021. Globally, Expected years of schooling was recorded at **12.8 years**, Mean years of schooling at **8.6 years** and Gross National Income per capita at **\$16,752**.

In the index, **Switzerland** has topped with 0.962 HDI value, followed by Norway and Iceland.

| HDI rank | Country | HDI Value 2021 |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Switzerland | 0.962 |
| 2 | Norway | 0.961 |
| 3 | Iceland | 0.959 |
| 4 | Hong Kong | 0.952 |
| 5 | Australia | 0.951 |
| 21 | United States | 0.921 |
| 79 | China | 0.768 |
| 191 | South Sudan | 0.385 |

India's performance:

- India has been ranked **132nd** with the HDI value of **0.633** among 191 countries and territories.
- In the 2020 report, India had ranked 131st (HDI value: 0.645) among 189 countries and territories.
- The index has placed the country in the **medium human development category**.
- In 2021, India's life expectancy at birth was recorded at **67.2 years**; expected years of schooling at **11.9 years**; mean years of schooling at **6.7 years**; and gross national income per capita at **\$6,590**.

India's neighbours: Sri Lanka (73rd), China (79th), Bangladesh (129th), and Bhutan (127th) are ranked above India, while Pakistan (161st), Nepal (143rd), and Myanmar (149th) are ranked below India.

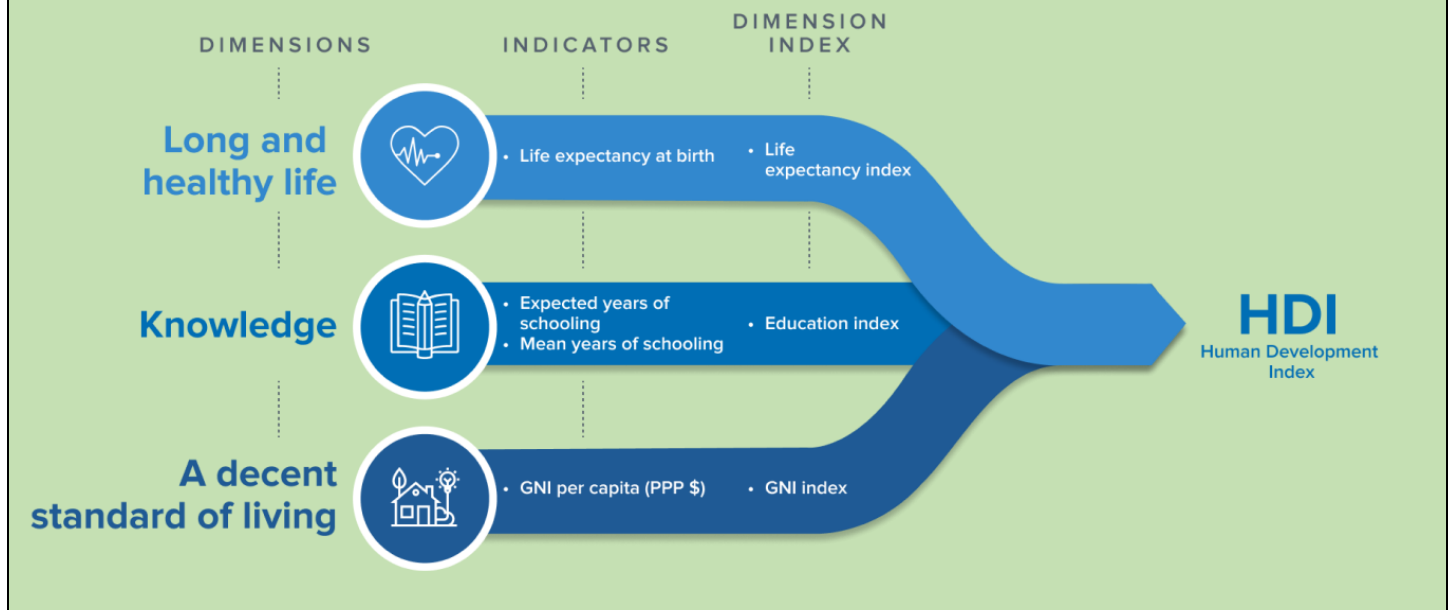
Human Development Index (HDI):

Pakistani economist **Mahbub -ul-Haq** developed Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure to track progress on three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to education, and a decent standard of living in 1990 with the objective "people are the real wealth of nations".

It is calculated using the following four parameters:

- Life expectancy at birth

- Mean years of schooling
- Expected years of schooling
- Gross National Income (GNI) per capita



- 53.** According to the Ecwrap report published by the State Bank of India (SBI's) Economic Research Department (ERD), **India** will become the world's **3rd largest economy** by **2029**. It is likely to surpass Germany in 2027, and Japan by 2029 at the current growth rate.
- The report is authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

Key points:

- In Q1 FY23, India registered GDP growth at 13.5%.
- In August 2022, SBI Ecwrap projected India's GDP in Q1FY23 at 15.7%.
- India's current share of nominal GDP (2022) is 3.5% with USD 3894 million, as against 2.6% in 2014 and is likely to cross 4% in 2027, the current share of Germany in global GDP.
- The report suggested updating the IIP (Index of Industrial Production) basket of India which is currently composed of 2021 products.

- 54.** According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report titled "**G20 GDP Growth-Second Quarter of 2022**", India's gross domestic product (GDP) in Q2 (June-August 2022) has declined by **1.4 percent** when adjusted for seasonality. The main reasons for the slowdown were decreases in government spending and net trade (exports minus imports).

