

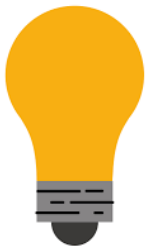
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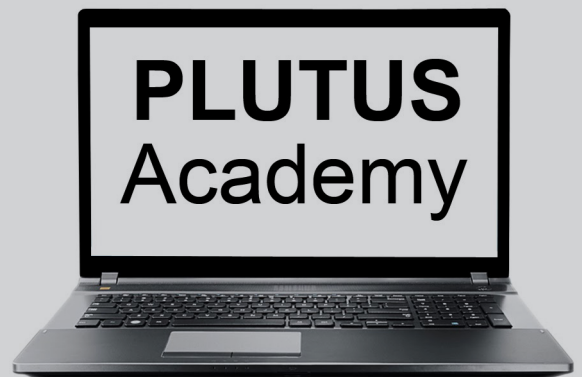
MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2022



2022



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2022


National News

1. PARUL CHAUDHARY BREAKING NATIONAL RECORD AND SETS NEW NATIONAL RECORD IN WOMEN'S 3000 METERS








- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has congratulated Parul Chaudhary for breaking the 6-year-old National Record and setting the new National Record in women's 3000 metres with a time of 8:57.19 at UA Sunset Tour in Los Angeles.
- In a tweet, Mr Thakur said, Parul Chaudhary is the first Indian athlete to clock a sub-9 minute time in Women's 3000 metres.

2. STAND-IN INDIA CAPTAIN JASPRIT BUMRAH CREATES WORLD RECORD FOR SCORING MOST RUNS IN AN OVER IN TEST CRICKET



A photograph of Jasprit Bumrah in his white Indian Test cricket uniform, batting. He is wearing a helmet and holding a bat, with a crowd visible in the background.

1		J.BUMRAH	35
2		B.LARA	28
3		G.BAILEY	28
4		K.MAHARAJ	28
5		S.AFRIDI	27

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

3. UNION MINISTER SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL LAUNCHES A THREE-DAY "GRAND HACKATHON" ON AGRICULTURE DOMAIN TO PROMOTE OPEN ECOMMERCE NETWORK



- Union Minister Piyush Goyal has virtually kicked off a three-day Grand Hackathon

that the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is hosting in association with NABARD.

- The physical portion of this event took place at the Fort, Mumbai location of the Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The Grand Hackathon is divided into two categories: the Agri Grant Challenge and the Agri Innovation Hackathon, both of which will highlight innovations that will help the agriculture sector adopt eCommerce.
- Speaking at the event, Shri Goyal stated that the newly created ONDC-NABARD Grand Hackathon will give start-ups a platform to collaborate with ONDC and develop creative solutions for some of the most urgent problems in the agri-sector.
- Even though it might seem like a tiny move right now, in the long run, this will give farmers all throughout the nation more influence. Early signs suggest that this will likely affect not only the way e-commerce operates in India but maybe the entire world.
- According to the Minister, this Government has made tripling the income of farmers and ensuring their welfare a primary priority

4. SBI CELEBRATES 66TH FOUNDATION DAY



- The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, is celebrating its 67th year on 1st July.
- SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.
- The Bank of Madras merged into the other two presidency banks, the bank of Calcutta and the bank of Bombay to form the Imperial Bank of India which in turn became the SBI in 1955.
- In the 19th century, three presidency banks were incorporated.
- The three presidency banks were the Bank of Madras (established on 2nd June 1806), the

Bank of Bombay (incorporated on 15 April 1840), and the Bank of Madras (incorporated on 1 July 1843).

- These three presidency banks were joint-stock companies. These presidency banks were consolidated on 27 January 1921 and the new entity was named Imperial Bank of India.
- Even after the consolidation, it remained as the joint-stock company but without government participation.
- RBI in 1955 acquired a controlling interest in the Imperial
- Bank of India. On 1st July 1955, the imperial bank of India became the State Bank of India.
- To avoid any conflict of interest since RBI is the country's banking regulatory authority, the government of India in 2008 then acquired the Reserve Bank of India's stake in SBI.

5. GOVERNMENT AUTHORISES SBI TO ISSUE AND ENCASH ELECTORAL BONDS



- The government gave its approval for the 21st tranche of electoral bonds to be issued, and the bonds' sales.
- In an effort to increase openness in political fundraising, electoral bonds have been proposed as a substitute for financial contributions to political parties.
- With effect from July 1 to July 10, State Bank of India (SBI), in the 21st phase of sale, has been granted authorization to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches, according to a statement from the finance ministry.
- SBI branches in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai are among those that have been authorised.
- Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are scheduled to hold their assemblies this year. In this year's March, elections were completed for five states: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Goa.

6. KETANJI BROWN JACKSON SWORN IN, BECOMES 1ST BLACK WOMAN ON US SUPREME COURT



- Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in to the Supreme Court, shattering a glass ceiling as the first Black woman on the nation's highest court.
- The 51-year-old Jackson is the court's 116th justice and she took the place Thursday of the justice she once worked for. Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement took effect at noon.
- Moments later, joined by her family, Jackson recited the two oaths required of Supreme Court justices, one administered by Breyer and the other by Chief Justice John Roberts.

7. NMCG CREATES NAMAMI GANGE AMRIT VATIKA AT KALINDI KUNJ GHAT ON RIVER YAMUNA IN NEW DELHI



- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has created Namami Gange Amrit Vatika at Kalindi Kunj Ghat on River Yamuna in New Delhi with the planting of 75 saplings under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The plantation activities were carried out under the initiative Yamuna Ghat par Vriksharopan.
- Speaking on the occasion, Director General of NMCG, G. Asok Kumar said that cleaning of tributaries of River Ganga, especially, Yamuna, is one of the focus areas of the Namami

Gange Programme.

- He motivated the participants to become part of this Clean Yamuna campaign.
- Cleanliness drive on River Yamuna in Delhi is a regular activity organized on the 4th Saturday of every month by the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. ELORDA CUP: REIGNING YOUTH WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONS ALFIYA PATHAN AND GITIKA WIN GOLD MEDALS



- Reigning Youth World Boxing champions Alfiya Pathan and Gitika have won gold medals at the Elorda Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- Two other Indian female boxers Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro signed off with silver medals.
- In the women's 81-kilogram final, Alfiya thrashed 2016 world champion and a strong contender for the title, Lazzat Kungeibayeva, by a 5-0 margin.
- Gitika clinched a thrilling 4-1 win over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48-kg final.
- Meanwhile, 2019 World Championships bronze medalist Jamuna gave her all against Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova but ended up with a 0-5 loss in the 54-kg final.
- With the addition of two gold, two silver, and 10 bronze medals on the final day, the 33-member Indian contingent concluded its campaign with an overall tally of 14 medals.

2. FORMER NEWSREADER OF AIR MINOTI CHATTERJEE PASSES AWAY IN NEW DELHI



- The former newsreader of All India Radio, Minoti Chatterjee passed away in New Delhi last night.
- Her last rites will be performed at the Lodhi Road crematorium at 1 PM today.
- She was also the former Principal of Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University.

3. SBI CARD, ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE JOIN HANDS TO LAUNCH 'ADITYA BIRLA SBI CARD'



- SBI Cards and Payment Services announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital for the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card'.
- The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others.
- This partnership will enable us to issue credit cards to Aditya Birla Group's customer base, thereby providing them a great product for all their spending needs.
- This is in line with our strategy of enhancing value for both customers and co-brand partners.
- The customer acquisition process will be completely digital, thereby ensuring an enhanced customer experience.
- Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital is among the leading well-diversified non-banking financial services company in India.
- ABFL offers customized solutions in areas of personal finance, mortgage finance, SME

finance, corporate finance, wealth management, debt capital markets and loan syndication.

4. SBI LIFE SIGNS BANCASSURANCE PACT WITH PASCHIM BANGA GRAMIN BANK



- A bancassurance agreement has been reached between the Paschim Banga Gramin Bank and SBI Life Insurance.
- Through the cooperation, SBI Life's assortment of protection, wealth development, credit life, annuity, and savings products will be made available at all Paschim Banga Gramin Bank branches throughout West Bengal, therefore enhancing the region's access to life insurance solutions.
- Arun Kumar Patra, general manager of Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, and Jayant Pandey, regional director of SBI Life, both signed the contract.
- An agreement between a bank and an insurance firm known as "bancassurance" enables the latter to market its products to the clients of the lender.

5. 21-YR-OLD SINI SHETTY FROM KARNATAKA CROWNED FEMINA MISS INDIA 2022



- Sini Shetty on Sunday won the title of Femina Miss India 2022.
- Shetty will now represent India at the 71st Miss World pageant.

- Shetty, 21, was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by her predecessor Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi at JIO World Convention Center in Mumbai.
- Hailing from Karnataka, Shetty was born in Mumbai in 2001.
- The 21-yr-old, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and financing, is currently pursuing a course in Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

6. RAHUL NARWEKAR THE YOUNGEST ASSEMBLY SPEAKER IN COUNTRY



- Mumbai lawyer and first-time legislator, Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and also becomes the youngest ever in India to hold this august Constitutional post.
- Narwekar scripted history to become the youngest legislator to be elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960) and also is now the youngest ever lawmaker to occupy the coveted top legislative post in the country.
- Narwekar received a total of 164 votes in support and 107 went to Shiv Sena candidate's account.
- During the Speaker elections, 12 members were absent and 3 legislators abstained from the voting.
- Narwekar (45), a sitting MLA from Colaba, left Shiv Sena in 2014 to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha polls from Maval constituency as a NCP candidate.
- However, he suffered defeat but was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council and remained its member till 2019.

7. VISIONARY BRITISH THEATRE DIRECTOR PETER BROOK DIES AGED 97



- Peter Brook, one of the world's most innovative theatre directors who perfected the art of staging powerful drama in bizarre venues, has died aged 97.
- The British director mounted productions ranging from challenging versions of Shakespeare through international opera to Hindu epic poems.
- He brought a stunning nine-hour adaptation of the Sanskrit epic “The Mahabharata” from France to New York in 1987.
- Brook was called many other things: a maverick, a romantic, a classicist. But he was never easily pigeonholed.
- British by nationality but based in Paris since 1970, he spent years in commercial theater, winning Tony Awards in 1966 and 1971 for the Broadway transfers of highly original productions of Peter Weiss’s “Marat/Sade” and Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY CARRIES OUT MAIDEN FLIGHT OF UNMANNED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the Maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga in Karnataka.
- The flight operated in a fully autonomous mode.
- The aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown.
- The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) powered by a small turbofan engine.
- It has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, one of the research laboratories of DRDO.
- The focus is now on Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence and the government has urged the armed forces to buy the indigenous platforms and less imports.
- This year in the Union Budget, Rs 70,221 crore has been set aside for domestic defence procurement, and this accounts for 63 percent of the defence capital budget.

2. VETERAN FILMMAKER TARUN MAJUMDAR PASSES AWAY AT 91



- Veteran Bengali film director, Tarun Majumdar has passed away at the age of 92.
- Tarun Majumdar was known for helming popular Bengali films such as Smriti Tuku Thak, Shriman Prithviraj, Kuheli, Balika Badhu, Dadar Kirti, Chander Bari, among others in his lifetime.
- He created a significant impact in uplifting the Bengali film industry during the 60s, 70s and 80s.
- Tarun Majumdar was the recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 1990.
- He's the recipient of four National Awards, 7 BFJA Awards, 5 Filmfare Awards, and an Anandalok Award.

3. IGSS VENTURES SIGNS MOU WITH TAMIL NADU GOVT FOR SETTING UP SEMICONDUCTOR PARK



- In the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd to build a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park in the State with an investment and grants of 25,600 crore.

- At the function held at the Secretariat were Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, and other top officials.
- In the next five years, the project is expected to directly employ more than 5,000 individuals, according to an official press release.
- By using renewable energy to cook, IGSS Ventures intends to take part in the India Semiconductor Mission and Project Surya, both of which aim to lessen air pollution and global warming.
- For a semiconductor fab that will produce wafers in three different technology nodes, including 28 nm, 45 nm, and ≥ 65 nm, as well as an industry ecosystem infrastructure that includes semiconductor circuit designers, material suppliers, equipment suppliers, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and test players, Tamil Nadu has allocated nine strategic sites, including two near Chennai.
- According to the consortium, 1,500 semi-skilled and skilled workers might be employed when commercial production begins in two years.

4. WORLD ZONOSIS DAY NATIONWIDE ANTI-RABIES VACCINE DRIVE



- World Zoonoses Day is marked annually on 6 July to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like influenza, ebola and West Nile virus.
- Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria and fungi.
- These germs can lead to several kinds of illnesses, ranging in severity, in people and animals.
- Some can even cause death. Unlike in humans, animals may often appear healthy even when they carry such germs.
- World Zoonoses Day was instituted on 6 July 1885 to educate and raise awareness about zoonotic diseases that can transmit from animals to humans.
- It commemorates French biologist Louis Pasteur, who administered the first dose of the first vaccine against rabies.

5. GREENKO, IIT-H SIGN PACT TO SET UP SCHOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE S&T



- In order to establish a school where students would be trained toward sustainable goals like climate change mitigation, circular economy, energy transition, among others, the renewable energy company Greenko has partnered with IIT-Hyderabad.
- The Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST) will open toward the end of this year, according to a statement from the company, and by June 2023, the first batch of students will be admitted for the MTech and Ph.D. programmes in sustainable science and technology, followed by the BTech programme.
- It will be the nation's first institution solely focused on teaching sustainable science and technology.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, was present when the MoU was signed.
- Dharmendra Pradhan stated that in order to achieve self-sufficiency and advance global welfare, we must innovate and create our own models.
- Technology is accessible in the twenty-first century to make the task easier.
- India will take the lead in the fourth industrial revolution, and IIT Hyderabad will have a significant impact on the internationalisation of the Indian brand.

6. MICHELLE POONAWALLA RECEIVES THE COVETED SHIROMANI AWARD AT NRI WORLD SUMMIT 2022



- Michelle Poonawalla has received the Shiromani Award at NRI World Summit 2022 in the United Kingdom for her contribution to the field of art.
- In addition to Poonawalla, the Shiromani Award was also awarded to Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria.
- Michelle Poonawalla was a key note speaker at the House of Lords and accepted the Shiromani Award for her contribution to the field of Art.
- Poonawalla unveiled her artwork 'Reserve' at the JMS Foundation Charity Gala on 23 June.
- Her film 'Reserve' highlighted water scarcity as a global crisis and accentuated pollution and contamination of water reserves.
- The Shiromani Award was instituted in 1977 and has been bestowed on Mother Teresa, Chief Marshal Manekshaw, Raj Kapoor, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, PT Usha, Leander Paes, Vishwanathan Anand, The Dalai Lama, Jaya Bachchan and Asha Bhosle in the past.

7. POKERBAAZI BRINGS SHAHID KAPOOR AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR



- PokerBaazi.com, a poker platform, has onboarded actor Shahid Kapoor as its brand ambassador. PokerBaazi.com has launched its new brand campaign 'You Hold the Cards' featuring brand ambassador, actor Shahid Kapoor.
- The company said this association with the actor comes in line with its commitment to popularise and create awareness amongst the masses about poker.
- With the campaign titled 'You Hold the Cards', the brand aims to create awareness about poker as a skill-based sport and establish that in Poker, the game is under your control, and one can emerge victorious basis of skills, determination, and the right strategy.

8. CHIEF MINISTER LAUNCHES 'NAARI KO NAMAN' SCHEME IN HIMACHAL PRADESH; WOMEN



- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur has launched 'Naari Ko Naman' scheme to provide 50 % concession on fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women commuters within the state boundaries.
- Seema Thakur, the first woman bus driver in the state, drove him in a state transport bus to the event venue.
- The chief minister had announced the 50 per cent concession on bus fares to women on April 15, Himachal Day.
- CM has announced the minimum bus fare will also be reduced from Rs.7 to Rs.5 for all passengers.
- The government of HP will also sanction 25 new posts for female drivers in 'Ride With Pride Government Taxi service'.
- The service is for female passengers and senior citizens of HP.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI GETS ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA OF STEEL MINISTRY



- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has been assigned the charge of Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio.
- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Steel.
- The developments come after the President accepted the resignations of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh from the Union Council of Ministers.

2. FIRST CAMPUS BASED IT BUSINESS INCUBATOR OPENS IN BANGLADESH



- In a major step towards boosting the start up sector in Bangladesh, the first campus based IT business incubator was opened at Chattogram.
- The facility named 'Sheikh Kamal IT Business Incubator' was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) in a virtual function today .
- The incubator will provide a complete and innovative eco-system for start ups in Bangladesh.
- Some 220 entrepreneurs, trainees, free lancers and potential startups will get financial and logistical services at the centre along with the mentoships.
- It will work as a bridge between the academia and the industrial and business sectors of the country.
- The incubator will also provide assistance to university graduates to develop themselves as entrepreneurs.
- It will seek to establish effective links between universities and the IT industry, as well as create opportunities of research and innovation activities for the faculty and students of the university, reports the official news agency BSS.