- India was the second worst performer among the G20 nations, after only China.
- However, India remained the fastest growing economy among G20 nations in the June quarter, when growth was calculated on a year-on-year basis.
- The G20 GDP contracted **0.4%** quarter on quarter in the Q2 of 2022.

- **Saudi Arabia** (2.2 percent) and **Turkiye** (2.1 percent) have registered the highest growth in the quarter.

55. According to the annual report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural (UNESCO), India has faced an acute shortage of **pupil-teacher ratio** over the last **10 years**.

- According to Ministry of Education, in Primary Schools, the pupil teacher ratio which was at 43 in 2010-11 has come down to **26.3** in **2020- 21**.
- While in Upper Primary schools, the pupil-teacher ratio has reduced from 33 in 2010-11 to **18.9** in **2020-21**.

56. The **6th National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India 2018-19** has been prepared by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), designated as National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by the Union Health Ministry.

- The NHA estimates are prepared by using an accounting framework based on the internationally accepted standard of System of Health Accounts, 2011, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key highlights:

- The NHA estimates for 2018-19 show that there has been an increase in the share of government health expenditure in the total GDP of the country. It has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to **1.28%** in 2018-19.
- The share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure has also increased from 28.6% (2013-14) to **40.6%** (2018-19).
- Government's health expenditure as a percentage of Current Health Expenditure has increased from 23.2% in 2013-14 to 34.5% in 2018-19.
- The per capita government spending on healthcare has increased by **74%** since 2013-14, i.e., Rs. 1042 to **Rs. 1815** in 2018-19.
- The social safety net for healthcare expenditure has increased to 9.6 percent in 2018-19 from 9 percent in the 2017-18.
- Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (**OOPE**) as percentage of total health expenditure has declined substantially by **16%** points, from 64.2% to **48.2%**.
- Out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of current health expenditure has also declined over time from 69.1% in 2013-14 to 53.2% in 2018-19.
- Per capita out-of-pocket expenditure in the country has decreased by 8% since 2013-14, from Rs. 2,366 to Rs. 2,155 currently.

57. Inflation based on the **wholesale price index (WPI)** has declined to **12.41 percent** in **August 2022** as against 13.93 percent in July 2022. The WPI in August 2021 was 11.64 per cent.

- Food inflation has increased to 12.37 percent in August 2022, as prices of wheat, vegetables, fruits and protein-rich items shot up, compared to their level a year ago.
- Inflation for fuel (33.67 percent) and manufactured (7.51 percent) items have declined.
- The wholesale inflation rate for **June 2022** has been revised to **16.23%** from 15.18% estimated earlier by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

58. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's inflation based on the **consumer price index (CPI)** has increased to **7%** in **August 2022** as against 6.71% in July 2022 mainly due to higher food prices. This has been above RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6% for eight consecutive months.

Inflation in food basket was 7.62% in August 2022, up from 6.69% in July 2022 and 3.11% in August 2021.

Industrial growth, as measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, eases to **2.4%** in **July 2022** as compared to 12.3% in June 2022.

- The manufacturing sector's output grew 3.2% in July 2022.
- The mining output contracted 3.3% while power generation increased 2.3% during the same period.
- Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investments, rose 5.8% in July 2022.
- The consumer durables segment grew 2.4% compared to 19.4% growth a year ago.
- The primary goods segment, which accounts for nearly 34% of the index, expanded 2.5% in July 2022 as compared to 12.4% growth in the year-ago period.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

59. The **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** has completed its **2nd year** anniversary on 10th September 2022. To commemorate the auspicious day, Department of Fisheries, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has held an event in New Delhi. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry is the Chief Guest at the event.

PMMSY:

It was launched in **2020** as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package. It is a flagship scheme for the focussed and sustainable development of the fisheries sector. The main motto of PMMSY is '**Reform, Perform and Transform**' in the fisheries sector.

- **Period:** 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25
- **Coverage Area:** All States/ Union Territories.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Fisheries

Accomplishments of PMMSY:

- From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the Fisheries sector had an incredible growth of 14.3%.
- Fish production has increased from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 161.87 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.
- So far PMMSY has supported 31.47 lakh farmers under insurance coverage from 22 state and 7 UTs.
- The sector achieved all-time high exports of 13.64 lakh tonnes valuing Rs 57,587 crores (USD 7.76 bn) dominated by exports of shrimps.

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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 60. Tata Power** has launched **India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) truck** in the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle (**M&HCV**) segment with Advanced Driver Assistance System (**ADAS**) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The company has launched 5 CNG-powered trucks in the 28- and 19-tonne nodes.
- Tata Motors has also launched a fleet of seven trucks in the Intermediary and Light Commercial Vehicle (I&LCV) segment.
- 61.** Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, has announced the **USD 5.4 billion** acquisition of **Mandiant Inc.**, the California-based cybersecurity company by **Google LLC** to help organizations improve their threat, incident, and exposure management.
- 62.** Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal-led fintech startup **Navi Technologies** has received the nod from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its **Rs.3,350 crore** Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- Sachin Bansal had founded Navi Technologies in 2018 along with Ankit Agarwal.
 - The company provides personal loans, home loans, general insurance, and mutual funds. It also offers microfinance loans through a wholly-owned subsidiary, under the Chaitanya brand.
- 63.** Indore-based **EKI Energy Services (EKI)**, a leading Carbon credit developer and supplier, has listed a **Plastic Project** from India under a Global Accreditation Standard. With this, EKI has become the first ever firm to list a plastic project from India with an aim to generate India's first-ever international plastic credits.