3. PT USHA, ILAIYARAAJA AMONG 4 NOMINATED TO RAJYA SABHA; PM PRAISES THE NOMINEES



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated V. Vijayendra Prasad Garu, Veerendra Heggade, Ilaiyaraaja and PT Usha for being nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- In a series of tweets today, the Prime Minister said, V. Vijayendra Prasad Garu is associated with the creative world for decades and his works showcase India's glorious culture and have made a mark globally.
- On the contribution of Veerendra Heggade, Mr. Modi said, Veerendra Heggade is at the forefront of outstanding community service and he will certainly enrich Parliamentary proceedings.
- Lauding the creative genius of Ilaiyaraaja, the Prime Minister said, Ilaiyaraaja has

enthralled people across generations and his works beautifully reflect many emotions.

- About PT Usha, Mr. Modi said, she is an inspiration for every Indian and her accomplishments in sports are widely known.
- He praised, PT Usha saying that her work to mentor budding athletes over the last several years is commendable.

4. 5 INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMEN IN 2021 FORBES LIST OF 'AMERICA'S RICHEST SELF MADE WOMEN'



- Indian-American Jayshree Ullal, CEO of Arista Networks, an American computer networking company, and a member of the board of directors of Snowflake, was ranked near the top of 8th annual Forbes' America's Richest Self-Made Women, with a net worth of \$1.7 billion as of May 2022.
- The list, released in June 2022, ranks her at #15, below Alice Schwartz, co-founder of Bio-Rad Laboratories, and above reality TV star Kim Kardashian.
- Other Indian American women who made it to the Forbes list are Neerja Sethi, co-founder of Syntel; Neha Narkhede, co-founder and former CTO of Confluent; former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi, and Reshma Shetty, co-founder of Ginkgo Bioworks.
- Diane Hendricks, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, topped the list for the fifth year.

5. INDIA'S LIEUTENANT GENERAL MOHAN SUBRAMANIAN APPOINTED FORCE COMMANDER OF UN IN SOUTH SUDAN



- India's Lieutenant General, Mohan Subramanian has been appointed the Force Commander in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- He succeeds Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment on July 5.
- Almost 20,000 peacekeepers serve with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to protect civilians and build durable peace in the conflict-affected country.
- The civilian, police and military personnel from 73 countries carry out many duties under the mandate provided by the United Nations Security Council.

6. FATHER-DAUGHTER FIGHTER PILOT DUO CREATE HISTORY



- Father and daughter pair Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, who was commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 2021, and Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, an experienced

fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), made aviation history by flying in the same jet formation.

- At Air Force Station, Bidar, they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT).
- According to an IAF officer, Father and daughter pair Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, who was commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 2021, and Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, an experienced fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), made aviation history by flying in the same jet formation.
- At Air Force Station, Bidar, they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT).
- Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma received his commission in the Indian Air Force's fighter stream in 1989.
- He has vast expertise in fighter operations and has held the command of both a frontline fighter station and a Mig-21 Squadron.
- Ananya observed her father, a fighter pilot, foster this very link with his other squadron pilots while she was growing up, the officer added, referring to the closeness and camaraderie a fighter pilot shares with one's wingman, which is brilliantly shown in the Hollywood blockbuster Top Gun.

7. INDIA'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION FACILITY, TiHAN, LAUNCHED AT IIT HYDERABAD



- India's first Autonomous Navigation facility, TiHAN inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh at the IIT Hyderabad campus.
- Developed at a budget of Rs. 130 crores by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation) is a multidisciplinary initiative that will make India a global player in the futuristic and next generation 'smart mobility' technology.
- India's mobility sector is one of the world's largest markets and the TiHAN – IITH will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles.
- TiHAN Testbed will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level, thus

making India a global leader in autonomous navigation technologies.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. AKASA AIR AIRLINES GETS AIR OPERATOR CERTIFICATE FROM DGCA; TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS THIS MONTH



- The country's newest airline Akasa Air has received the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation to start its commercial operations.
- The airline in a tweet said that this is a significant milestone, enabling it to open its flights for sale and leading to the start of commercial operations.
- The grant of the AOC is the final step of a comprehensive and rigorous process laid down by the DGCA and marks the satisfactory completion of all regulatory and compliance requirements for the airline's operational readiness.
- The airline will commence commercial operations later this month.

2. FORMER NITI AAYOG CEO AMITABH KANT TO BE NEW SHERPA OF G-20



- Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will be the new Sherpa of G-20. Commerce minister Piyush Goel will give up the position as Sherpa of G-20.
- With the G-20 presidency coming to India, a full-time Sherpa is required who would be needed to devote a lot of time to meetings that will be held in different parts of the country.

3. UNION MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI LAUNCHES SVANidHI MAHOTSAV



- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today launched 'SVANidhi Mahotsav' which is a cultural festival for celebrating the success of PM SVANidhi Scheme.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organising 'SVANidhi Mahotsav' from 9th to 31st of this month.
- It is being held in 75 cities across 33 States and Union Territories.
- The Mahotsav will showcase a series of activities like Cultural activities, Digital transaction training, Loan mela,
- Felicitation ceremony for distinguished street vendors,
- Experience Sharing Nukkad natak to propagate the features and benefits of the Scheme.
- Addressing media in New Delhi, Puri said that SVANidhi
- Mahotsav is a festival for celebrating and recognizing. beneficiary street vendor's growth story and their contribution towards Indian economy.
- He said, the festival aims at celebrating 75 years of India's independence with these nano-entrepreneurs, honoring their journey under PM SVANidhi scheme for demonstrating credit discipline, digital behavior and displaying their astute business acumen.

4. BRITISH PM BORIS JOHNSON ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION; TO CONTINUE TILL PARTY CHOOSES HIS SUCCESSOR



- Boris Johnson announced today that he would quit as British prime minister.
- The scandal hit leader was left isolated as more than 40 ministers and aides, including three cabinet members, have quit the government since late Tuesday demanding his resignation.
- The Conservative leader was confronted at various points by members of his cabinet telling him it was time to go.
- Bowing to the pressure, Mr Johnson announced outside Downing Street to quit as Conservative leader but said he will continue to serve as Prime Minister until the party chooses his successor.
- Mr Johnson said, it is clearly now the will of Conservative MPs that there should be a new leader.
- He said the process of choosing new leader should begin now. In a tweet, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party Justin Tomlinson said that Johnson's resignation was inevitable.

5. OPEC SECRETARY-GENERAL MOHAMMAD BARKINDO DIES, JUST WEEKS SHY OF DEPARTURE



- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, passed away.
- He was born in April 1959 in northeast Nigeria's Adamawa state, Barkindo assumed the office of the OPEC Secretary-General in 2016. His tenure was scheduled to expire in July.
- OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- It aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization..

6. INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS THE FIRST ALH SQUADRON INAS 324 IN VISAKHAPATNAM



- Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam
- The unit is the first Naval Squadron on the Eastern Seaboard operating the indigenously designed and built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters
- INAS 324 squadron has been named as 'Kestrels', after a bird species that has good sensory capabilities, symbolising the role envisaged of the aircraft and the air squadron.
- The insignia of the squadron depicts a 'Kestrel' searching over vast blue waters and white sea waves, which signifies the role of Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) role of the squadron.

7. FREEDOM FIGHTER GANDHIAN P GOPINATHAN NAIR DIES AT 100 IN KERALA



- Freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair has passed away at the age of 100. He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma award.
- He had participated in the freedom struggle.
- He had taken part in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and had worked alongside Vinoba Bhave to promote Bhoodan and Gramdan movements.
- The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to society.

8. JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY VC APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF AIU KOLKATA



- The Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das was appointed as the president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- Das said he will take up the issue of executing the new education policy's (NEP) salient features, raising central funding for state varsities involved in important research activities, and work on taking the standards of Indian universities to global levels.
- Das, an eminent historian, was appointed the vice-president of AIU a year ago.
- Association of Indian Universities is an organisation and association of major universities

in India.

- It is based in Delhi. It evaluates the courses, syllabi, standards, and credits of foreign Universities pursued abroad and equates them in relation to various courses offered by Indian Universities.

9. GITA GOPINATH BECOMES FIRST WOMAN TO FEATURE ON IMF'S 'WALL OF FORMER CHIEF ECONOMISTS'



- India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- Gopinath was appointed as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018 and was later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year.
- "Breaking the trend I joined the wall of former Chief Economists of the IMF," she said in a tweet, which also displayed the wall of former chief economists with her photograph.
- Gopinath had served as the first female chief economist of the Washington-based global lender for three years.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. WESTERN RAILWAY'S LONGEST SKYWALK CONNECTING BANDRA TERMINUS TO KHAR ROAD IN MUMBAI



- The Western Railway's (WR) longest skywalk from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus has been opened for the passengers to reach the platforms to board trains easily.
- The skywalk spans 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide. Western Railway's noted that the skywalk will allow passengers to reach Bandra (T) directly by deboarding at Khar station & taking south Foot Over Bridge.
- This skywalk has made travelling very convenient as earlier passengers travelling by suburban trains had to get down at Bandra or Khar Railway station to reach Bandra Terminus by walking.
- The new skywalk was built at an estimated cost of Rs 14 crore. Around 510 MT structural steel, 20 MT Reinforcement steel and 240 cum of concrete was used for the construction.
- This skywalk will connect all foot over bridges of Bandra Terminus.

2. RAJASTHAN GOVT SET TO INTRODUCE INDIA'S FIRST RIGHT-TO-HEALTH BILL



- The Rajasthan government is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the Right to Health Bill, “the first of its kind in India”, which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.
- In January, the government had prepared a draft bill that defines the rights of patients, their attendants and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing grievances of the stakeholders.
- The right to health bill is part of the Rajasthan government’s bid to expand and strengthen medical services in the state.
- Recently, the chief minister approved Rs 117 crore towards expansion of the facilities in Mahila Chikitsalaya (women’s hospital) at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur. The state has also ensured health security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- Along with this, an accident insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh is being given to the families registered in the scheme.
- Also, medicines and tests of the patients coming to government health facilities are being provided free of cost.

3. MANGARH IN RAJASTHAN TO BECOME MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE



- A team from National Monuments Authority lead by Shri Tarun Vijay, Chairman, National Monuments Authority, submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Importance in the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- This report carries relevant details about the Mangarh hillock and recommendations by National Monuments Authority.
- Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the unsung heroes and Mangarh hillock haven't received the importance in history which they deserved.
- He also said 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters were brutally killed by the British army on 17th November 1913.
- To pay our tribute to them , on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav we will positively take forward the report submitted by NMA Chairperson, Shri Tarun Vijay.
- The Union Minister also added that our younger generation is unaware of their sacrifice and Mangarh hillock, it will be our responsibility to highlight significance of and provide information about Mangarh Hillock.

4. SHINZO ABE, FORMER JAPAN PM, DIES AFTER BEING SHOT IN NARA



- Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated in Nara on Friday while campaigning for the upcoming election, reported Reuters quoting public broadcaster NHK.
- The 67-year-old world leader was rushed to hospital in grave condition, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in an address to the nation. A suspect has been taken into custody.
- Police said a 41-year-old man suspected of carrying out the shooting had been arrested.
- Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai (NHK) Japanese public broadcaster quoted the suspect, identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, as telling police he was dissatisfied with Abe and wanted to kill him.

5. AKSHAYA PATRA MIDDAY MEAL KITCHEN IN VARANASI: ALL ABOUT MODI'S GREEN PROJECT THAT WILL FEED 1 LAKH KIDS



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Akshaya Patra midday meal kitchen during his first trip to his Varanasi district after the BJP won the Uttar Pradesh assembly election.
- Modi will inaugurate and lay the cornerstone for development projects worth Rs 1,774 crore aimed at enhancing the country's infrastructure and quality of life during his visit.
- The LT College kitchen has the capacity to prepare lunch for 1 lakh pupils.
- Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the Samajwadi Party, responded to the opening by stating that all 11 locations suggested during the SP administration should begin using kitchens.

6. UP FIRST STATE TO HAVE 13 EXPRESSWAYS IN THE NATION



- Uttar Pradesh's largest expressway network now has a foundation thanks to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- The state will soon have better highway connectivity from many other nations throughout the world.
- The state now boasts 13 expressways, making it the first state in the nation to do so.
- Six of the 13 expressways totaling 3200 km are in use while the other seven are under construction.
- On July 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially open the 296 kilometre long Bundelkhand Expressway, which will link Bundelkhand and Delhi. In the last five years, CM Yogi has drastically altered the state's infrastructure.
- The BJP government has put a lot of effort into revitalising the roads after realising that infrastructure is the economic growth engine and that roads are a reflection of advancement.
- A network of roadways linking other states and other nations has been established, starting from the hamlet and continuing through the streets to block and district offices. In 70 years, just 1.5 expressways were constructed.
- The NCR and western UP population's long-standing request has been met by the double engine government.
- Taking the Delhi-Meerut Expressway as an illustration. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the cornerstone for the 594 kilometre long Ganga Expressway.

7. SWAMY RAMANUJACHARYA: AMIT SHAH VIRTUALLY UNVEILS 'STATUE OF PEACE' IN SRINAGAR



- Union home minister, Amit Shah virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region.
- Saint Ramanujacharya, also known as Ramanuja, is considered to be a great thinker, philosopher and social reformer, a south Indian Brahmin born in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur.
- Ramanuja is known to have revolted against the discrimination of untouchability and played a role in bringing a big change in society.
- He is a follower of Vaishnavism and taught people the principles of salvation.
- He wrote many books, including Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha and Bhagavad Gita Bhasya, based on his belief that is different from the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya.
- The saint is known for judging people not by their caste at birth, but by their character. He is believed to be the first Hindu acharya to initiate women into 'sanyasa' (renunciation of the world).
- He is also known for blending Vedanta methodology with 'bhakti'.
- After Ramanuja's demise, the female community of 'sanyasinis' faded away.

By Sameer Singhal



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2022

National News

1. NOVAK DJOKOVIC BEATS NICK KYRGIOS TO WIN 7TH WIMBLEDON TITLE AND 21ST GRAND SLAM AND ELENA RYBAKINA WINS WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S



- In Tennis, Serbian star Novak Djokovic won Wimbledon 2022 after beating Australia's Nick Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in London.
- The 35-year-old also became the fourth player in the open era after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, and Bjorn Borg won four titles in a row.
- Djokovic has a total of seven Wimbledon titles with his last four titles coming in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022.
- It is Djokovic's 21st Grand Slam title overall, putting him one behind record-holder Rafael Nadal. Kyrgios was playing in his first Grand Slam final.
- Kyrgios, who got a walkover in the semi-final after Rafael Nadal pulled out due to an abdominal injury, churned out as many as 27 aces.
- 17th seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan has clinched Wimbledon Women's Singles title defeating third seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia in the final 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 this evening.
- Elena has become the first tennis player from Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles championship.

2. WORLD POPULATION DAY IS BEING OBSERVED TODAY



- Today is World Population Day. The day is observed on the 11th of July every year.
- The objective of the day is to increase the awareness of the people towards the worldwide population issues.
- World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.
- By a resolution in December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.
- The Day was first marked on 11th July 1990 in more than 90 countries. In 2011, the world reached a population of 7 billion.
- This year, the number will hit 8 billion. The theme for World Population Day 2022 is 'A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all.'

3. EID-UL-AZHA CELEBRATED WITH RELIGIOUS FERVOUR ACROSS INDIA



- Eid-ul-Azha, the festival of sacrifice was celebrated with religious fervour and due

reverence across the country on Sunday.

- The faithful offered Eid namaaz or prayers in Eidgahs and mosques this morning. Later they exchanged Eid greetings.
- In Delhi, main congregations were held at Jama Masjid, Fatehpuri Mosque and Shahi Eidgah.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Imams, who led the prayers appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony and prayed for the peace and progress of the country.
- Eid-ul-Azha is celebrated to commemorate the willingness of Hazrat Ibrahim to sacrifice his only son in obedience of God's command.

4. IFAD CHOOSES ITS TOP FINANCE EXECUTIVE, ALVARO LARIO, AS NEXT PRESIDENT



- The governing council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has been appointed as Spain's Alvaro Lario new President. Lario will take office on 1 October 2022 and serve a four-year term.
- He will succeed Gilbert Houngbo who has led the organisation since 2017.
- Lario, who would become IFAD 7th president, will lead the UN agency at a crucial time when global food prices are surging, induced by the Ukraine war, climate change, and the pandemic, with the World's poorest countries hardest hit.
- New figures published by five UN agencies including IFAD showed the world falling further behind in efforts to end hunger and poverty in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition report showed that hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 150 million since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. PM MODI'S DIGITAL INDIA PROGRESSES IN WEST BENGAL! BARDHAMAN AND DURGAPUR GET INTERNET EXCHANGE POINTS



- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, inaugurated two new Internet Exchange Points (IXP) of NIXI at Durgapur and Vardhman in the presence of S. S. Ahluwalia, Member of Parliament for Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha, in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision to connect every Indian.
- It is under the 1000-day plan of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The National Internet Exchange of India also manages the first Internet Exchange in the state of Kolkata (NIXI).
- With the opening of two new Internet Exchange Points in Durgapur and Bardhaman, it is currently increasing its presence throughout the state.
- The opening of these new NIXI internet exchanges throughout the state will help to advance and improve broadband and Internet services both locally and in surrounding areas.
- By improving their broadband services to their end users and changing the lives of the people in the area, the internet service providers connecting at these sites will gain.
- Every sector of the state will benefit from the opening of these new IXPs, including MSMEs and other business sectors as well as the health, education, agricultural, and startup ecosystems.