- The project has been listed under the Plastic Waste Reduction Standard of Verra, a Washington-based accreditation.
- The project ensures that plastic waste, predominantly Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) waste, PET flakes and chips, is duly sourced and recycled to produce Recycled Polyester Staple Fibre (RPSF) that can be further used in the textile industry for garments and other fabric-based utility products.

64. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) has become the first Indian institution to join the New York-based **IBM Quantum Network** to promote and advance quantum computing skills development and research in India. With this partnership, IIT Madras joins over 180 members of the IBM Quantum Network globally.

- The Centre for Quantum Information, Communication and Computing (CQICC) at IIT Madras aims to advance core algorithms in research areas like Quantum Machine Learning, Quantum Optimisation, and Applications research in Finance.

65. London-based Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) has committed **Rs 125 crore** over the next five years to support green causes like wetland conservation and energy transition projects in India. Under this commitment, HSBC has divided the works into two broad themes, including Energy transition and Nature-based solutions.

Other HSBC commitment:

- HSBC will partner with government and expert institutions to enhance its learning and create innovative solutions and opportunities.
- It has partnered with the non-profit **WWF India** and India Resources Trust (**WRI India**) to roll out actions across eight states, focusing on energy transition in the healthcare and dairy cold chain sectors, conservation of wetlands and mangroves and landscape restoration.
- The partnership with the civil society organisations aims to deliver integrated clean energy solutions of 300 Kilowatt at healthcare facilities, covering Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam.
- It has also launched a dialogue platform titled '**CEOs on Sustainability**' for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices.

Note: CEO of HSBC India is Hitendra Dave.

66. CySeCK, Karnataka government's centre of excellence (CoE) for cybersecurity and the nodal agency for promoting cyber-safe environment for industry collaboration, has partnered with **Dell Technologies India** to strengthen cyber-security in **Karnataka**.

- Under this partnership, Dell Technologies through its "*Tech for Social Good*" initiative will roll out interactive courses on cyber hygiene best practices for school students.

67. Chennai-based **Agnikul Cosmos**, one of India's private space startups, has secured its first patent for the design and manufacturing of its Single Piece 3D printed rocket engine. The patent has been rewarded to the company for its Agnilet rocket engine, which will power the company's Agnibaan rocket that is scheduled to launch later in 2022.
68. Indian conglomerate Vedanta and Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Gujarat** to set up a semiconductor and display FAB manufacturing unit in the state with an investment of Rs.1.54 lakh crore.
- Under this MoU, Vedanta will hold 60 percent of the equity in the Joint Venture (JV), while Foxconn will own 40 percent.
69. The 7th edition of the **Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX) 2022** has been held at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, Karnataka. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized BSX 2022 in association with ISRO, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

International Conference on Space 2022:

It has been held alongside the exclusive exhibition under the theme '*Nurturing the NewSpace in India*'. It has been held with Australia serving as a Country Partner, UK as a Focus Country, and the Netherlands as a Guest Country.

Six Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between India and Australia:

- The Bengaluru-based Aerospace and Defence manufacturer **Ananth Technologies** has signed an MoU with Space Machine Company in developing product integration, testing, technology development and joint space programmes.
- Bengaluru-based **SatSure** has signed an MoU with QL Space to work on building satellites and AI solutions to support mining, defence and agriculture industries, and also to explore applications in space.
- HEX20, an Australian Startup, has signed an MoU with Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** to provide launch services, spacecraft avionics and components to Australian Space Initiatives.
- Perth-based QL Space has signed an MoU with **Skyroot Aerospace** to develop launch facilities in Australia and support joint mineral exploration missions in space.

- QL Space has also collaborated with Chennai-based **GalaxEye** to develop a hybrid optic and radar payload in order to reduce the adverse environmental impact of critical mineral exploration in Australia.
- Australian firm SABRN Health, Altdata and **India's DCube** have collaborated to work on the development and integration of hardware, sensor technology, and software to provide health support to astronauts.

70. The **Western Command** of the Indian Army has inked a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with **NTPC Limited** to draw **25MW** solar power directly from the National Solar Grid of the country for the next **27 years**. The solar energy for the Western Command will be sourced from Sholapur, Maharashtra.

Other agreements signed:

NTPC Limited has also signed an agreement to supply Renewable Energy Power to the armed forces (Military Engineering Services). This is the first-ever agreement by the Indian armed forces for sourcing power from Renewable Energy sources.

71. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (**HPCL**) has collaborated with the **Indian Army** for implementing a CSR project to coach and mentor less-privileged girl students in Kargil, Ladakh. The project named '**Kargil Ignited Minds**' aims to prepare 50 girl students for various national-level engineering and medical entrance examinations. The project aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and personality of the students.

72. Gurugram-based **Hughes** Communications India, a joint venture entity of US-based Hughes Network Systems and Indian telecom operator Bharti Airtel, has launched India's first **High Throughput Satellite (HTS)** broadband internet service to link remote areas.

- Hughes will use the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Geosynchronous Satellite (**GSAT**)-11 and **GSAT-29** satellites to offer the service.
- Initially, the service will begin with internet speeds between **2-10Mbps**.

HTS refers to satellite connectivity that offers a higher bandwidth which in turn increases the amount of data that could be transferred between a satellite and a ground station.

73. MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has collaborated with **Meta** to launch the "**XR Startup Program**" to support and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups across India.