6. GUJARAT TO HOST 36TH NATIONAL GAMES FROM SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 10

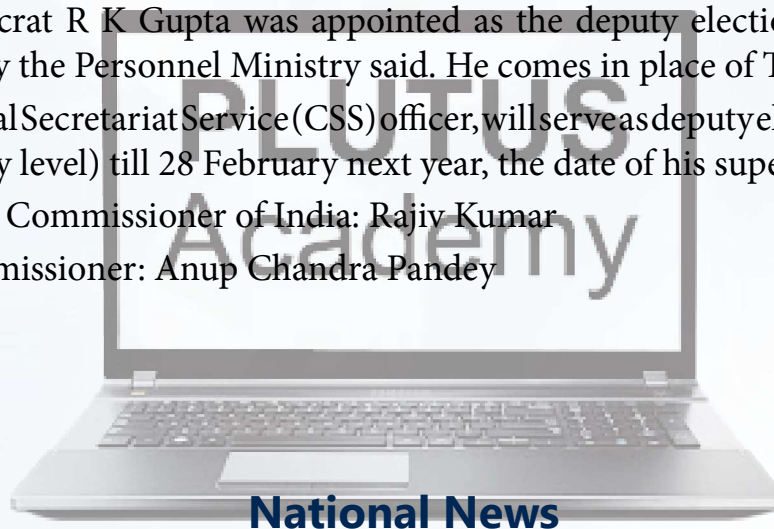


- Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday announced that his state will, for the time in history, host the 36th National Games between September 27 and October 10.
- The prestigious event is being held after a gap of seven years, the last being in 2015 in Kerala, due to several reasons, including the coronavirus pandemic since 2020.
- There will be more than 34 sports represented at the national games, which will take place in six cities.
- In both indoor and outdoor competitions, athletes from all over the nation are anticipated to display their prowess in sports including athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, judo, wrestling, kabaddi, kho-kho, mallakhambha, and yoga. Goa was another strong candidate for the location this year, in addition to Gujarat.
- When Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat in 2010, he unveiled the “Khel Mahakhumbh” initiative.
- Gujarat has created a flourishing sports ecosystem as a result of the enormous success of Khel Mahakhumbh.

7. RK GUPTA APPOINTED DEPUTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER



- Senior bureaucrat R K Gupta was appointed as the deputy election commissioner, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. He comes in place of T Sreekanth.
- Gupta, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, will serve as deputy election commissioner (Joint secretary level) till 28 February next year, the date of his superannuation.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar
- Election Commissioner: Anup Chandra Pandey



By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. WORLD GAMES 2022: ABHISHEK VERMA AND JYOTHI SUREKHA VENNAM PAIR WINS FIRST MEDAL IN ARCHERY



- Compound Archers Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam beat Mexico's Andrea

Becerra and Miguel Becerra by a solitary point in the mixed team compound archery event at the World Games 2022.

- In a tweet, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said this is India's first medal in these World Games and first-ever Archery medal at the event.

2. INDIA'S ARJUN BABUTA WINS FIRST GOLD MEDAL AT ISSF WORLD CUP IN SOUTH KOREA



- In Shooting, India's Arjun Babuta have won his first gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage at Changwon in South Korea.
- He defeated Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Lucas Kozeniesky of the USA 17-9 in the final yesterday. Arjun Babuta had also topped the eight-men ranking round with a score of 261.1 ahead of Lucas Kozeniesky's 260.4.
- Israel's Sergey Richter settled for bronze with a score of 259.9 while India's Paarth Makhija managed 258.1 for a fourth-place finish.
- Arjun Babuta had qualified second to make it to the eight-man ranking round behind Sergey Richter on Sunday. Paarth Makhija had qualified in fifth place from the 53-strong field.
- The third Indian shooter in the mix, Shahu Tushar Mane finished 30th. This was India's first medal under new national foreign rifle coach Thomas Farnik.

3. PM MODI UNVEILS NATIONAL EMBLEM CAST ON THE ROOF OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the National Emblem cast on the roof of the New Parliament Building this morning.
- He also interacted with the Shramjeevis involved in the construction work of the new Parliament.
- The National Emblem is made of bronze with a total weight of 9500 kilograms and is 6.5 meters in height.
- It has been cast at the top of the Central Foyer of New Parliament Building.
- A supporting structure of steel weighing around 6500 kilograms has also been constructed to support the Emblem.
- The concept sketch and process of casting the National Emblem on the roof of New Parliament Building has gone through eight different stages of preparation from clay modeling and computer graphics to bronze casting and polishing.

4. SITES ASSOCIATED WITH BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR TO BE DECLARED AS MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE



- National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with architect of

the Indian Constitution Babsaheb Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National importance.

- Culture Ministry said, Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara, where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917 be declared as Monument of National Importance.
- This place is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Dr. Ambedkar.
- The National Monuments Authority has also recommended a place in Satara in Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar received his primary education in Pratap Rao Bhosle High School to be declared as monument of National importance.
- The school register still shows with pride a child student Bhim Rao's signature in Marathi.

5. NASA RELEASED FIRST FULL-COLOR IMAGE CAPTURED BY JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE



- The first full-color image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope was released yesterday. It provides glimpses of what the early Universe looked like.
- US President Joe Biden presented the image at an event at the White House.
- The clearest image to date of the early universe, going back 13 billion years, has been released and it was stunning.
- The image showed thousands of galaxies and some of the faintest objects observed, colorized in blue, orange, and white tones.
- The image, captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, the most powerful to be placed in orbit, covers a patch of the sky roughly the size of a grain of sand held at arm's length by someone standing on earth.
- The full-color image came on the eve of a larger unveiling of photos and spectrographic

data that NASA plans to showcase Today at the Goddard Space Flight Center in suburban Maryland.

6. RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGIST PADMASHREE ENAMUL HAQUE PASSES AWAY



- Eminent archaeologist, historian and former Director-General of the Bangladesh National Museum Dr. Enamul Haque passed away in Dhaka yesterday.
- He was 85. Dr. Enamul Haque was conferred with Padma Shri for the year 2020 for his work on Bengal's Iconography and terracotta art.
- Dr. Enamul Haque was instrumental in setting up the Bangladesh National Museum.
- He was appointed its Director in 1973 and served as its Director-General between 1983-91.
- Dr Haque is credited with finding and protecting several invaluable sculptures from various archaeological sites in Bangladesh.
- During his illustrious career, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2016 and the highest civilian award of Bangladesh Swadhinta Padak in 2020.
- Dr. Enamul Haque was a multi-faceted personality. He was a scholar, museologist, cultural activist, freedom fighter, song-writer and TV personality.
- His TV programme 'Amader Oitirjo' or 'Our Heritage' brought out the rich historical past of the country to the common people.

7. RAILWAYS TERMINATES SERVICES OF NHSRCL MD AND BULLET TRAIN PROJECT HEAD SATISH AGNIHOTRI



- Rajendra Prasad has been appointed as the Managing Director of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) after the government dismissed Satish Agnihotri over corruption allegations.
- He is working as Director of Project with NHSRCL since November 2017 and is overall in charge of civil engineering works of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project, popularly known as the Bullet Train Project.
- As the Director of Project, NHSRCL, he has spearheaded the civil works of the MAHSR section in the state of Gujarat i.e. 352 Km including the award of the biggest single Infrastructure contract in the country comprising of 237 Km long via-duct and 4 stations.
- He has worked as Divisional Railway Manager, Chakradharpur (Feb 2015- May 2017), Group General Manager, DFCCIL (Dec 2011- Feb 2015), Chief Engineer, Construction Southern Railways (June 2006 – April 2009) and Resident Engineer, General Consultants to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (Feb 1999 – Feb 2004).

8. FORMER VSNL CHIEF, 'FATHER OF INTERNET IN INDIA', B K SYNGAL DIES



- Brijendra K Syngal, former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed away after a prolonged illness.
- He was 82. Syngal, who has been acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet, was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment.
- As the Chairman of VSNL, he was unofficially known as the 'bulldozer' for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles, as a result of which VSNL grew from a \$125 million company in 1991 into a \$1.65 billion communications giant by 1998.
- Born in Ambala a year after World War II broke out, he started his schooling at DAV Model School in 1945, in Lahore.
- After the partition in 1947, he moved with his family to Delhi. During his school days, he took a liking for cricket and stamp collection.
- In 1957 he got into the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur, where he pursued electrical engineering.

9. UNION MIN JITENDRA SINGH TO INAUGURATE IS4OM FOR SAFE & SUSTAINABLE SPACE ENVIRONMENT



- With the help of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM), India has increased its ability to protect its space assets on its own.
- Mr. S Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, are slated to officially launch the IS4OM in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.
- The IS4OM system was developed with a comprehensive viewpoint, according to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), to assure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the benefits of sustainable use of space for national development.
- Additionally, as part of IS4OM, specialised labs for space debris reduction and cleanup,

compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations, and diverse R&D activities have been set up.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. PM MODI TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST I2U2 (INDIA-ISRAEL-UAE-USA) LEADERS' VIRTUAL SUMMIT TOMORROW



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the First I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit tomorrow along with Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President of the USA Joseph R. Biden.
- The Leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in the respective regions and beyond.
- These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for businesspersons and workers.
- The I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries held on 18th
- October last year. Each country also has Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.
- I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

2. TWITTER SUES ELON MUSK FOR BREACHING 44 BILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT



- Twitter has sued Elon Musk for violating 44 billion dollar deal to buy the social media platform. In its petition, the company asked a Delaware court in US to order Musk to complete the merger at the agreed 54.20 dollar per Twitter share.
- The suit urges the court to order the billionaire to complete his deal, arguing that no financial damages could repair the damage he has caused.
- The suit said, Musk's conduct simply confirms that he wants to escape the binding contract he freely signed and to damage Twitter in the process.
- The petitioner said, Twitter has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm as a result of defendants' breaches.
- After weeks of threats, Musk late last week pulled the plug on the deal, accusing Twitter of "misleading" statements about the number of fake accounts.

3. WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: 94-YEAR-OLD BHAGWANI DEVI FROM INDIA WINS GOLD MEDAL IN 100 M SPRINT IN FINLAND



- In Athletics, Bhagwani Devi, a 94-year-old sprinter from India, won the gold medal in the

100 m sprint at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Tampere, Finland.

- She won the gold with a timing of 24.74 seconds. Bhagwani also bagged a bronze medal in shot put.
- World Masters Athletics Championships was held in Tampere from June 29 - July 10.
- It is a world championship-caliber event for the sport of athletics for male and female athletes aged 35 years and over.

4. SANJAI KUMAR RECOMMENDED FOR POST OF CMD, RAI TEL



- The public enterprise's selection board (PESB) has selected Sanjai Kumar for the post of Chairman & Managing Director, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RCIL).
- Currently, he is serving as Director (Network Planning & Marketing) and (Project, Operations & Maintenance – Additional Charge) in Railtel.
- Mr. Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in technology in electronic and telecommunication engineering from the University of Allahabad and a post-graduate diploma in management from Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.
- He is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers ("IRSSE") and joined the service on November 30, 1992.
- While working as an officer of IRSSE, he joined Railtel on a deputation basis on March 19, 2002, and subsequently was made a regular employee of the Company from August 12, 2008.
- He has over 27 years of experience working as an officer of IRSSE including over 18 years of experience in managing projects and marketing departments in our Company.

5. INDIA'S FIRST ELEVATED URBAN EXPRESSWAY TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 2023



- The Dwarka Expressway, which is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India, will be operational in 2023, said Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- Dwarka Expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of the Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi.
- It will be a 16-lane access-controlled highway with the provision of a minimum three-lane service road on both sides.
- The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 crores.
- It has a total length of 29 km, out of which 19 km falls in Haryana and the remaining 10 km is in Delhi.
- The expressway begins from Shiv-Murti on NH-8 (Delhi-Gurugram expressway) and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, through Dwarka Sector 21, Gurugram border and Basai.

6. DEUTSCHE BAHN BECOMES THE FIRST INTERMODAL PARTNER OF STAR ALLIANCE



- Deutsche Bahn (DB) will be the world's first Intermodal Partner of Star Alliance.
- With this, DB and the aviation industry are sending another strong signal for the environment-friendly evolution of the travel industry.
- Under the new cooperation, DB customers and passengers of Star Alliance member airlines will be able to start or end their long-distance journey comfortably on the climate-friendly train.
- Germany is the first market and DB is the world's first partner in the new Star Alliance initiative.
- An industry-first, Star Alliance's Inter modal Partnership model intelligently combines airlines with railway, bus, ferry or any other transport ecosystem, alliance-wide.
- It is designed to link loyalty systems and facilitate seamless airport/station/port transit. Star Alliance plans to expand intermodal partnerships in the future.

7. NAGPUR METRO AND NHAI SETS NEW RECORD FOR BUILDING LONGEST DOUBLE DECKER FLYOVER



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Maharashtra Metro achieved the world record for constructing the longest double-decker viaduct with a length of 3.14 km in Nagpur.
- The longest viaduct with highway flyover and metro rail supported on single column piers.
- The maximum metro stations constructed on a double-decker viaduct are recognized by the Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records.
- The development is the fulfilment of the promise by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government on building world-class infrastructure in New India.

8. UNION MINISTER MEENAKSHI LEKHI LAUNCHES BOOK ON SACRIFICE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS



- Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi has launched a book in Gujarati commemorating the contributions of freedom fighters at a function.
- The book, 'Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro', celebrates 75 freedom fighters and shares the stories of the sacrifices made by them for the country.
- The book is a part of the "Swadhinta Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to mark the 75th year of the country's Independence.
- The book commemorates the contribution of our freedom fighters who battled imperialism & dedicated their lives for Maa Bharati.
- Poet and president of the book release function's guidance committee, Bhagyesh Jha, said the book is an attempt to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom.

By Sameer Singhal

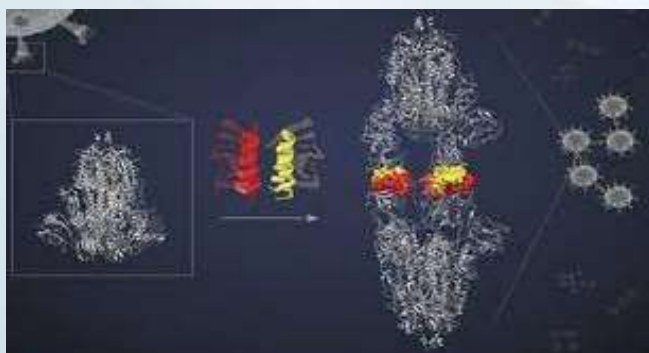
National News

1. ANNUAL KANWAR YATRA BEGINS TODAY AFTER A GAP OF TWO YEARS



- The annual Kanwar Yatra will begin today after a gap of two years. The Yatra, which was canceled in the last two years due to the COVID-19 outbreak, is expected to be attended by around 3-4 crore devotees this year.
- Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh governments have made elaborate arrangements to manage such a large gathering.
- The Kanwar Yatra will pass through Meerut, Saharanpur, Ghaziabad, Shamli, and Bhagpat districts in Uttar Pradesh.
- It will conclude in Haridwar, Gomukh, and Gangotri in Uttarakhand on the 26th of this month.
- Devotees participating in the yatra will collect the sacred water from the river Ganga.
- Devotees chant slogans in praise of Lord Shiva and sing bhajans and kirtans while taking part in the yatra.

2. INDIAN SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NOVEL MECHANISM TO INACTIVATE SARS-CoV-2



- Indian scientists have developed a new class of synthetic peptides that can not only block the entry of the SARS-CoV-2 virus into cells but also clump the virus particles together,

reducing their ability to infect the living cell.

- This novel mechanism provides an alternative to make viruses like SARS-CoV-2 inactive, promising a new class of peptides as antivirals.
- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science in collaboration with researchers from the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology have exploited this approach to design these peptides.

3. 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY: GOVT TO LAUNCH HAR GHAR TIRANGA NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO HOIST NATIONAL FLAG



- The Central government will soon launch a nationwide campaign Har Ghar Tiranga to inspire countrymen to hoist the national flag at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day.
- The initiative has been taken under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, for which the Ministry of Culture is the nodal ministry.
- The Indian National Flag is a symbol of national pride for the entire nation and to further honor the national flag, Union Home Minister Amit Shah who oversees all efforts under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has approved the program of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.
- It envisages encouraging Indians everywhere to hoist the national flag.
- Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the 75th year of Independence is not only an act of personal connection with the Tricolour but also an embodiment of our commitment to nation-building.
- The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of people and promote awareness about our national flag.
- The use, display, and hoisting of the Indian National Flag is guided by the Flag Code of India, 2002.

4. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI ADDRESSES ICEMA'S ANNUAL SESSION 2022 IN NEW DELHI



- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said there should be an organisation for Indian construction equipment manufacturing industry for research and giving appropriate technology for the future.
- Mr Gadkari said this while addressing the Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers' Association, ICEMA's Annual Session 2022 in New Delhi.
- He said the government will support in making of such organisation which can be qualitatively helpful for development of futuristic technology.
- The Minister emphasized on research and development of equipments. Mr Gadkari also stressed on the importance of bio LNG, Bio CNG and Hydrogen as alternate fuels for cost saving and reduction in pollution.

5. PARAMESWARAN IYER TAKES OVER AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NITI AAYOG



- Mr. Parameswaran Iyer today took charge as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI

Aayog.

- A 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Mr. Iyer has worked with both the public and private sectors.
- He was Secretary in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in New Delhi from 2016 to 2020.
- Mr. Iyer spearheaded the implementation of the country's flagship Swachh Bharat Mission, which successfully delivered access to safe sanitation to 550 million people.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Iyer said, he is honoured and humbled to have been given the incredible opportunity to serve the country again as CEO of NITI Aayog.
- He said, he is deeply grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for another chance to work under his leadership towards a transformed India.

6. RBI APPROVES MEENA HEMCHANDRA AS PART-TIME CHAIRMAN OF KARUR VYSYA BANK



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised Meena Hemchandra's appointment as the Karur Vysya bank's temporary chairperson for three years, according to private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank.
- Hemchandra's application for the position of non-executive independent (part-time) chairperson of the bank had been recommended by the bank to the RBI in May.
- Hemchandra's (64) term is approved for 3 years beginning on the day he assumes office.
- She has over 35 years of banking expertise in a variety of RBI areas as a career banker.
- From June 2015 to November 2017, Hemchandra served as the RBI's Executive Director.
- Karur Vysya Bank shares were down 0.63 percent from the previous close, trading at Rs. 47.40 per share on the BSE.

7. FORMER NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN BARRY SINCLAIR DIES AGED 85



- Former New Zealand cricket captain and batter Barry Sinclair died at the age of 85.
- The former skipper was the third Kiwi batter after Bert Sutcliffe and John R Reid to score 1,000 runs in Test cricket.
- Sinclair played 21 Tests for New Zealand between 1963 and 1968, scoring 1148 runs at 29.43, including three centuries – against South Africa, Pakistan and England.
- Sinclair captained the side in three Tests, initially taking over the reins from an injured Murray Chapple on the morning of the second Test against England at Dunedin in 1966, retaining them for the final Test of the series at Auckland, and for the next Test against India, some two years later.

8. UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL INAUGURATES NEW NIFT CAMPUS IN PANCHKULA



- The 17th campus of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Panchkula was officially opened by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who referred to it as the “fulcrum of development of the textile sector in the state.”

- According to Khattar, 20% of seats at this institute will be earmarked for people from Haryana in accordance with NIFT rules.
- He said that this campus' foundation stone was set on December 29, 2016, by Smriti Irani, who was the Union Textiles Minister at the time.
- The CM stated that the institute building, which was constructed across 10.45 acres of land in cooperation with the textile ministry, cost Rs 133.16 crore to build.
- The new NIFT campus will launch three online hybrid courses in photography for e-commerce, social media marketing, and digital designing for textiles. As part of the comprehensive training, developing co-curriculum with organizations like the National Institute of Design and the National Institute of Packaging can be considered.
- Similar to how IIM is known for management and IIT for engineering, NIFT has been recognised for fashion technology for the past 36 years.

By Sameer Singhal

1. NASSCOM, GOOGLE SET UP CALL CENTER TO HELP RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS SCALE UP BUSINESS



- Nasscom Foundation and Google have announced setting up a call center in collaboration with a not-for-profit body
- Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) to help women farmers scale up their business.
- The “DigiVanni Call Center” project is being run on a pilot basis and initially around 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs shall be covered across six states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- DigiVaani will be one place where rural women entrepreneurs will be able to call and get information around various schemes available for them, which can help them scale up their business, be it government schemes or any other information that can be of help for them.

- A DigiVaani call centre has been set up at the Delhi and Lucknow offices of ISAP. The project is funded by Google, through its philanthropic arm Google.org..

2. JAISHANKAR LAUNCHES ‘CONNECTING THROUGH CULTURE’ A FIRST OF ITS KIND BOOK ON INDIAN SOFT POWER



- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched ‘Connecting through Culture’, an anthology of essays on various aspects of India’s soft power strengths, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, India.
- The Minister described the book as the “good cop” in diplomacy and said that it can be used to encourage others to work with India because “it creates a comfort about India.
- It takes different aspects of India and to some degree, it brings out the familiarity with different facets of India.”
- The anthology in many ways is a very notable contribution to understanding India, appreciating India, and in many ways valuing India.

3. PM MODI AT FIRST I2U2 SUMMIT: AGREED ON JOINT INVESTMENT IN FOOD, HEALTH, ENERGY SECTORS; ROADMAP READY



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first virtual I2U2 Summit. The I2U2 is a four-nation grouping, where “I” stands for India and Israel, and “U” for the US and the UAE.
- PM Modi was joined by United States President Joe Biden, Israeli PM Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The main focus of the virtual meeting was on the food security crisis and clean energy.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also announced an investment of USD 2 billion to develop a series of integrated food parks across India to help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East.
- This I2U2 grouping was conceptualised during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries held on October 18 2021.
- I2U2 will bring together countries, governments and the private sector to tackle challenges.
- India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

4. FSIB RECOMMENDS FORMER UNION BANK OF INDIA MD FOR POST OF NABFID MD



- Rajkiran Rai G, a former managing director of the Union Bank of India, has been recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) to lead the newly established NaBFID, which will cost Rs 20,000 crore.
- After conducting interviews with the five finalists, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions chose the managing director for the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).
- In May of this year, Rai finished his extended stint as managing director of the state-owned Union Bank of India.
- The FSIB has made this decision as its first decision after its incorporation. The former Banks Board Bureau (BBB) was transformed into the FSIB with some changes to its mandate.

- The institution will have one MD and no more than three DMDs, in accordance with the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act of 2021.
- In addition to the equity capital of Rs 20,000 crore, the government has pledged a grant of Rs 5000 crore.
- The government nominated senior banker KV Kamath to lead the NaBFID for three years in October 2021.

5. CRICKETER SHIKHAR DHAWAN COLLABORATES WITH WEB3 STARTUPS, BLIV. CLUB AND WIOM TO LAUNCH THE FIRST SPORTS CITY IN THE METAVERSE



- Shikhar Dhawan, an Indian cricketer, announced a partnership with Web3 metaverse startup WIOM and financial firm Bliv.Club to build the first sports city in the metaverse.
- It is planned to have a launch in September.
- The global sports market is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41.3 percent, from \$354.96 billion in 2021 to \$501.43 billion in 2022.
- At a CAGR of 9%, the sports market is anticipated to reach \$707.84 billion in 2026.

6. ROHIT SHARMA BECOMES FIRST CAPTAIN IN HISTORY TO WIN 13 T20Is IN A ROW



- Rohit Sharma, the captain of India, became the first captain in cricket history to win 13 straight T20Is.

- This accomplishment was made by Rohit in Southampton's first T20I of a three-match series against England.
- Rohit Sharma led the Men in Blue to victories over New Zealand, the West Indies, Sri Lanka, and now England after taking over as captain from Virat Kohli.

7. NEW POLICY FOR DEFENCE MANUFACTURING TARGETS Rs 1.75 LAKH CRORE IN FIVE YEARS



- Hoping that indigenous defence manufacturing sector will act as a driver for the economy, the government has come out with a draft policy for production and export with an aim to achieve a turnover of Rs. 1.75 lakh crore by 2025.
- The Defence Ministry released the Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 seeking feedback from stakeholders.
- “In order to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, multiple announcements were made under ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Package,’” the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

8. NRTI re-named as GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA; GETS NOD FOR BECOMING A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY



- National Rail and Transportation Institute upgraded as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, the deemed to be university will be upgraded to a central university.
- The university has been renamed as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce a Bill in Parliament, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV).
- The amendment would help in converting the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a Deemed-to-be university into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University.
- The NRTI offers BSc in transportation technology, BBA in transportation management courses, and MSc in railway system engineering and integration.



By Sameer Singhal

1. CHESS OLYMPIAD: ODISHA CM HANDS OVER RELAY TORCH TO PADMINI ROUT



- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik on Friday received the Relay Torch for Chess Olympiad and handed it over to Padmini Rout, a celebrated chess player of the state in capital Bhubaneswar.
- Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that it is a proud moment for India as it is hosting an international sports event like Chess Olympiad on the 75th year of independence.
- Adding that chess originated from India and was known as Chaturang, the Chief Minister said that it's probably for the first time in India that representatives from around 200

countries will be participating in any sporting event.

- Acknowledging that India has produced some of the best Chess champions in the world, he hoped that the upcoming mega event will further promote the game.
- As many as 6 players will take part in the Chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai.

2. DEFENSE MINISTRY SETS UP APEX COMMITTEE FOR PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY AUDIT



- Defense Ministry has set up an apex committee with Defence Secretary as Chairman to conduct a Performance and Efficiency Audit into various aspects of its activities.
- This kind of audit is expected to provide valuable inputs to the top management of the Ministry in planning and execution of projects, and suggest systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedures and identification of risk factors.
- It is a major shift from the existing transaction-based compliance audit to carry out an outcome-based Performance and Efficiency Audit aimed at enhancing overall efficiency.
- The members of the committee include Vice Chiefs of the three Services, Secretary Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee, Controller General of Defence Accounts, Director General (Acquisition) and other senior officials of Ministry of Defense and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

3. BCCI PRESIDENT SOURAV GANGULY FELICITATED BY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT



- Former India captain and current BCCI president, Sourav Ganguly was felicitated by the British Parliament.
- The Indian cricket legend was felicitated on the same date July 13 when he led India to Natwest final win in 2002 and exactly 20 years later on the same day he was honoured in the same city.
- He was elected as the President of BCCI in 2019.
- Sourav Chandidas Ganguly, affectionately known as Dada, is an Indian cricket administrator, commentator and former national cricket team captain who is the 39th and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- He is popularly honoured as Maharaja of Indian Cricket.
- Ganguly was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004, one of India's highest civilian awards.
- Ganguly was awarded with the Banga Bibhushan Award from the Government of West Bengal on 20 May 2013.

4. KERALA REPORTS INDIA'S FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE



- The first case of monkeypox was confirmed in India after a person who had returned to

Kerala from UAE developed symptoms of the disease.

- His samples were sent to National Virology Institute in Pune which confirmed the disease. It was first found in monkeys in 1958.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity.
- The virus is transmitted through close contact with another infected person or animal and spreads from lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- The symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle ache and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, and rashes that can look like pimples or blisters on the face, inside the mouth and other parts of the body.

5. MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR PRESENTS MOTHER TERESA MEMORIAL AWARD TO DIA MIRZA, AFROZ SHAH



- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) National Goodwill Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza, and Environmental Activist Mr Afroz Shah were felicitated with the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021.
- The award is given by the Governor of Maharashtra Hon. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.
- Both were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability.
- Ms Dia Mirza was awarded for her astounding and notable efforts in leading pivotal environmental campaigns across India as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNEP, India.
- Mr Afroz Shah was awarded for his impeccable and seminal efforts to lead one of the world's largest beach clean-up movements in India that have inspired people around the world.

6. HAVE MADE INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY MADE LITHIUM ION-CELL, SAYS OLA



- Ola Electric has unveiled the country's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell.
- The Bengaluru-based two-wheeler maker will begin the mass production of the cell-NMC 2170, from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023.
- The use of specific chemicals and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell.
- Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research centre that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed.
- The company was recently allocated 20GWh capacity under the ACC PLI scheme by the govt for developing advanced cells in India.
- Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August 2021 and has also set up the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturing facility in India.

7. BANGLADESH PACER SHOHDUL ISLAM SUSPENDED FOR DOPING VIOLATION



- Shohidul Islam, a fast bowler for Bangladesh was sentenced to a ten-month suspension after admitting to violating Article 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code.
- He participated in one T20 match for Bangladesh. Mohammad Rizwan, a Pakistani batter, was the only one he was able to dismiss, but Bangladesh went on to lose the game and the series 0-3.
- Shohidul's sample included Clomifene, a drug that is forbidden in both competitive and non-competitive matches.
- The drug was taken by means of medication for which he has a prescription.
- Shohidul was exonerated of having plans to take the medicine for enhancement because he was using it for medicinal purposes.

8. AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR TO LAUNCH E-NAM PLATFORM TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL TRADE



- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is organizing a two-day National Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers in Bengaluru today.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje and Kailash Choudhary, and Ministers of Agriculture and Horticulture of the States will participate in the conference.
- This conference will focus on farmers' accessibility digitally to multiple numbers of markets, buyers, and service providers and to bring transparency in trade transactions with the intent to improve price discovery mechanisms for better price realization of farm produce to the farmers.
- The technical session will cover nine thematic areas, viz, Digital Agriculture, Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojan, Natural Farming, FPO, e-NAM, Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, National Food Security Mission, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, New Technology by ICAR.

9. KERALA REPORTS INDIA'S FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE



- Agnikul Cosmos has inaugurated India's first-ever factory to manufacture 3D-printed rocket engines in Chennai.
- The facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets.
- It was unveiled by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran and ISRO chairman S Somanath in the presence of Pawan Goenka, the chairman of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre).
- The company facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets.
- This will allow the factory to produce eight engines every month and build the number of engines required to launch Agnibaan – its two-stage launch vehicle, expected to launch by the end of the year.

By Sameer Singhal



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2022

National News

1. NDA VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JAGDEEP DHANKAR TO FILE HIS NOMINATION TODAY



- National Democratic Alliance (NDA) vice-presidential candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar will file his nomination today.
- The last date for filing the nominations is tomorrow and the election will be held on 6th of August.
- Margaret Alva is the opposition's candidate for Vice Presidential Election. She will file the nomination tomorrow.
- The Vice-President is elected by the members of the Electoral College consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- For 16th Vice-Presidential Election, the Electoral College consists of, 233 elected members and 12 nominated members of Rajya Sabha, and 543 elected members of Lok Sabha.
- The Electoral College comprises a total of 788 members of both Houses of Parliament. The term of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu is ending on 10th of next month.

2. INS SINDHUDHVAJ DECOMMISSIONED AFTER 35 YEARS OF GLORIOUS SERVICE TO NATION



- The Submarine, INS Sindhudhvaj bid adieu to Indian Navy on Saturday, 16 Jul 2022, serving for a glorious period of 35 years. Vice Adm Biswajit Dasgupta Flag Officer Commanding -in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command was the Chief Guest for the ceremony.
- The Decommissioning event was attended by 15 of the former Commanding Officers including Cmde SP Singh (Retd), the Commissioning CO and 26 Commissioning crew veterans
- The submarine crest depicts a gray colour nurse shark and the name means flag bearer at sea.
- Sindhudhvaj, as the name suggests, was the flag bearer of indigenisation and Indian Navy's efforts towards achieving Atmanirbharta in the Russian built Sindhughosh class submarines throughout her journey in the navy
- She had many a firsts to her credit including operationalisation of the indigenised sonar USHUS, Indigenised Satellite Communication systems Rukmani and MSS, Inertial Navigation System and Indigenised Torpedo Fire Control System.

3. SINGAPORE OPEN: INDIAN SHUTTLE PV SINDHU CLINCHES WOMEN'S SINGLE TITLE; PREZ, PM MODI CONGRATULATES SHUTTLE

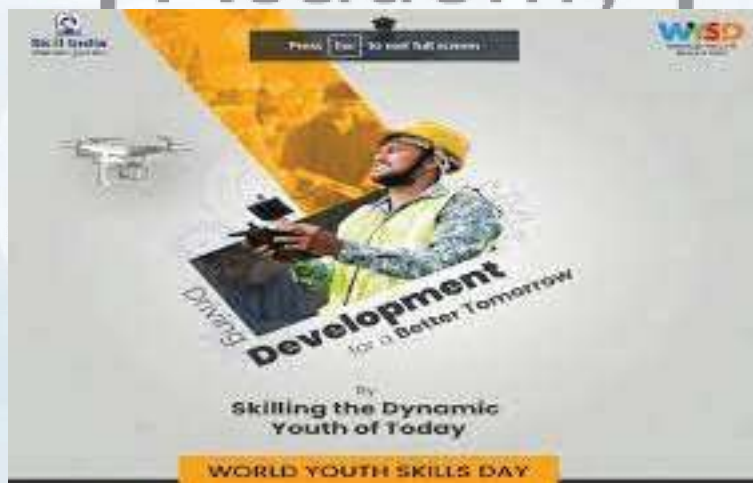


- In Badminton, ace Indian shuttle PV Sindhu has clinched Women's Single title of

Singapore Open.