- XR Startup Program focuses on skilling and building technological capabilities for the metaverse, and also includes emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR).
- The program will support **40 early-stage start-ups** working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each.
- It is supported by Meta's **XR Programs and Research Fund**, a 2-year USD 50 million investment in programs and external research with industry partners, civil rights groups, governments, non-profits and academic institutions.
- The program will be implemented by four institutions: International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana (**CIE IIIT-H**); AIC SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation (**AIC-SMUTBI**), Rangpo, Sikkim; Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (**GUSEC**), Ahmedabad, Gujarat and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (**FITT**), IIT Delhi, New Delhi.

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BANKING & FINANCE

- 74. Reliance General Insurance** has launched one of its flexible and popular product '**Reliance Health Gain Policy**' on **Policybazaar's** online platform to ensure insurance accessibility for all.
- The policy was launched in May 2022. It is available in three different plans, *Plus*, *Power and Prime*, and an array of features to facilitate customisation of policy.
 - **Note:** The non-life insurance penetration in India is about 1% of GDP whereas the global average stands at 4.1%.
- 75.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given in-principle approval to Singapore-based **Helios Capital** to launch a mutual fund business. The company has joined entities like Zerodha, Samco Securities and Bajaj Finserv that received SEBI's approval to launch mutual fund operations.
- 76. Nippon Life India Asset Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited, has collaborated with **DWS Group** to provide portfolio management and investment advisory services to the European-listed Indian Government Bond ETF. Under this collaboration, clients of DWG Group will get access to the attractive Indian bond market.

- 77. Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, and **Square Yards**, India's largest integrated Real Estate platform, have launched a co-branded first-of-its-kind unified platform, a home buyer ecosystem namely "**Open Door**". It is an integrated platform that makes the entire process of finding and purchasing a house a hassle-free and effective process for clients.
- 78. State Bank of India (SBI)** has joined the **Rs. 5.03 trillion** market capitalization for the first time after its shares reached a record high of Rs.564.45 on the BSE Index. With this, SBI stood on the **seventh position** in the market capitalisation ranking.
- SBI has become the *third lender* in India to cross the market cap of Rs 5 trillion.
 - **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender holds first rank in this list, with a market cap of Rs 8.38 trillion, followed by **ICICI Bank**, which has a market cap of Rs 6.33 trillion.
- 79. Lord's Mark Insurance Broking Private Limited**, the insurance division of Lord's Mark Industries, has recently received direct insurance broking licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) for selling life and general insurance products. The company will penetrate the under-served market segments in tier-2 and tier-3 towns in addition to metro cities.
- 80.** As per the latest data, **Insurance ombudsman** disposed of **32%** more complaints i.e. **40,527 complaints** against insurance firms across the country during the year, compared with 30,596 in 2020-21.
- The Delhi office settled 3,830 complaints in 2021-22, or 9.4 percent of the all India figure. Of this, almost 30 percent, or 1,129 complaints, related to health insurance.
 - 60 percent of the complaints resolved by ombudsman in 2021-22 were through conciliation and the remaining through awards.
 - 81 percent of the complaints were against private insurers and the rest against LIC and PSU general insurers.
- 81. Mastercard** has tied up with the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) on **Mastercard's Lighthouse MASSIV program** which is a free startup partnership program to assist in safe the lives of over 1 billion individuals by 2025.
- The full form of MASSIV is *Make and Scale Social Impact Vision*.
 - It aims to help impact tech firms on their impact measurement and administration, and connect them to the UN network and initiatives.
 - Mastercard and UNDP will focus on the sustainability, financial inclusion, and social impact of targeted firms to achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDG).

Mastercard Lighthouse MASSIV:

It was launched in 2019. It aims to solve complicated international challenges, including climate change, poverty, and social and economic exclusion. The program mainly focuses on the Nordic and Baltic regions.

- 82. ICICI Lombard General Insurance**, a private non-life insurance company, has collaborated with **Skit.ai**, an AI-based SaaS (Software as a Service) voice automation platform, to introduce an AI-powered digital voice agent. Under this partnership, ICICI Lombard will be able to help customers seeking the status of their health and motor insurance claims using an AI-powered Digital Voice Agent.
- 83. Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched “**iSelect Guaranteed Future**”, an individual, non-linked, non-participating, savings and protection life insurance plan in digital platform. The product is specifically targeted at new-age customers. The plan comes with “Guaranteed Maturity Benefit” and offers “Boost your Maturity” under which Guaranteed additions accrue during the last five policy years to enhance the policy’s benefits to the customers.
- 84. Karnataka Bank** has become a part of the **Khajane-II (K2)**. K2 is an Integrated Financial Management system (IFMS) of the Treasury Department, Government of Karnataka for implementing a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) account system for Centrally-sponsored schemes.
- The lender will help the Government for disbursement of cash benefits to the targeted beneficiaries through direct credit to their bank accounts in a safe, secure, and speedier manner.
- 85. HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank, has become the first bank in India to issue an **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)**, in association with National E-Governance Services Ltd (**NeSL**). This will eliminate the lengthy, paper based procedure, and enables faster processing, instant delivery, instant verification, and better security.
- e-BG:**
- It has been developed in consultation with NeSL, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) committee and the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) to simplify the process and eliminate the possibility of fraud and manipulation. e-BG will be issued on the NeSL portal through an API-based digital workflow.
- HDFC Bank has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)** to fund the “*HDFC Bank Chair of Banking and Finance*”.

86. HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited has introduced "**Click2Protect Super**", a term insurance plan that allows clients to customize their protection needs and only pay for the benefits/plan options that they have chosen.

- Click2Protect Super is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, pure risk premium/savings life insurance plan that offers extensive flexibility options.
- Customers can choose a cover as per requirement from among three plan options – **Life, Life Plus & Life Goal**

Other collaboration:

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has collaborated with **Google Cloud** to develop a technology platform that will aid in the digitization of insurance purchasing and servicing in India.

87. Max Life Insurance has launched a 3-in1 market-linked solution called '**Smart Flexi Protect Solution**' that provides health and enhanced life cover, along with market-linked investment returns.

- This is designed for earning individuals, especially for self-employed profiles. It is a combination of Max Life Flexi Wealth Plus, and Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Secure Rider to offer wealth creation along with comprehensive protection against death, disability and critical illness.

88. DBS, a leading financial services group in Asia, has collaborated with **The Sandbox**, a leading decentralised gaming virtual world and a subsidiary of Animoca Brands, to launch "**DBS BetterWorld**", an interactive metaverse experience.

- This collaboration makes DBS the first Singapore Company to seal an alliance with The Sandbox and the first bank in Singapore to make a foray into the metaverse.
- Under this collaboration, DBS will acquire a 3x3 plot of Land, a unit of virtual real estate in The Sandbox metaverse - which will be developed with immersive elements.

89. Bank of India has become the first Public Sector Bank (PSB) to go live with the new Direct Tax Collection System-**Tax Information Network (TIN 2.0)**. With this, taxpayers will now get a single platform for their tax payment as well as e-filing of tax returns.

TIN 2.0 (e-filing):

It is the official portal of Income Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The portal has been developed by Income Tax Department as a Mission Mode Project

under the National E-Governance Plan. The objective of this portal is to provide the taxpayers, with a single window access to income tax-related services including tax payments.

90. IDFC FIRST Bank has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**), an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to enable early adoption of the network among its customers.

- ONDC, a section 8 company, has been set up to democratise e-commerce and will transition ecommerce from a platform centric model to an open network model, similar to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for payments.
- IDFC FIRST Bank was founded by the merger of Erstwhile IDFC Bank and Erstwhile Capital First on **18th December 2018**.

91. ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched a '**Rainbow Savings Account**' for the transgender community to promote a trans-friendly or inclusive labour culture. The account offers a host of features, including high savings rate and advanced debit card facilities. The account also provides a default credit of interest.

92. The Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (**HDFC**) **Bank** has introduced its rural banking business, '**Bank on Wheels**' in the village of Koteshwar, near Ahemdabad, in **Gujarat**. This initiative is part of a pilot project to offer banking services in unbanked locations, in an around Ankleshwar. The 'Bank on Wheels' van will be operational at each location for a specific period and will cover 3 villages in a day.

- **Note:** HDFC bank is the first bank to translate Financial Literacy Material into the Gujarati Language.

93. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new Individual Pension Plan namely '**LIC's New Pension Plus (NPP)**' during the function of the Insurance Week Celebration (1 to 7 September 2022). This new pension plan came into effect from 5th September 2022.

Key features:

- The plan is suitable for young persons to make provisions for post-retirement life.
- The plan can be purchased either as a single premium payment policy or regular premium payment. Under the regular payment option, the premium shall be payable over the term of the policy.

- Its Unique Identity Number (UIN) is **512L347V01**.
- This is a non-participating, unit-linked, individual pension plan.
- The policyholder will have the choice to select a fund from a total of four, and each premium shall be subject to a 'Premium Allocation Charge'.
- Guaranteed additions offered by LIC shall be payable as 5% to 15.5% on regular premium, and up to 5% on single premium.
- The plan can be purchased **offline** through agents, other intermediaries as well as **online** from the LIC website.
- The minimum entry age is **25 years**, and maximum age is **75 years**.
- The minimum policy term is **10 years** and maximum is **42 years**.

94. WAAREE Energies Limited, India's largest Solar Panel manufacturer, has collaborated with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to obtain unsecured financing for solar projects through SBI's Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme and to provide working capital for Channel Partners under EDFs (Electronic dealer finance scheme).

- WAAREE intends to leverage over **Rs.500 crore** of a credit line through **Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme** and provide a digital platform for hassle-free journey to loan applicants for financing solar projects.

95. Axis Bank has partnered with **PayNearby** Technologies Private Limited, a technology-based company, to boost credit growth in meeting the lender's priority sector lending (PSL) targets segment. With this partnership, Axis Bank can reach the customers in remote regions and provide banking solutions digitally.

- As per the RBI guidelines, **40 percent** of net bank credit is to be extended to the priority sector, which include loans to agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

96. West Bengal has received the International Travel Award 2023 for '**Best Destination for Culture**' by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), an affiliate member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The award will be conferred at the World Tourism and Aviation Leaders' Summit in Berlin, Germany on 9th March 2023.

Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA):

It is a professional organisation of travel writers which was founded in 1998. It works with both the public and private sectors to support sustainable growth and improve the quality of travel and tourism.

- 97.** Noted Hindi writer **Asgar Wajahat** has been honoured with the **31st Vyas Samman Award** in New Delhi. He has been honoured for his play '**Mahabali**'. The play focuses on Mughal emperor Akbar and poet Tulsidas. Through the play, he attempts to answer who is the real Mahabali, the poet or the emperor.

Vyas Samman:

It is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of Rs.4 lakh along with a citation and plaque. It was initiated in 1991.

- 98.** The Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army **General Manoj Pande** has been conferred the title of **Honorary General of the Nepali Army** by Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 99.** Former India Chief of Naval Staff, **Admiral Sunil Lanba** has been honoured with the prestigious military award, the **Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera)** or Meritorious Service Medal by **Halimah Yacob**, the President of the Republic of Singapore at the Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera):

It is a **Singaporean** national honour and medal instituted in 1962. It is awarded to members of the Singapore Armed Forces for exceptionally distinguished performance or extraordinary service, or the furtherance of links with overseas forces.