- The Two-time Olympic medalist defeated Wang Zhi Yi of China, 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 to claim her maiden title in Singapore Open and third title this year after registering wins in Korea Open and Swiss Open.
- It took her just 12 minutes to wrap up the opening game which included winning 13 consecutive points.
- Wang Zhi however fought back in superb fashion to draw level as he gained the second game.
- The decider started on a nail-biting note before she gained a five-point lead at the interval. The Chinese looked to fight back but eventually fell short in the end.
- President and Vice President have congratulated ace shuttler PV Sindhu for winning Singapore Open 2022 tournament for the first time.
- President Ram Nath Kovind said, P V Sindhu's resilience and enthusiasm are inspiring.
- Mr Kovind hoped that she will continue to bring glory and pride to the country..

4. WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY IS BEING OBSERVED TODAY



- The World Youth Skills Day is being observed today. It is celebrated every year on July 15 after the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) declaration in 2014.
- The day is celebrated to mark the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship, said a statement by UNESCO.
- It added that the day has also provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, firms, employers' and workers' organizations, policy-makers, and development partners.
- This year, the day is being marked amid concerted efforts toward socio-economic recovery from the pandemic that are interconnected with challenges such as climate change, conflict, persisting poverty, rising inequality, rapid technological change, and

demographic transition among others.

- Every year, World Youth Skills Day is marked with a certain theme set by the United Nations.
- The theme for this year is Transforming youth skills for the future

5. RAKSHA MANTRI LAUNCHES Y- 3023 DUNAGIRI, PROJECT 17A FRIGATE AT GRSE LTD, KOLKATA



- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the fourth P17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' into the Hooghly River in Kolkata.
- The Project 17A frigate is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited. The P-17A class is a follow-on of the P-17 Shivalik Class with improved stealth features & advanced weapons.
- The first two ships of the P17A Project were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively.
- The third ship (Udaygiri) was launched at MDL on 17 May 22 earlier this year.
- Security challenges in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific are constantly increasing.
- In order to achieve the Prime Minister's Vision of 'SAGAR', i.e., Security and Growth for All in the Region' and to protect, preserve and promote India's national maritime interests, the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and other organizations have to increase the infrastructure and assets so that the country stays ahead of the curve in dealing with these challenges.

6. GNEW TELEVISION SERIES CALLED “SWARAJ” BEING PROMOTED BY ANURAG THAKUR



- Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, debuted the trailer for the new television series Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha in New Delhi.
- Doordarshan will begin airing this series on August 14th, 2022.
- The contribution of the liberation warriors and unsung heroes of the freedom movement will be highlighted in the 75-episode drama.
- The All India Radio will also air this programme.
- The serial logo was unveiled by Mr. Thakur at New Delhi's Akashwani Bhawan.
- The nation was commemorating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and that the administration had planned numerous events in all corners of the nation in which millions of people had taken part told by the Minister of Information and broadcast.
- The upcoming television series Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha, the debut of the promo is an illustration of the Swaraj that was envisioned during the battle for independence.

7. VARANASI NAMED FIRST CULTURAL AND TOURISM CAPITAL OF SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION



- The holy city of Varanasi showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages will

be declared the first “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

- Varanasi will become the “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative by the eight-member organisation to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.
- Each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation will get the title to highlight its prominence.
- The organisation’s new initiatives ahead of this year’s Heads of the State summit of the SCO scheduled to be held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16 this year.
- The new initiative will come into force after the Samarkand summit following which India will take over the Presidency and host the next Heads of the State summit.

8. V K SINGH TAKES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) OF REC LIMITED



- V.K. Singh has taken charge as Director (Technical) of REC Limited.
- Before this elevation, Singh was Executive Director in REC holding a portfolio of key business areas including Private Sector Project Management, Entity Appraisal and Procurement and is also a Director on the Board of REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited.
- Singh holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee and has a career spanning more than 33 years across power sector PSUs, NTPC, PGCIL and REC.
- In his 15 year stint with REC, he has delivered in key operations of the company involving Policy formulation, Project & Entity Appraisal, Business Planning, Stressed Assets Management and MoU negotiations besides heading operations at REC’s subsidiary for some time

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. MAIRAJ AHMAD KHAN BECOMES FIRST INDIAN SHOOTER TO WIN GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S SKEET EVENT AT ISSF WORLD CUP



- In Shooting, two-time Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan created history by becoming the first Indian shooter to win the gold medal in the men's skeet event at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, South Korea, yesterday.
- Mairaj Ahmad Khan recorded 37 hits out of a possible 40 in the final to win gold. South Korea's Minsu Kim struck 36 for silver while Ben Llewellyn of Great Britain won bronze with 26 hits.
- In the qualifying round, Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 119 from 125 over two days of the men's skeet shooting event.
- In the ranking round, Mairaj Ahmad Khan was up against Germany's Sven Korte, Minki Cho of South Korea and Nicolas Vasilou of Cyprus for another round of 30 targets.
- Mairaj Ahmad Khan topped the round with 27 hits. Sven Korte followed Mairaj Ahmad Khan to the medal round with 25 hits.
- Apart from the gold by Mairaj Ahmad Khan at the ISSF World Cup Changwon 2022, India also won a bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions team event.

2. TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL NELSON MANDELA DAY



- Today is International Nelson Mandela Day.
- The Day is a celebration of 67-year-long fight of former South African President Nelson Mandela's fight against racial discrimination and human rights abuses.
- AIR correspondent reports that Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected President of a free South Africa, a prisoner of conscience, and a human rights lawyer.
- He is known for his work towards empowering women and men regardless of their religion and ethnicity and promoting dialogue and solidarity for justice and lasting peace.
- In recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, UN General Assembly declared 18th of July as Nelson Mandela International Day in its resolution in November 2009.
- Nelson Mandela, who often dubbed the Gandhi of South Africa had a strong Indian connection.
- An avowed Gandhian, Madiba, as Mandela was affectionately also known around the world, always praised Gandhi for his principles of 'Satya and Ahimsa' and followed his philosophy.
- He chose the land of Gandhi as his first destination, whom he called his 'political guru' and a 'role model'.

3. VETERAN SINGER BHUPINDER SINGH PASSES AWAY IN MUMBAI



- Veteran playback singer Bhupinder Singh passed away in Mumbai yesterday evening.
- His wife and singer Mitali Singh informed that the singer was suffering from several health complications, including urinary issues since some time.
- 82-year old Singh had started his career with All India Radio and he was also associated with Doordarshan Delhi. He sang scores of Bollywood numbers in his heavy bass voice.
- He is remembered for his memorable songs in films like “Mausam”, “Satte Pe Satta”, “Ahistā Ahistā”, “Dooriyan”, “Haqeeqat”, and many more.
- Some of his famed songs are “Hoke Majboor Mujhe, Usne Bulaya Hoga”, with Mohammed Rafi, Talat Mehmood, and Manna Dey, “Dil Dhoondhta Hai” and “Duki Pe Duki Ho Ya Satte Pe Satta”.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed anguish on the passing away of eminent singer and musician
- Bhupinder Singh.

4. CENTRE FORMS COMMITTEE ON MSP UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FORMER AGRICULTURE SECRETARY SANJAY AGRAWAL



- The Centre has formed a Committee on Minimum Support Price under the chairmanship of Former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’

Welfare has issued a gazette notification in this regard.

- The panel will comprise Member (Agriculture) in NITI Aayog Ramesh Chand, Agricultural Economists CSC Shekhar from Indian Institute of Economic Development and Sukhpal Singh from IIM- Ahmedabad and Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices senior member Naveen P. Singh.
- Among farmer representatives, the committee will have National award-winning farmer Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, three members from SKM and five members from other farmer organisations include Gunwant Patil, Krishnaveer Choudhary, Pramod Kumar Choudhary, Guni Prakash and Sayyed Pasha Patel.
- Two members of the farmers' cooperative and group include IFFCO Chairman Dilip Sanghani and CNRI General Secretary Binod Anand are also part of the committee.

5. 13TH PETERSBERG CLIMATE DIALOGUE BEGINS IN BERLIN



- The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue began yesterday in Berlin. The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27).
- The informal ministerial meet proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27.
- According to media reports, during the dialogue, ministers and delegations from several countries recalled the urgency to move to the implementation of all the previous resolutions made during the last meeting in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- As per the previous resolution, the fight against climate change requires the preservation of the Congo Basin forests, which alone absorb 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon globally per year.

6. ASHISHKUMAR CHAUHAN SET TO BECOME NSE MD, CEO; SEBI CLEARS HIS APPOINTMENT



- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced the appointment of Ashish Kumar Chauhan as its new managing director and CEO.
- He will succeed Vikram Limaye whose 5-year term ended on 16 July 2022.
- He was one of the founders of NSE where he worked from 1992 to 2000.
- He is best known as the father of modern financial derivatives in India due to his work at NSE.
- This is Chauhan's second tenure in the BSE and under SEBI guidelines, a candidate cannot be appointed as MD & CEO for more than two tenures.
- BSE is also searching for a new CEO in place of Chauhan. As per Sebi norm, the MD and CEO of a stock exchange has to apply and compete with other candidates for the top job after the completion of the five-year term.

7. NARINDER BATRA RESIGNS AS FIH PRESIDENT, GIVES UP IOC MEMBERSHIP TOO



- Veteran sports administrator, Narinder Batra has resigned as President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), as well as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), citing “personal

reasons”.

- Mr Batra ceased to be President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) when the Delhi High Court, on May 25, struck down the post of ‘Life member’ in Hockey India, courtesy of which he had contested the IOA elections and won back in 2017.
- The 65-year-old Mr Batra took charge of the IOA for the first time in 2017 and was eligible to contest for re-election.
- The IOA elections were due in December last year but could not be held as per schedule due to ongoing amendments in the election process.
- Mr Batra became an IOC member in 2019 and later went on to become a member of the Olympic Channel Commission.

8. KERALA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO HAVE ITS OWN INTERNET SERVICE K-FON



- Kerala is now the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who made the announcement.
- The announcement followed the Department of Telecommunications’ granting of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence to the IT infrastructure project of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon), which aims to provide everyone in the state access to the internet.
- K-Fon or Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd is a state government initiative that aims to eliminate the digital gap.
- As per the government, the infrastructure created by this project is expected to complement the state’s current telecom ecosystem.
- The principle behind the establishment of K-Fon is “non -discriminatory” treatment, which means that no service provider or business segment receives preferential treatment, as recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

9. MADE IN INDIA SURGICAL ROBOTIC SYSTEM INSTALLED AT RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE



- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center, New Delhi (RGCi) have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, “SSI-Mantra”, devised by the new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations.
- The ingenious SSI Mantra, a brainchild of World-renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr Sudhir P Srivastava, will be signifying the beginning of a new era of surgical procedures in India, making robotic surgery accessible and affordable for the people of our country.
- After two pilot projects where Dr Sudhir Rawal and his team from RGCi successfully performed a total of 26 surgeries with SSI Mantra, thereby validating safety, feasibility and effectiveness, the robot is now ready to provide an advanced method of surgery, which will be accessible to the general public at a much lower cost.

By Sameer Singhal

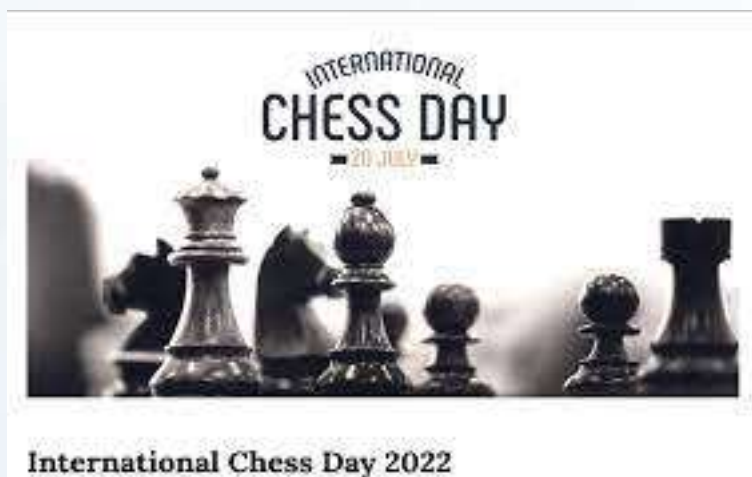
National News

1. RISHI SUNAK TOPS 4TH ROUND OF VOTING FOR UK PRIME MINISTER'S RACE



- Former Chancellor Rishi Sunak has maintained his lead with 118 votes in the fourth and latest round voting in the race to replace Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister.
- He was followed by former defence minister Penny Mordaunt at 92, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss at 86 and lawmaker Kemi Badenoch at 59 votes. Badenoch was eliminated from the contest.
- Tory lawmakers will vote again today with the last-place challenger eliminated each time.
- After the fifth round of voting, the race will be taken over by the Conservative Party headquarters to organise hustings in different parts of the UK.

2. TODAY IS WORLD CHESS DAY



- Today is World Chess Day. The Day is observed to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation in Paris in 1924.

- On 12 December 2019, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 20 July as World Chess Day.
- Chess lovers around the world celebrate their favorite game on this day each year.
- Chess is one of the most ancient, intellectual and cultural games, with a combination of sport, scientific thinking and elements of art.
- Invented in India in the fifth century, this board game was originally named “Chaturanga”.

3. FORMER SC JUDGE VINEET SARAN TAKES OVER AS BCCI ETHICS OFFICER



- Former Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran has taken over as the BCCI’s ethics officer and ombudsman, filling the dual posts lying vacant for a year.
- Saran has succeeded Justice (Retd) D. K. Jain, whose term ended in June last year.
- Saran, 65, is a former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, and also served as a judge in Karnataka and Allahabad High Court.
- BCCI Apex Council will prepare the ground for the home season media rights (2023 onwards) and a full-fledged domestic season after two years at its meeting.

4. ARTIST ACHUTHAN KUDALLUR PASSES AWAY



- An artist who believed that colours have a language of their own and experimented with their myriad forms in his abstract narratives, Achuthan Kudallur passed away on July 18 at a hospital in Chennai. He was 77.
- He was the recipient of several awards, including the National Academy Award and Tamil Nadu Lalit Kala Akademi Award, his journey as an artist began in Kudallur in Palakkad district in Kerala, where he was born in 1945.
- In 1972, his works drew the attention of artists KCS Paniker and Sultan Ali when they were selecting paintings of members of the Madras Arts Club to be exhibited in the annual show by the British Council.

5. NAARM GETS ICAR SARDAR PATEL AWARD



- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance.
- Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM
- The awards were given away at a function to mark the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR.
- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management is a national-level Natural Resource Service training institute for ARS cadre located in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1976.

6. ENGLAND ALL-ROUNDER BEN STOKES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ODI CRICKET



- England all-rounder Ben Stokes has made a surprise announcement to retire from ODI cricket. “Three formats are just unsustainable for me now,” he said.
- The 31-year-old will play his last ODI against South Africa at his home ground in Durham. Stokes’ ODI career will forever be remembered for his Player-of-the-Match performance in the 2019 World Cup final against New Zealand at Lord’s.
- After making his ODI debut against Ireland in 2011, Stokes has scored 2919 runs, including three centuries, and taken 74 wickets in the format.

7. 2016 T20 WORLD CUP WINNERS ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET



- Former West Indies skipper Denesh Ramdin announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
- He played his last match for West Indies in a T20I in December 2019. However, he will continue to play franchise cricket. He has played 74 Tests, 139 ODIs and 71 T20Is.
- He started out in Test cricket, making his debut against Sri Lanka in Colombo in July

2005. He played a part in West Indies T20 World Cup triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

- Meanwhile, West Indies batter Lendl Simmons also announced his retirement from international cricket.
- His decision came to the fore after his Caribbean Premier League franchise Trinbago Knight Riders posted a congratulatory message for the player.

8. KVIC GETS A NEW CHAIRMAN: MANOJ KUMAR

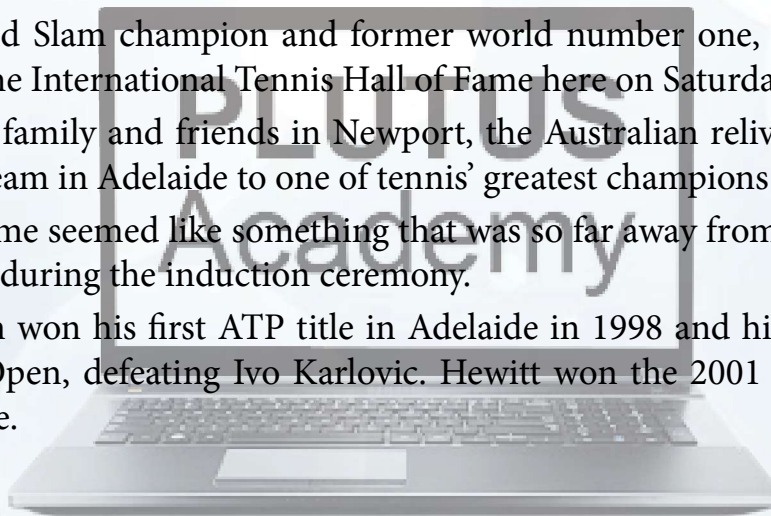


- Manoj Kumar, former expert member of marketing at Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has been promoted to take charge as Chairman of the Government of India's statutory body.
- KVIC's former Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena has moved on to take charge as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- Manoj Kumar was earlier part of KVIC as the Expert Member (Marketing) and has professional experience in the areas of marketing and rural development.
- KVIC is a statutory body incorporated under the Parliament Act with the aim to develop Khadi and other village industries in rural areas.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. Earlier this year KVIC had achieved Rs 1.15 lakh crore turnover in 2021-22, clocking a growth rate of 20.54 per cent from the previous year.