- 100.** The 74th annual Emmy Awards 2022 has been hosted by Kenan Thompson at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, USA.

List of winners:

| Category | Winner |
|--|---------------------------|
| Outstanding lead actress in a comedy series | Jean Smart- Hacks |
| Outstanding lead actor in a comedy series | Jason Sudeikis- Ted Lasso |
| Outstanding comedy series | Ted Lasso |
| Outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or a movie | Michael Keaton- Dopesick |

| | |
|--|---|
| Outstanding lead actress in a limited or anthology series or a movie | Amanda Seyfried- The Dropout |
| Outstanding limited or anthology series | The White Lotus |
| Outstanding lead actress in a drama series | Zendaya- Euphoria |
| Outstanding lead actor in a drama series | Lee Jung-jae- Squid Game |
| Outstanding drama series | Succession |
| Supporting actor in a comedy series | Brett Goldstein- Ted Lasso |
| Supporting actress in a comedy series | Sheryl Lee Ralph- Abbott Elementary |
| Guest actor in a drama series | Colman Domingo- Euphoria |
| Guest actress in a drama series | Lee You-mi- Squid Game |
| Supporting actor in a drama series | Matthew Macfadyen- Succession |
| Supporting actress in a drama series | Julia Garner- Ozark |
| Supporting actor in a limited series or TV movie | Murray Bartlett- The White Lotus |
| Supporting actress in a limited series or TV movie | Jennifer Coolidge- The White Lotus |
| Television movie | Chip 'n' Dale: Rescue Rangers |
| Guest actor in a comedy series | Nathan Lane- Only Murders in the Building |
| Guest actress in a comedy series | Laurie Metcalf- Hacks |
| Outstanding writing for a comedy series | Abbott Elementary- Quinta Brunson |
| Outstanding writing for a drama series | Succession- Jesse Armstrong |
| Outstanding writing for a limited or anthology series or movie | The White Lotus- Mike White |
| Outstanding writing for a variety series | Last Week Tonight With John Oliver |
| Outstanding writing for a variety special | Jerrod Carmichael: Rothaniel |
| Outstanding writing for a nonfiction program | Lucy And Desi |
| Outstanding competition program | Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls |

| | |
|--|--|
| Structured reality program | Queer Eye |
| Unstructured reality program | Love on the Spectrum |
| Host for a reality or competition program | RuPaul- RuPaul's Drag Race |
| Variety sketch show | Saturday Night Live |
| Variety special (live) | The Pepsi Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show Starring Dr. Dre- Snoop Dogg- Mary J. Blige- Eminem- Kendrick Lamar And 50 Cent |
| Variety special (pre-recorded) | Adele: One Night Only |
| Short form comedy, drama or variety series | Carpool Karaoke: The Series |
| Short form nonfiction or reality series | Full Frontal With Samantha Bee Presents: Once Upon A Time In Late Night |
| Documentary or nonfiction special | George Carlin's American Dream |
| Documentary or nonfiction series | The Beatles: Get Back |
| Exceptional merit in documentary filmmaking | When Claude Got Shot |
| Actor in a short form comedy or drama series | Tim Robinson- I Think You Should Leave With Tim Robinson |
| Actress in a short form comedy or drama series | Patricia Clarkson- State of the Union |
| Animated program | Arcane |
| Short-form animated program | Love- Death + Robots |
| Character voice-over performance | Chadwick Boseman- What If...? |
| Narrator | Barack Obama- Our Great National Parks |
| Hosted nonfiction series or special | Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy |
| Outstanding directing for a comedy series | Ted Lasso- MJ Delaney |
| Outstanding directing for a drama series | Squid Game- Hwang Dong-hyuk |
| Outstanding directing for a limited or anthology series or movie | The White Lotus- Mike White |
| Outstanding directing for a variety series | A Black Lady Sketch Show- Bridget Stokes |

| | |
|--|---|
| Outstanding directing for a variety of special | Adele: One Night Only- Paul Dugdale |
| Outstanding Directing for a documentary/nonfiction program | The Beatles: Get Back- Peter Jackson |
| Outstanding Directing for a reality program | Lizzo's Watch Out For The Big Grrrls- Nneka Onuorah |

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BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 101.** Senior journalist **Pavan C.Lall** has authored a new book titled **"Forging Mettle: Nrupender Rao and the Pennar Story"**. The book is published by HarperBusiness. The book narrates the story of Nrupender Rao, Chairman of the Board at Pennar Industries Limited, and his entrepreneurial journey. The book is focused on how a business is built into a large organization on the foundations of values and sustainability.
- 102.** A new book titled **"Crimson Spring"** has been authored by **Navtej Sarna**, an established writer, a prolific columnist and commentator on foreign policy, and literary matters. The book depicts the heart-wrenching story of how ordinary men and women experienced the massacre of innocents in *Jallianwala Bagh* on 13th April 1919. The book is published by Aleph Book Company.
- 103.** A new book titled **"Will Power: The Inside Story of the Incredible Turnaround in Indian Women's Hockey"** has been authored by **Sjoerd Marijne**, former Dutch hockey player and former coach of Indian Women's Hockey team. The book highlights the experiences of Sjoerd Marijne, when he was appointed the chief coach of the Indian women's national team in 2017. The book is published by HarperSport.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 104.** Aviation industry veteran **Peiter Elbers** has been named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo with effect from 6th September 2022. He has succeeded Ronojoy Dutta. The President of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye has appointed **Gervais Ndirakobuca** as the new Prime Minister of **Burundi**. He has replaced Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni.