9. AUSTRALIAN GREAT LLEYTON HEWITT INDUCTED INTO TENNIS HALL OF FAME



- Two-time Grand Slam champion and former world number one, Lleyton Hewitt was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame here on Saturday.
- Surrounded by family and friends in Newport, the Australian relived his growth from a boy with a dream in Adelaide to one of tennis' greatest champions in recent memory.
- "The Hall of Fame seemed like something that was so far away from me ever being part of," Hewitt said during the induction ceremony.
- The Aussie icon won his first ATP title in Adelaide in 1998 and his last in 2014 at the Hall of Fame Open, defeating Ivo Karlovic. Hewitt won the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon title.



By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. RANIL WICKREMESINGHE TAKES OATH AS PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA



- In Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe took oath as the President at the Parliament Complex this morning. He was elected to the post yesterday, receiving 134 votes.
- His closest rival, Dullus Alahapperuma, received 82 votes. In the 225-member Parliament, 223 MPs voted to elect a new President.
- Soon after Ranil Wickremesinghe's election, protesters hit the streets, saying they do not accept him as their President.
- Last week, protesters had burnt down his private home and also stormed his Prime Ministerial office in Colombo in demonstrations against his leadership.

2. INDIAN MEN'S TEAM BAGS SILVER MEDAL AT ISSF WORLD CUP



- The Indian men's 25m rapid fire pistol team comprising Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Sameer won the silver medal on the last day of the ISSF World Cup Changwon 2022 in South Korea.
- The medal helped India retain the top spot on the medals table with five gold, six silver and four bronze.
- South Korea managed just one bronze on the final day and finished with four golds, five silver and three bronze medals.
- The Indian trio had made the final after coming through two rounds of qualification, finishing second with 872 points in the first and topping the second round with 578 for a shot at gold. India started strongly to take a 10-2 lead.
- This is the second time this year that the Indian shooters had topped the ISSF World Cup medals table.
- India finished with four gold medals at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.

3. INDIA'S JAVELIN THROWER ANNU RANI QUALIFIES FOR FINAL OF WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS-2022



- India's star javelin thrower Annu Rani qualified for the final of World Athletics Championships-2022 in the US State of Oregon today.
- She finished with the best throw of 59.60 metres in her third and final attempt.
- The national record holder made it to her second successive javelin final at the World Athletics Championship.
- Parul Chaudhary failed to make it to the semifinals after finishing 17th in heat number-2.
- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will compete in the qualification round Group 'A' of men's javelin throw tomorrow.

4. HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX RANKS INDIA 87TH GLOBALLY OUT OF 199 COUNTRIES



- The Henley Passport Index has recently released the list of the World's Most Powerful Passports for the year 2022.
- Three Asian nations Japan, Singapore and South Korea bagged the top three positions on the list, reversing pre-pandemic rankings that were dominated by European nations.
- India is ranked 87th on the list of the world's most powerful passports in 2022, according

to the latest Henley Passport Index from Henley & Partners, an immigration consultancy.

- India's neighbouring country Pakistan reportedly has the fourth worst passport in the world, according to Henley Index.
- The Japanese passport provides hassle-free entry to 193 countries, while Singapore and South Korea both provide entry to 192 countries.
- Among other countries from Asia, India, along with
- Mauritius and Tajikistan, has been ranked 87th, with its passport providing access to 67 countries.
- China ties with Bolivia for the 69th spot, with each of their passports allowing access to 80 destinations.

5. RATTANINDIA POWER APPOINTS BRIJESH GUPTA AS MANAGING DIRECTOR



- RattanIndia Power announced hiring Brijesh Gupta as its new managing director.
- He has experience working across the renewable, steel, mining and commodities sector in India and abroad.
- He has over three decades of experience in the industrial sector.
- Brijesh Gupta held leadership positions in Adani Enterprises, Essar Group, Welspun and Atha Group.
- Other than this, he also has global experience by working across geographies in the USA, Middle East, Iran and the Indian Subcontinent.
- RattanIndia Power is a private power generation company, with an installed capacity of 2,700 MW thermal power plants at Amravati and Nashik (1,350 MW at each location) in Maharashtra, with investments of Rs.18,615 crores (US\$ 2.5 billion).

6. CM DHAMI LAUNCHES BOOK ON TEMPLES OF UTTARAKHAND



- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book “BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL”, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand written by Ms Aradhana Johri (Senior IAS) on the temples of Uttarakhand.
- This book will be known as an authentic introduction to the divine temples of Uttarakhand in the country and abroad.
- Former IAS officer Aradhana Johri who had served earlier as the District Magistrate of Nainital.
- The book based on the mythological temples of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand informs us about our culture and mythology.
- Apart from Chardham, religious tourism should also be promoted.
- The book talks about the temples of Uttarakhand, their significance and the tales associated with them.
- This will connect the main temples coming in different areas of the state and will promote religious tourism by developing them in the form of circuits.

7. ANDHRA PRADESH LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER BLACKBUCK SURVEY ON GODAVARI ISLANDS



- In order to create a conservation strategy to safeguard the endangered species, the Andhra

Pradesh State Wildlife Department has begun the first-ever study of blackbucks along a length of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam.

- Following reports of large numbers of blackbucks becoming stuck on the islands affected by the Godavari floods, the survey was proposed.
- The Gowthami, Vasista, Vainteya, and Vridha Gowthami islands in the Konaseema and East Godavari districts are a significant habitat for blackbucks, who travel throughout the area adjacent to populated areas. Blackbucks have occasionally been stolen downstream of Dowleswaram.
- Bobbarlanka, one of the many islands that are home to the animal, situated downstream of the Dowleswaram barrage and is where you may see blackbucks all year round.
- S.S.R. Vara Prasad, a forest range officer for wildlife in Kakinada, and D. Mahesh Babu, a wildlife researcher for the A.P. Forest Department, began the field study on Monday despite the danger of floodwaters in the Godavari and its branches. By boat, they traversed the islands.

8. BANGLADESH BATTER TAMIM IQBAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM T20 INTERNATIONALS



- Bangladesh ODI captain, Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from T20Is and his decision came shortly after his side defeated West Indies 3-0 in the three-match ODI series.
- He played his last T20 International in March 2020.
- The 33-year-old has played 78 T20 Internationals, scoring 1758 runs at 24.08.
- Tamim is one of the best openers to have come out of Bangladesh, having scored 5082 runs in Tests and 7943 runs in ODIs.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. DROUPADI MURMU ELECTED AS THE 15TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA



- The first tribal woman and the youngest President to hold the post Droupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India. Returning Officer of the Presidential Election and Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody announced the election of Ms Murmu after completion of counting of the votes last evening.
- He said, Ms Murmu bagged 64 per cent of the votes in the poll and opposition Candidate Yashwant Sinha got 36 per cent. The Secretary-General said, of the four thousand seven hundred 54 valid electors, Ms Murmu got votes of two thousand 824 lawmakers including 540 MPs and the value of the vote is Six lakh 76 thousand 803. He said, Mr Sinha got the votes of One thousand eight hundred 77 lawmakers including 208 MPs and the value of the vote is three lakh 80 thousand 177.
- Later, returning officer Mody went to Ms Murmu's residence and handed over the certificate to her.
- Ms Murmu is the first tribal woman and the second woman to hold the position of President of India. Chief Justice of India, Justice N V Ramana will administer the oath of office to Ms Murmu on Monday at the Central Hall of Parliament.

2. INDIAN STUDENTS BAGS THREE GOLD, SIXTEEN SILVER, AND FIVE BRONZE MEDALS IN INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIADS



- Indian students bagged three Gold, sixteen Silver, and five Bronze medals in various international Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry.
- While the Mathematics Olympiad was held in Norway and Biology Olympiad in Armenia, the other two, hosted by Switzerland and China, were held virtually.
- In the International Mathematical Olympiad,(IMO) the Indian team got one gold and five bronze medals. Pranjal Srivastava scored a hat trick with his 3rd consecutive Gold medal at the IMO. He is the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals at the IMO.
- In the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) all five students who participated in the competition won medals. Deevyanshu Malu won Gold medal, Abhijeet Anand, Anilesh Bansal, Dheeraj Kurukunda, and Harsh Jakhar bagged silver medals.
- All the four Indian participants of the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) also emerged victorious as Mahit Rajesh Gadhiwala, Nivesh Aggarwal, Tanishka Rameshchandra Kabra, and Chinmay Khokar bagged a silver medal each.
- Meanwhile, all the four students who participated in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) also won medals. While Mayank Pandhari bagged a Gold medal, Amritansh Nigam, Prachi Jindal, and Rohit Panda bagged silver medals.

3. FICCI DOWNGRADES INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST FOR 2022-23 TO 7%



- Industry body FICCI on Thursday said India's economy is estimated to grow 7 per cent in the current fiscal, lower than the earlier projection of 7.4 per cent, mainly due to the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.
- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey (July 2022) also said the policy rate of the Reserve Bank of India is expected to reach 5.65 per cent by the end of this fiscal.
- Currently, the policy rate (repo) is 4.9 per cent.
- The present round of survey was conducted in June that covered leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.
- The survey has projected an annual median GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7 per cent, with

a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6.5 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively.

- “Growth forecast has been downgraded from the 7.4 per cent estimate in previous survey round (April 2022) owing to geopolitical uncertainty and its repercussions for the Indian economy,” FICCI said.
- The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been pegged at 3 per cent for 2022-23 while industry and services sectors are anticipated to grow 6.2 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively.

4. WORLD BRAIN DAY – JULY 22, 2022



- People around the world celebrate World Brain Day on July 22 of every year. This is one of the most important annual celebrations in the world, as it helps raise awareness on an increasingly significant health issue, especially in our modern age. Brain health can refer to many prevention methods designed to help preserve both mental health and brain neurological health. As people have become increasingly more vulnerable to neurological issues, raising awareness of the issue is as important. World Brain Day (WBD) 2022 is dedicated to the theme “Brain Health for all” as our brains continue to be challenged by pandemics, wars, climate change and the myriad of disorders impacting human existence globally.

HISTORY OF WORLD BRAIN DAY

- The World Federation of Neurology was the first to establish World Brain Day as a worldwide commemoration.
- This organization was founded in 1957 in Belgium and is now one of the most prominent promoters of neurology and brain health research in the world.

5. DIGIT INSURANCE LAUNCHES 'PAY-AS-YOU-DRIVE' MOTOR ADD-ON



- Private insurer Digit General Insurance has announced the launch of 'Pay-as-you-drive' add-on feature to its motor insurance product portfolio.
- It will allow vehicle-owners with low usage to earn a discount of up to 25 percent on annual premiums. Vehicle-owners can purchase this benefit as part of comprehensive coverage, along with motor own damage (OD) policies.
- Discount of up to 25 percent
- Digit's new add-on offers discounts to its customers driving less than 10,000 kilometres per year on an average from the time it was bought by the current owner from the showroom. The company will use odometer reading, telematics data and annual kilometre opted to offer this discount, which can go up to 25 percent. Customers who drive less than 10,000 Km per year on average, will now pay less with this add-on.
- Digit will use odometer reading, telematics data and annual kilometre opted to give this discount (up to 25%).
- IRDAI has also permitted to the general insurance companies to introduce such tech-enabled concepts in motor OD policies.

6. INDUSIND BANK PARTNERS WITH EAZYDINER TO LAUNCH CREDIT CARD



- Private lender IndusInd Bank on Thursday announced that it has partnered with EazyDiner to launch a co-branded credit card - EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card.
- The new card will provide the cardholders with a complimentary Eazy Diner Prime membership that will offer the customer a discount of up to 25 per cent at select restaurants. Moreover, this discount can be clubbed with an additional 25 per cent discount up to Rs 1,000 every time a customer pays on the Eazy Diner app via Pay Eazy. The customers can also redeem the reward points instantly while paying the bill via Pay Eazy.
- Additionally, the card offers a host of other lifestyle-led privileges such as a complimentary stay voucher, reward points that can be redeemed against hotel stays, meals, as well as two complimentary domestic lounge visits per quarter at airports across India.
- -Complimentary 1-year EazyDiner Prime membership that offers a discount of up to 25 per cent at over 2,000 premium restaurants, and 2000 EazyPoints as a welcome bonus.
- --Earn 10 reward points on every Rs 100 spent on dining, entertainment and shopping.
- -A complimentary stay voucher worth Rs 5,000 at the award-winning, luxury hospitality brand - “The Postcard Hotel” across India, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- -3X EazyPoints which can be redeemed against hotel stays, meals, exclusive restaurant openings, and events across the country.

‘Jute Mark India’ logo



About the Logo-

- It is an initiative to promote and protect, boost domestic market and exports of jute products from India.
- The Jute Mark India (JMI) scheme will provide the collective identity and assurance on origin and quality for traditional jute and jute products.
- The JMI would therefore be a hallmark of powerful creative work that defines the jute product with quality, distinguishes it from competition and connects it with customers.
- Each Jute Mark label will contain a unique QR code and by scanning it, customers can learn about the producer.

- National Jute Board(NJB) is the nodal agency of the Union textiles ministry, responsible for the promotion of jute and jute products in India and abroad.
- NJB is the nodal agency for promotion of Indian Jute. It was set up under the National Jute Board Act, 2008. It is chaired by the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Textiles.
- NJB's primary objective is to provide better marketing for jute and jute products. It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- JMI was implemented under an umbrella scheme for development and promotion of the jute sector between FY '22 and FY'26 with a total financial outlay of Rs 485.58 crore by the Centre. Jute cultivation in India-
 - Jute is an important natural fibre crop in India next to cotton.
 - In trade and industry, jute and mesta crop together known as raw jute as their uses are almost same
 - Jute cultivation is mainly concentrated in the eastern and north eastern India while that of mesta cultivation is spread almost throughout the country.
 - The crop can be grown in low, medium and high land situations, both moisture stress and water stagnating conditions.
 - White Jute can be grown comparatively in low land situations while that of Tossa Jute prefers medium and high land situations.
 - Mesta is grown in almost all over the country.
- In a major part of Jute area, particularly in North Bengal, Bihar and North-Eastern States, the soil is acidic in nature.
- The Ganges delta contributes more than 80% of the jute production in the world.
- Exports of Jute goods from India during 2020-21 were worth Rs 2740 crore and those of jute diversified products were valued at Rs 1261 crore, constituting 46 per cent of the total value of jute goods exports.
- The provisional exports of jute goods during 2021-22 have been at Rs 3785 crore , registering a phenomenal growth of 38.13 per cent as compared to 2020-21.

By BHUPENDRA YADAV

National News

1. GOVT LAUNCHES THREE SCHEMES FOR PHARMA SECTOR MSMEs



- The government launched three schemes to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the pharmaceutical sector.
- Speaking at the launch event here, Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya noted that the schemes envisage technology upgradation, setting up of common research centres and effluent treatment plants in clusters for the pharma MSMEs.

1. The Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS) would facilitate pharmaceutical MSMEs with proven track record to upgrade their technology.

- The scheme has provisions for a capital subsidy of 10 per cent on loans up to a maximum limit of Rs 10 crore with a minimum repayment period of three years or interest subvention of up to 5 per cent (6 per cent in case of units owned by SC/ST) on reducing balance basis.

2. Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF) would strengthen the existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity for sustained growth. It provides for an assistance of up to 70 per cent of the approved project cost or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less.

- In case of Himalayan and north-east region, the grant-in-aid would be Rs 20 crore per cluster or 90 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less.

3. Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS) would involve preparation of study reports on topics of importance for the Indian pharma and medical device industry.

- The scheme is aimed at creating a database of pharma and medical device sectors. Mandaviya asked the industry to keep upgrading in order to cater to evolving requirements across global markets.

2. NTPC SIGNS STATEMENT OF INTENT WITH NITI AAYOG TO DEVELOP 'NET ZERO

GHG EMISSIONS' ROADMAP



- Paving the pathway towards greening the power sector of the country, the Statement of Intent (SoI) seeks to formalise a framework of cooperation between the parties to facilitate NTPC to strategies on diversification of its generation mix to eventually reduce its carbon footprint and support India's endeavour towards achieving net zero by 2070, the ministry said in a statement.
- The collaboration will also help NTPC in achieving the targets for emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modelling including the development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047 and 2070
- As the Government of India has announced the 'Panchamrit' goals during CoP 26, NITI Aayog is working on the development of different scenarios/ pathways for achieving Net Zero by 2070.