- 105.** The President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari**, Chief Justice, Madras High Court as the new Chairman of the Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act (**SAFEMA**) in the salary of Rs. 2,50,000/- p.m.
- He has been appointed for 04 years, or till attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest in terms of Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021 read with Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.
- 106.** Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Kamal Narain Singh** has recently passed away in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. He was born on 13th December 1926. He served as the **22nd Chief Justice of India** with the shortest tenure of just 17 days in 1991.
- 107.** United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed **Volker Turk** of **Austria** as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He has succeeded Michelle Bachelet of Chile. He is the eighth High Commissioner to lead the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- 108.** Angola's President and leader of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) ruling party **Joao Lourenco** has been re-elected as the **President of Angola** for the 2nd term. MPLA has won 51.17% of the ballots against 43.95% for the main challenger, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).
- 109.** American Express Banking Corporation (AEBC) has announced the appointment of **Sanjay Khanna** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Country Manager of **AEBC Corp India**. His position will be key to advancing and strengthening the company's strategic focus in India. He has succeeded Manoj Adlakha.
- 110.** Google has honoured **Dr Bhupen Hazarika** on his 96th birth anniversary with a doodle on its webpage. The doodle has been created by Mumbai-based guest artist Rutuja Mali.

Bhupen Hazarika:

He was born on 8 September 1926 in Sadiya, Assam. He was a fine poet, musician, singer, actor, journalist, writer and filmmaker of the highest order. He was popularly known as **Sudha Kontho**, which means Nightingale. He was responsible for introducing the culture and folk music of Assam and Northeast India to Hindi cinema. He passed away on 5 November 2011 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Awards: Padma Shri (1977), Padma Bhushan (2001), Padma Vibhushan (2012), **Bharat Ratna (2019)**.

111. **Dinesh Kumar Batra**, Director (Finance) & CFO, has given additional charge as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** with effect from 1st September 2022. He has succeeded Anandi Ramalingam.

OBITUARIES

112. Noted Bhojpuri folk-dancer **Ramchandra Manjhi** has recently passed away in Patna Bihar. He was born in Saran, Bihar. He was well known for '**Launda Naach**', a sub-set of 'Naach', in which men crossdress as women.

Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2017) and Padma Shri (2021)

Launda Naach:

It is a folk dance of the Bhojpuri speaking Community of India, Nepal, Mauritius and the Caribbean Islands. It is performed by only males who dress as women called "launda".

113. Former Pakistani cricket umpire **Asad Rauf** has recently passed away in Lahore, Pakistan. He was born on 12th May 1956 in Lahore, Pakistan. He became a first-class umpire in 1998 and first officiated in an international ODI match in 2000. He joined the ODI panel in 2004. He was a member of the ICC Elite Umpire Panel from 2006 to 2013.

114. Britain's longest reigning monarch, **Queen Elizabeth II**, has recently passed away at Balmoral Castle in Scotland at 96 years after reigning for **70 years**. She was born as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on 21 April 1926 as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). She was married to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

- She acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI died.
- She was crowned as Queen of Britain and other realms, including Canada and Australia on 2 June, 1953.
- She saw 14 Prime Ministers of UK during her reign, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss.
- She was the second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV.

With the death of Queen Elizabeth, her eldest son **Prince Charles**, Prince of Wales, has become King of the United Kingdom and fourteen other Commonwealth realms. He will officially be known as **King Charles III**.

115. Indian religious leader **Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati** has passed away recently in Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh. He was 99 years old. He was born as **Pothiram Upadhyay**

on 2nd September 1924 in Seoni, Central Provinces and Berar, British India. He became the Shankaracharya of Dwarka Sharada Peetham in Dwaraka, Gujarat and the Jyotir Math in Badrinath in 1982. He also participated in the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942.

116. Renowned Indian **Archaeologist Braj Basi Lal**, popularly known as B.B. Lal, has recently passed away in Delhi. He was born on 2nd May 1921 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. He served as the director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972.

- He had been conferred with **Padma Bhushan** in 2000 and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2021 for his contribution in the field of archaeology.
- He is particularly known for his work on the archaeology of Ramayana sites.
- He discovered evidence of the existence of a temple in the foundation of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.
- His works include: The Sarasvatī flows on: the continuity of Indian culture, Excavations at Kalibangan: The Early Harappans, 1960-1969, India 1947-1997: New Light on the Indus Civilization, etc.

SPORTS

117. The 142nd edition of the US Open 2022 has been held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, USA. It is a hard court tennis grand slam tournament.

| Category | Winner |
|------------------------|---|
| Men's Singles | Carlos Alcaraz Garfia (Spain) |
| Women's Singles | Iga Świątek (Poland) |
| Men's Doubles | Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (UK) |
| Women's Doubles | Katerina Siniaková & Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) |
| Mixed Doubles | Storm Sanders & John Peers (Australia) |

118. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has recently won the Italian Grand Prix 2022 held at Monza Circuit in Monza, Italy. This marks the first Italian Grand Prix title of his career and also marks his **11th win** of the 2022-23 Formula 1 season.

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has finished second and Mercedes's George Russell has finished third in the race.
- Red Bull-backed racer **Jehan Daruvala** has won the first feature race of the FIA formula 2 Championship.

119. Indian boxer **Birju Sah**, who won bronze medals at the Commonwealth and Asian Games in 1994, has recently passed away in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He was the **first Indian boxer** to win medals at both Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games. He won the bronze medal in the light flyweight (45-48kg) category.

120. **Anishka Biyani**, a 6-year old Mumbai girl, has won a **Gold medal** in the **Malaysian Age Group Rapid Chess Championship** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has achieved this feat in the Under-6 Open category (girl's category) with a score of 4 points out of a possible six to clinch the title.

121. Indian badminton player **Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar (HS Prannoy)** has topped the latest **BWF World Tour Rankings** in Men's singles category. He became World's No.1 after overtaking the defending world champion Viktor Axelsen.

122. **Anupama Upadhyaya**, a 17-year old, has topped the latest BWF World Junior Rankings in Women's singles category. She has replaced fellow Indian Tasnim Mir from the top position.

123. Tokyo Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** has become the **first Indian** to win the prestigious Zurich Diamond League Final 2022 in Switzerland. He has won the Diamond Trophy, prize money of USD 30,000 and a wild card for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a best throw of **88.44m**.

- Czech Republic's Olympic silver medalist Jakob Vadlejha has finished second with a best throw of 86.94m, and Germany's Julian Weber has finished third with 83.73m in Men's javelin throw.

124. Australian white-ball captain, **Aaron Finch** has announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket. He recently played his 146th and final ODI in Cairns, Australia against New Zealand. He was part of the squad which won the 2015 World Cup and has over 5000 runs with 17 centuries in the format. He made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2013 and smashed his first century against Scotland later that year where he scored 148.

125. Ladakh Police in collaboration with the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh and Cycling Association of India has organized the first-ever Mountain Bicycle (MTB) World Cup- **UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup 2022** in **Leh, Ladakh**.

- The event has been held at the height of over 12 thousand feet to sea level.
- Around 20 international, 55 national, and local cyclists have participated in this world cup.
- German cyclists have topped in both men and women categories.

126. The 15th edition of **2022 Asia Cup** cricket tournament with cricket format of Twenty20 International (T20I) has been held in United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). It has been held at two venues of UAE viz. Dubai International Cricket Stadium (Dubai), and Sharjah Cricket Stadium (Sharjah).

- **Sri Lanka** has won the Asia Cup 2022 title after defeating Pakistan in the finals with 23 runs. It was its 6th Asia Cup title, and 1st in the T20I format.
- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) served as the tournament's host while the administrator was Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Other awardees:

- **Player of the series:** Pinnaduwan Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva (Sri Lanka)
- **Most Runs:** Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
- **Most Wickets:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar Singh (India)
- **Note:** The 16th edition of the Asia Cup will be hosted by Pakistan in 2023.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

127. International Literacy Day (ILD) is observed annually on **8th of September** to make people aware of the meaning and importance of literacy for individuals and societies. The day was first observed in 1967.

- **Theme 2022:** "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces"
- **Note:** The literacy rate of India is 74.04 percent, 82.14 for males, and 65.46 for females.

128. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed annually on **9th of September** to recognize the importance of raising awareness on the need to preserve education and protect it from any attack.

- UN resolution has designated the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to serve as co-facilitators of the observance of this day annually. The day was first observed in 2020.

129. World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed annually on **10th September** to raise awareness about suicide prevention worldwide. The day is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The day was established in 2003.

- **Theme 2022:** "Creating hope Through Action"

130. National Engineer's Day is observed annually on **15th September** to recognise the contribution of engineers in the development of the nation. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Sir Moksha Gundam Visvesvaraya**, the first Civil Engineer in India.

- Along with India, M. Visvesvaraya's great works are also celebrated in *Sri Lanka* and *Tanzania* on September 15 as Engineer's day.
- The day was first observed in 1968.

Note: World Engineer's Day is observed annually by UNESCO on 4th March.

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya:

- He was born in Karnataka in 1861. He was an engineering pioneer of India whose work was reflected in harnessing water resources and building and consolidating dams across the country. His was sent to Aden (Yemen) to study water supply and drainage systems in 1906-07.
- He served as the Chief Engineer of Mysore State in 1909 and as the Diwan of the princely state of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- He was awarded an Honorary Membership of the London Institution of Civil Engineers.
- He was conferred India's highest honour, the **Bharat Ratna** in **1955**.
- He authored "**Reconstructing India**" in 1920 and "**Planned Economy of India**" in 1934.

| Important Day | Date/Month | Theme for 2022 | Remark |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| International Literacy Day | 8 th September | Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces | |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| World Physiotherapy Day | 8 th September | Osteoarthritis and the Role of Physiotherapists | |
| International Day to Protect Education from Attack | 9 th September | | |
| World Electrical Vehicle(EV) Day | 9 th September | | The day was first observed in 2020. |
| Himalaya Day | 9 th September | Himalayas will be safe only when the interests of its residents are protected | The day is observed annually in the state of Uttarakhand since 2015. |
| World Suicide Prevention Day | 10 th September | Creating hope through action | |
| World First Aid Day | Second Saturday of September (10 th September) | Lifelong First Aid Learning | |
| National Forest Martyrs Day | 11 th September | | The day is observed to commemorate the anniversary of the Khejarli Trees Massacre in 1730. |
| United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation | 12 th September | | |
| International Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Awareness Month | 1 st to 30 th September | | |
| Hindi Diwas | 14 th September | | The day was first observed in 1953. |
| National Engineer's Day | 15 th September | | The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sir Moksha Gundam Visvesvaraya, the first Civil Engineer in India. |
| International Day of Democracy | 15 th September | Protecting Press Freedom for Democracy | |

World Lymphoma
Awareness Day

15th
September

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