3. BAJAJ ALLIANZ LAUNCHES PAY AS YOU CONSUME MOTOR INSURANCE ADD-ON COVER



- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance today announced the launch of its add-on motor insurance cover, called 'Pay As You Consume' (PAYC).

- The company claims to be the first to launch 'Pay As You Consume' under the IRDAI's Sandbox Regulations.
- This usage-based motor insurance add-on cover is in alignment with IRDAI's recent circular to allow PAYC under annual motor products.
- Customers can choose coverage based on their vehicle usage, further to which the premium will be calculated, i.e., kilometres driven annually. Customers can also avail of an additional benefit in premium for their safe driving.
- Customers' driving behaviour will be analysed based on a telematics device installed in the vehicle, driving metrics recorded on their "CARINGLY YOURS" mobile app (Company's app), or information provided by them through a device, etc.
- Customers need not worry if the opted kilometres during the policy period get exhausted; they can add kilometres to their plan using the top-up plan.
- If a customer forgets to add kilometres to their top-up plan, the company has offered a unique concept of "GRACE KM" gratification, which is provided at the time of claim in case kilometres opted during the policy period get exhausted.

4. VODAFONE IDEA APPOINTS AKSHAYA MOONDRA AS CEO



- Vodafone Idea has appointed Akshaya Moondra as its chief executive officer with effect from August 19, for a period of three years. The appointment comes in the wake of current CEO Ravinder Takkar's three-year tenure coming to an end on August 18.
- Vodafone Idea, which has been lagging behind rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel on all fronts, is looking to raise Rs 20,000 crore from lenders and investors.
- The company expects the funds to come once the government approves conversion of its debt into equity in the company. The promoters of the company (Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group) had infused Rs 4,500 crore into the company in March. With this infusion, the promoters' infusion would be to the tune of Rs 4,936 crore.

5. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PARES INDIA GROWTH HOPES TO 7.2% FOR 2022-23



- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered its growth forecast for India to 7.2% for 2022-23 from a 7.5% projection made in April, citing higher than anticipated inflation since April along with monetary policy tightening.
- In a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook report, the Bank on July 21 also moderated its growth hopes for 2023-24 to 7.8% from 8% and raised its inflation projection for that year to 5.8%, just a tad below India's 6% upper tolerance threshold for price rise, from 5% earlier.

6. INDIA'S GDP TO GROW 7% THIS FISCAL: FICCI SURVEY



- Industry body FICCI on Thursday said India's economy is estimated to grow 7% in the current fiscal, lower than the earlier projection of 7.4%, mainly due to the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.
- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey (July 2022) also said the policy rate of the Reserve Bank of India is expected to touch 5.65% by the end of this fiscal.
- Currently, the policy rate (repo) is 4.9%.

- The present round of survey was conducted in June that covered leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.
- The survey has projected an annual median GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7%, with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6.5% and 7.3%, respectively.

7. INDIA'S BATTERY STORAGE POTENTIAL TO BE 600 GWh BY 2030: NITI AAYOG



- India may have a battery storage potential of 600-gigawatthour (GWh) by 2030, and demand for electric vehicles, stationary storage and consumer electronics will mainly drive the adoption of battery storage, a Niti Aayog re- port has said.
- It said the current deployment of lithium-ion batteries in India is dominated by consumer electronics comprising smartphones, laptops, notebooks, and tablets.

8. NITI AAYOG RELEASES REPORT ON DIGITAL BANKS

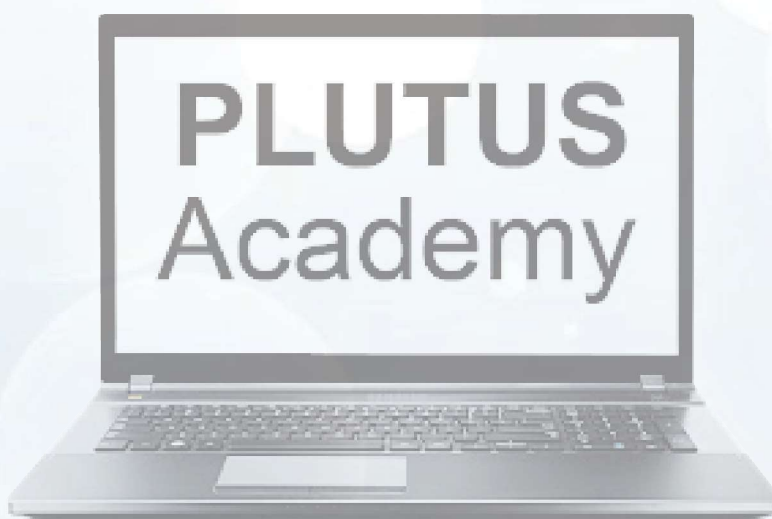


- NITI Aayog's report makes a case and offers a template and roadmap for a licensing and regulatory regime for digital banks. It focuses on avoiding any regulatory or policy arbitrage and offers a level playing field to incumbents as well as competitors.
- The report was released today by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery and CEO Parameswaran Iyer and Senior Adviser Anna Roy, in the presence of other officials.

- ‘Given the need for leveraging technology effectively to cater to the needs of banking in India, this report studies the prevailing gaps, the niches that remain under served, and the global regulatory best practices in licensing digital banks,’ said CEO Parameswaran Iyer.
- Recommendations:
- The report recommends a carefully calibrated approach, comprising the following steps:
 - 1. Issue of a restricted digital bank licence (to a given applicant) (the license would be restricted in terms of volume/value of customers serviced and the like).
 - 2. Enlistment (of the licensee) in a regulatory sandbox framework enacted by the Reserve Bank of India.
 - 3. Issue of a ‘full-scale’ digital bank licence (contingent on satisfactory performance of the licensee in the regulatory sandbox, including salient, prudential and technological risk management).
- In recent years, India has made rapid strides in furthering financial inclusion, catalysed by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and India Stack. However, credit penetration remains a policy challenge, especially for the nation’s 63-million-odd MSMEs that contribute 30% to GDP, 45% to manufacturing output, and 40% to exports, while creating employment for a significant section of the population.
- Over the past few years, thanks to digitization—ushered in by the Jan Dan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) trinity and Aadhaar—financial inclusion has become a reality for Indians. This has only been furthered by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has witnessed extraordinary adoption.
- UPI recorded over 4.2 billion transactions worth Rs. 7.7 trillion in October 2021. The platform approach taken by the government in conceptualizing UPI has resulted in valuable payment products being developed on top of it. As a result, payments can now be made with a click not just at retail outlets but also peer to peer—completely redefining the way in which money is transferred between individuals.
- A ‘whole-of-India approach’ towards financial inclusion has also resulted in Direct Benefit Transfer through apps such as PM-KISAN and extending microcredit facilities to street vendors through PM-SVANIDHI.
- India has also taken steps towards operationalizing its own version of ‘open banking’ through the Account Aggregator (AA) regulatory framework enacted by the Reserve Bank of India. Once commercially deployed, the AA framework is envisaged to catalyse credit deepening among groups that have been hitherto under-served.
- The success that India has witnessed on the payments front is yet to be replicated when it comes to the credit needs of its micro, small and medium businesses. The current credit gap and the business and policy constraints reveal a need for leveraging technology effectively to cater to these needs and bring the under-served further within the formal financial fold.

- This report has been prepared by NITI Aayog based on inter-ministerial consultations. Last year, NITI Aayog had released a discussion paper on the subject for wider stakeholder consultations. Comments received from 24 organizations were examined and have been suitably addressed in the final report.
- Department of Financial Services Additional Secretary (AS) Suchindra Misra, MeitY AS Amit Aggarwal, MSME Assistant Development Commissioner Dr Ishita Ganguli Tripathy and Indian Banks' Association Chairman Atul Kumar Goel were also present during today's launch.

By **BHUPENDRA YADAV**





CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2022

National News

1. WASIFA NAZREEN BECOMES FIRST BANGLADESHI TO SCALE WORLD'S SECOND HIGHEST PEAK K2



- Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first Bangladeshi to scale the second highest mountain peak K2 in Pakistan.
- She climbed the 8611 metres or 28,251 feet high K2 mountain peak and returned to the base camp on Friday.
- A summit is technically complete when the climber returns back to the base camp from the peak.
- On completing this historic task, the 39-year-old mountaineer Wasifa paid tribute to all the known and unknown martyrs of Bangladesh from the language movement to the liberation war.
- She encouraged her countrymen to take inspiration from the past and never give up.
- From the summit of the world's most dangerous mountain, Wasifa thanked everyone who helped her in this and congratulated Bangladesh by saying, 'Happy 50th Bangladesh, here's to the next glorious 50'.
- Earlier, while entering the summit to K2, Wasifa wrote on her Facebook page, 'When the time comes for me to exit the planet, please rejoice in knowing I lived or aspired to live.... my life free from society and other people's judgment.'

2. WHO DECLARES MONKEYPOX AS GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AMID RISING CASES



- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared outbreak of Monkeypox as a global health emergency.
- It came at the end of the second meeting of the WHO's emergency committee on the virus.
- The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue and follows a worldwide upsurge in cases.
- WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, more than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries.
- There have been five deaths so far as a result of the outbreak.
- There are only two other such health emergencies at present - the coronavirus pandemic and the continuing effort to eradicate polio.

3. SPORTS AUTHORITY STARTS “CREATE FOR INDIA” CAMPAIGN TO CHEER FOR TEAM INDIA



- A 215-member Indian athlete contingent across 16 disciplines is all set to participate in the Commonwealth Games beginning on July 28 in Birmingham.
- Sports Authority of India has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India with the campaign “Create for India.”
- Participants can submit their creative entries by July 26th, 2022, using the hashtags

#create4India and #cheer4India.

4. NEERAJ CHOPRA CREATES HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST INDIAN TO WIN SILVER MEDAL AT WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP



- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra created history by winning Silver medal in men's javelin throw event at World Athletics Championships.
- In the prestigious competition held at Eugene in Oregon, United States, the champ grabbed second position with his best throw of 88.13 metres this morning.
- Grenadian javelin thrower Anderson Peters won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.
- Neeraj Chopra is the first ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships.
- He is the second Indian after former long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won a bronze medal in long jump at 2003 in Paris.
- President Ram Nath Kovind congratulated Neeraj Chopra for winning silver medal in men's javelin throw at World Athletics Championships.
- In a tweet, Mr Kovind said Neeraj continues to bring laurels and make the country proud.

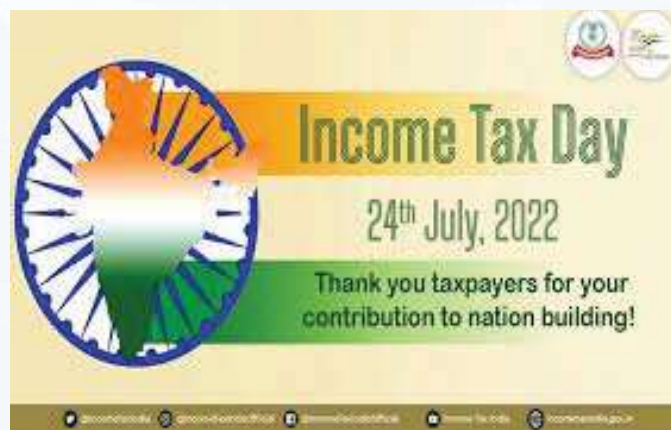
5. CHESS OLYMPIAD TORCH RELAY LEAVES ANDAMAN



- The Chess Olympiad Relay Torch which reached Port Blair was handed over to the Chief Secretary of the Island Administration Jitendra Narain by Grand Master Nilotpall Das at a function held at Cellular Jail in Andaman.

- The Chief Secretary in turn handed over the Torch back to Grand Master Nilotpal Das and eminent chess player R Kasthuri Bhai.
- The Torch Relay has finally concluded at Andaman Club after doing rounds at prominent places of the city.
- The Relay shortly departed from Port Blair to mainland to further proceed on its journey.
- During the occasion the Chief Secretary said that 11 Chess Schools will be set up in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Where every child will learn chess as extra curricular or as a class. He also proposed to have a Chess Academy.
- The Relay will finally reach Mahabalipuram near Chennai in Tamil Nadu..

6. 163RD ANNIVERSARY OF INCOME TAX DAY OBSERVED BY CBDT



- The 163rd anniversary of Income Tax Day was observed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and all its field offices across the country on Sunday.
- In her message to the Income Tax Department, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman observed that the reforms introduced by the Government in recent years have ensured a trust-based tax system.
- She noted that the taxpayers also have vindicated this trust-based approach as evident from the trend of improved tax collections and increase in the number of Income Tax Returns filed.
- Mrs. Sitharaman appreciated the Income Tax Department for having successfully implemented the policy reforms and for having effectively reoriented itself as a taxpayer-centric organization.
- The Finance Minister complimented the Department for having achieved the highest ever revenue collection of over 14 lakh crore in the last fiscal.

7. PM MODI GREETES PEOPLE ON THE SPECIAL DAY OF AADI KRITHIGAI



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

On the special day of Aadi Krithigai, my greetings to everyone. We pray that the blessings of Lord Muruga always remain upon us. May He always ensure our society remains healthy and prosperous.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people on the special day of Aadi Krithigai.
- In a tweet today, Mr. Modi prayed that the blessings of Lord Muruga always remain upon the people.
- The Prime Minister also prayed that Lord Muruga may always ensure that society will remain healthy and prosperous.

8. DROUPADI MURMU TAKES OATH AS 15TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA; SAYS IT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT OF EVERY POOR IN INDIA



- Ms Droupadi Murmu was sworn in as 15th President of India today.
- She was administered oath by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana at the Central Hall of Parliament.
- Speaking on this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu said, this is the beauty of Indian democracy that a poor lady from far-flung area has become the President.
- She said, reaching the Presidential post is not her personal achievement, it is the achievement of every poor in India.

- She added that her nomination is evidence that the poor in India can not only dream but also fulfill those dreams.
- Ms Murmu reiterated her resolve of working towards upliftment of marginalized, and empowerment of women and young for the inclusive growth of the country.
- Ms Murmu highlighted the spirit of new India and the emergence of the country as a global leader.
- She said, the world has lots of hope from India. She said, the country has elected her when the country is celebrating 75th year of Independence.
- She greeted the nation on the eve of Kargil Vijay Diwas saying that this day is the symbol of courage of country's armed forces

9. HIMACHAL PRADESH BECOMES FIRST STATE IN COUNTRY TO CONNECT ALL REGISTERED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH VLTD WITH ERSS



- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- Now these vehicles can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD. More than 9,423 vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS.
- Now it will be monitored by both the police and the transport department.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally inaugurated the system at a program organized at Peterhof, in Shimla yesterday. He also introduced the facility of panic button for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.
- Speaking on the occasion Jai Ram Thakur said the State has pioneered in implementation of this Project, which is a matter of great pride for every people of the State.
- He said after the establishment of this monitoring Centre, it would be easy to detect the theft of vehicles and vehicle accidents for the safety of women and children in the State.
- Chief Minister that this is an innovative initiative, which would make the state roads more safe and secure.

10. 50 GOOGLE PLAY STORE APPS INFECTED WITH JOKER MALWARE



- According to Zscaler Threatlabz, 50 apps on the Google Play Store has been infected by the Joker Malware.
- Joker Malware is one of the most well-known malware which exploits Android devices. It manages to take advantage of Google's official app store with the help of its trail signatures which includes updating the virus's code, execution process, and payload-retrieval techniques.
- This malware is capable of stealing users' personal information including contact details, device data, WAP services, and SMS messages.
- However, Google Play Store has banned and deleted several apps that were infected by the Joker Malware.



By Sameer Singhal

1. 36TH ALL INDIA POSTAL WEIGHT LIFTING AND POWER LIFTING COMPETITION TO BE ORGANIZED FROM JULY 26 TO JULY 29



- The 36th All India Postal Weight Lifting and Power Lifting Competition will be organized by Rajasthan Postal Circle Jaipur from today to July 29.

- Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra to inaugurate the competition at Indoor Stadium of Sawai man Singh Stadium Jaipur today.
- About 160 players of Indian Postal Department from Rajasthan and other circles will participate in the competition.

2. TUNISIANS BEGINS VOTING IN REFERENDUM ON NEW CONSTITUTION



- Tunisians began voting today in a referendum on a new constitution that critics of President Kais Saied fear will maul the democracy that emerged from a 2011 revolution by handing him nearly total power.
- The vote is being held on the First Anniversary of Saied's ousting of an elected Parliament when he established emergency rule and began governing by fiat.
- But, it is not clear when the results will be announced after polls close at 2100 GMT.
- Under Saied's own rules for the referendum, no minimum level of participation is needed to approve the new constitution.
- They only stipulate it will come into effect once the final results are published and do not say, what happens if voters reject it.
- However, while nearly all major political parties and civil society organizations have denounced his unilateral approach to rewriting the constitution and the legitimacy of the referendum, they have failed to build a united front.

3. KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS BEING CELEBRATED ACROSS COUNTRY TODAY



- Kargil Vijay Diwas will be celebrated across the country today. The Nation will remember its war heroes and pay tributes to the Martyrs on Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- The day marks the victory of the Indian armed forces in Operation Vijay in 1999, when they evicted the infiltrators backed by the Pakistani army from high outposts in the Kargil sector.
- The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days and ended with India regaining control of all the previously held territory.
- The victory of Tiger Hill was one of the crucial achievements in the 60- day long conflict.
- Indian soldiers fought the Kargil War under the toughest conditions, on difficult terrain, at an altitude of 18 thousand feet.
- On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, President Droupadi Murmu today bowed to all the brave soldiers who laid down their lives to protect the country.

4. SHEIK AHMED NAWAF AL-SABAH BECOMES NEW KUWAIT PM



- In a major development in Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah on July 25 was appointed as the new Prime Minister of the country.
- He succeeded Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled, who stepped down in April 2022. Soon after becoming the country's Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah

pledged to preserve the country's constitution, democracy and national gains

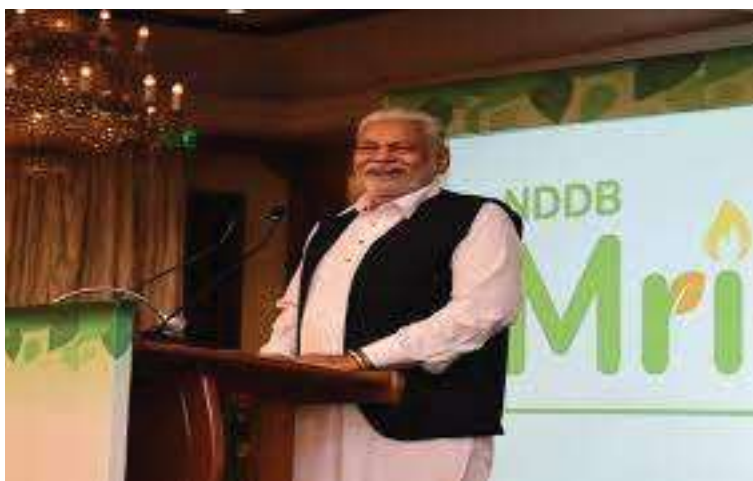
- In April 2022, Kuwait's government had resigned, just months after its formation, opening up new uncertainty as the tiny country grapples with a worsening political crisis that has blocked critical economic and social reforms.
- Ex-Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah submitted the cabinet's resignation to the crown prince ahead of a no-confidence vote in Parliament which took place a week later.

5. BCCI INTRODUCES A+ CATEGORY FOR UMPIRES



- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new A+ category for its umpires and Nitin Menon, along with ten other officials, have been grouped in the category.
- Umpires in A+ and A categories are paid Rs 40,000 a day for a first-class game while Rs 30,000 a day are paid in the B and C category.
- The others in the A+ category include four international umpires: Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan.
- Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.
- Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

6. UNION MINISTER PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAUNCHES NDDB'S SUBSIDIARY FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT



- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has launched NDDB MRIDA Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of National Dairy Development Board to take forward manure management initiatives across the country.
- It was launched at a function in New Delhi in the presence of Minister of States for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan and Dr L Murugan.
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has established NDDB MRIDA Limited, an Unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on 1st of July this year.
- On the occasion, Mr Rupala said NDDB Mrida Ltd will open avenues of additional income to dairy farmers from sale of slurry or dung.
- He added that it will help in savings to the farmers by virtue of replacement of cooking fuel with biogas.
- He further said that efforts are being made for better utilisation of bovine dung but most are individual initiatives and this new company will provide structured impetus to manure management efforts.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. INDIA TO HOST 2025 ICC WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that India will host the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup.
- India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka were named as the four hosts for ICC women's white-ball events from 2024-27 yesterday.
- Bangladesh will host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, while the 2026 edition will be held in England.
- Sri Lanka has secured hosting rights for the Women's T20 Champions Trophy, slated for 2027, provided it qualifies for the event.
- The hosts were selected via a bidding process overseen by a ICC Board sub-committee which included BCCI President Sourav Ganguly.
- BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah said that BCCI will leave no stone unturned to make it a memorable event for everyone concerned. Mr Shah said, we have the infrastructure in place and we will have a very successful edition of the World Cup.

2. 'ONE RUPEE DOCTOR' SUSHOVAN BANERJEE DIES



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief on the demise of Padma Shri awardee Dr. Sushovan Bandyopadhyay.

- In a tweet, Mr Modi said, Dr. Sushovan Bandyopadhyay, epitomized the best of human spirit.
- The Prime Minister said, he will be remembered as a kind and large-hearted person who cured many people.
- He recalled his interaction with Dr Bandyopadhyay at the Padma Awards ceremony.
- Mr. Modi expressed condolences to the family and admirers of Dr. Bandyopadhyay.
- Dr. Sushovan Bandyopadhyay, who was fondly known as “Ek Takar Doktor”, has been treating patients for a long time at Bolpur in Birbhum for only 1 rupee per visit. He was 83 years old. Sushovan was once elected MLA from Bolpur for Congress.
- After the Trinamool Congress was formed, he became the first district president of the Trinamool in Birbhum.

3. THE FLAG CODE OF INDIA, THE AMENDMENTS AND THE OBJECTIONS



- The Flag Code of India 2002 was revised by the Ministry of Home Affairs to permit the flying of the national flag even at night as the federal government begins its Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.
- The flag could previously only be flown between sunrise and dusk.
- The flag code has already been altered by the government to permit the use of polyester and machine-made flags.
- The government amended paragraph 1.2 of Part I of the flag code in a notification last year.
- Flags produced by machines or of polyester were previously prohibited from use.
- India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of independence.
- From August 13 to August 15, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign urges people to fly the flag in their residences.
- Additionally, in a letter to all government agencies on the campaign, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla included files that outlined the key elements of the flag code as well as the updates made on December 30, 2021, and July 20, 2022.
- A list of frequently asked questions regarding the use and display of the national flag is also included with the letter.

4. KAMAL HAASAN RECEIVES UAE'S 10-YEAR GOLDEN VISA, SAYS 'I'M HONOURED'



- Kamal Haasan, a prominent figure in the Tamil cinema industry, has been given the prestigious Golden Visa by the United Arab Emirates.
- The Golden Visa has been given to others besides actor Kamal Hasan.
- Actors Nasser, Mammooty, Mohanlal, Tovino Thomas, Parthiepan, Amala Paul, and Shah Rukh Khan all have received it before Kamal Hasan.
- Kamal Haasan was last spotted, in the box office sensation Vikram.
- The leading actors of Lokesh Kanagaraj's Vikram include Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, and Fahadh Faasil.
- Supporting actors included Kalidas Jayaram, Narain, Gayathrie, Vasanthi, and Santhana Bharathi.
- Raaj Kamal Films International produced the movie, and Udhayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies distributed it throughout Tamil Nadu.

5. BAJRAM BEGAJ SWORE-IN AS 9TH PRESIDENT OF ALBANIA



- The ninth President of Albania, Bajram Begaj, a retired military commander and politician, took the oath of office here in Parliament.
- The 55-year-old President said in his first speech before parliamentarians that he will support and respect both the work of the government and the opposition, advocating for

cooperation between political parties rather than conflict.

- On June 4, 2022, Begaj won the presidential election. Begaj garnered 78 votes in favour, four politicians opposed, and one legislator abstained in the plenary session of Parliament, which was attended by a total of 83 MPs.
- He served as the head of general staff of the Albanian Armed Forces and was a major general.
- Begaj was joined by his wife Armanda and his two sons at his swearing-in ceremony.
- Ilir Meta, a former president who served from July 2017 for five years, posted his final statement to the public on social media.

6. GRAND STATUE OF CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD TO BE INSTALLED IN BHOPAL



- A grand statue of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad will be installed in Bhopal.
- At the base of the statue, soil brought from Bhabra, the birthplace of Azad, will be used and the statue site will be developed as a source of inspiration for the youth.
- This information was given by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan while addressing the inaugural session of the first state-level Youth Mahapanchayat organized in Bhopal on the 116th birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad today.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur also addressed the programme virtually from New Delhi.

7. INDIAN ARMY INDUCTS DOMESTICALLY DEVELOPED SPECIALIST VEHICLES



- Tata Advanced Systems successfully delivered the locally developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle to the Indian Army. The contract to provide QRFV-Med vehicles to the

Indian Army was successfully completed.

- These armoured vehicles will increase the nation's protector's ability to fight in all weather and terrain situations and will offer protection while moving.
- These vehicles will improve the Indian Army's operational capability during future battles.
- In the last four years, from 2018–19 to 2021–22, the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources decreased from 46% of the total expenditure to 36% as a result of the steps implemented by the Centre to promote the manufacture of indigenous defence equipment.
- The initial group of QRFV was inducted by former Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane.
- The QRFV, Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV), Ultra Long Range Observation System, Monocoque Hull Multi-Role Mine-Protected Armoured Vehicle, and Ultra Long Range Observation System were all introduced by the Army Chief.

8. WIPRO BAGS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT FROM NOKIA FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



- Wipro Ltd., a company with its headquarters in Bengaluru, announced the signing of a new, five-year contract for digital transformation with Nokia of Finland.
- The new contract expands on a connection that was first formed more than 20 years ago.
- Wipro will provide business services in support of Nokia's updated operating model, putting a special emphasis on process optimization, touchless processing, and improved user and customer experience across order management, supply chain, finance, and accounting operations.
- Even though an official statement about the agreement was released, Wipro highlighted that it had mentioned the deal in the press release released along with the financial results of FY22 without mentioning the client or providing term or size information.

By Sameer Singhal

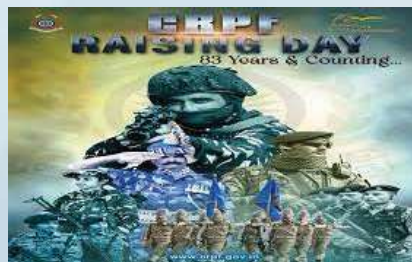
National News

1. MONSOON SESSION: LOK SABHA PASSES NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING BILL, 2021



- The Lok Sabha has passed the National Anti-Doping
- Bill, 2021 by voice vote. The bill provides for constitution of the National Anti-Doping Agency- NADA for regulating anti-doping activities in sports.
- Its functions include planning, implementing, and monitoring anti-doping activities as well as investigating anti-doping rule violations.
- It also seeks to give effect to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- International Convention against doping in sports and compliance of such other obligations and commitments.
- The legislation prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel, and other persons from engaging in doping in sports.
- Under the new legislation, violation of anti-doping rules may result in disqualification of results including forfeiture of medals, points, and prizes, ineligibility to participate in a competition or event for a prescribed period, and financial sanctions.
- The Bill also proposes to establish the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports with a view to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulations and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping.
- The Board will oversee the activities of NADA and issue directions to it.

2. 83RD RAISING DAY OF CRPF BEING CELEBRATED TODAY



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted CRPF personnel and their families on the Raising Day of the paramilitary Force.
- In a tweet, Mr Modi said, CRPF has distinguished itself for its unflinching courage and distinguished service.
- He said, the role of CRPF, be it in addressing security challenges or humanitarian challenges is commendable.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has greeted the personnel of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on their Raising Day today. Mr Shah said, with their bravery, CRPF personnel have not only made an unique contribution in keeping the security of the country intact but has also created a proud history of valor, which every Indian is proud of.
- He saluted their service and dedication to the nation.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has congratulated the bravehearts of Central Reserve Police Force on the 83rd Raising Day.

3. RUSSIA TO WITHDRAW FROM INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION PROJECT AFTER 2024



- Russia has decided to quit the International Space Station after 2024.
- Moscow's space agency Roscosmos ' newly-appointed chief Yury Borisov announced the decision yesterday. President Vladimir Putin was also briefed about it.
- The announcement comes as tensions rage between the Kremlin and the West over Moscow's military operation in Ukraine and several rounds of unprecedented sanctions against Russia.
- Russia and the United States have worked side by side on the space station which has been in orbit since 1998.
- Yury Borisov also told Putin that in spite of this decision, space programme will continue to get top priority and Russia will start putting together a Russian orbital station before 2024.
- Sending the first man into space in 1961 and launching the first satellite four years earlier are among key accomplishments of the Soviet space programme and remain a major source of national pride in Russia.

- NASA has made no immediate comment on Russian decision to quit the International Space Station after 2024.

4. WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY BEING OBSERVED TODAY

World Nature Conservation Day



- Today is World Nature Conservation Day. The day is observed to create awareness the importance of protecting our natural resources. Conservation of resources has an important role in protecting the Mother Earth.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has emphasized for concerted efforts to conserve the limited natural resources, reduce the carbon footprint and protect our planet.
- He said, everyone should work towards creating a world where man can live in harmony with nature.
- Mr Naidu said, the world should wake up to the loss of biodiversity, embrace conservation of ecosystems and resources for future of the planet.
- According to the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization, 90 per cent of the Earth's precious topsoil is likely to be at risk by 2050.

5. COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: MANPREET SINGH AND PV SINDHU NAMED INDIA'S FLAG-BEARERS FOR OPENING CEREMONY



- India men's hockey captain Manpreet Singh and shuttler PV Sindhu have been named as the nation's flag-bearers for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022.
- The opening ceremony will be held on July 28, 2022, at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.

She was the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, where she won silver in the women's singles event.

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who was also the defending champion in the Commonwealth Games having won the gold in Gold Coast four years ago, was expected to be the flag-bearer.
- But a groin injury following his silver medal at the World Championships forced him to pull out and the Indian Olympic Association picked Sindhu to be the flagbearer from a three-member shortlist.

6. ATULANANDA GOSWAMI, EMINENT ASSAMESE WRITER, PASSES AWAY AT 87



- Veteran Assamese litterateur and winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Atulananda Goswami, has passed away.
- He was 87. Goswami was known as a short story writer, a litterateur and a novelist par excellence.
- He was awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 2006, for his novel 'Seneh Jorir Ganthi' in 2006.
- Some of his other notable works include 'Namgharia' 'Hamdoi Pulo Jon', 'Rajpaat', 'Polatok' and 'Ashray'.
- He had translated many English, Bengali and Odia works into Assamese, and also Assamese texts into English.

7. EU APPROVES SMALLPOX VACCINE FOR USE AGAINST MONKEYPOX



- European Commission has given permission for the Imvanex vaccine to be marketed as protection against Monkeypox, as recommended last week by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).
- Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries. This vaccine is developed by Danish biotechnology company Bavarian Nordic.
- In the current outbreak in countries and amongst the reported monkeypox cases, transmission appears to be occurring primarily through close physical contact, including sexual contact.
- Transmission can also occur from contaminated materials such as linens, bedding, electronics, and clothing, that have infectious skin particles.
- Imvanex is a non-replicating smallpox vaccine developed in collaboration with the U.S. government to ensure the supply of a smallpox vaccine for the entire population, including immunocompromised individuals.
- The vaccine gained regulatory approvals in Canada (marketed as Imvamune) and the U.S. (marketed as Jynneos) where the approvals have been extended to include the monkeypox indication as the only vaccine obtained this to-date.
- The vaccine was approved by the European Commission in 2013 for immunization against smallpox in adults aged 18 years and older.

By Sameer Singhal



1. INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER INS VIKRANT HANDED OVER TO INDIAN NAVY



- Maritime history was created yesterday with the Indian Navy taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant, built by the Cochin Shipyard.
- The Commanding Officer Designate of Vikrant, Commodore Vidyadhar Harke and the Chairman and Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Madhu S Nair signed the

documents relating to the delivery of the vessel

- The name of India's first Aircraft Carrier was also INS Vikrant which played a vital role in the 1971 war.
- It was decommissioned in 1997 after 36 years of glorious service to the Navy.
- The Defence Ministry said in a release that the reincarnation of Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervor in pursuing capability build-up towards enhanced maritime security.

2. INDIAN NAVY RECEIVES TWO MH 60R MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTERS FROM UNITED STATES



- The Indian Navy received two MH 60R multi-role helicopters from the United States at the Cochin International Airport today.
- The copters were delivered by the Special Air Assignment Mission Flight of the US Air Force.
- The helicopters were part of the 24 MH 60 R Multirole helicopters being procured by India from the United States at a cost of over 14,000 crore rupees.
- The first three helicopters delivered last year in the US are being utilized for training the Indian Navy crew.
- Another helicopter is scheduled to be delivered on the 22nd of next month.
- These helicopters will be initially based at the Naval Air Station INS Garuda in Kochi and will be put through intensive flying trials for integration into the Navy's fleet operations.
- The delivery of all the 24 MH 60 R multirole helicopters will be completed by 2025.

3. SPORTS DEPARTMENT OF PUNJAB TO HOLD 'KHED MELA' FROM AUG 29



- In Punjab, the Sports Department is going to organise 'Punjab Khed Mela' in which events of 30 sports will be held in six groups under 14 to 60 years veteran with an aim to identify talent, make a conducive environment for sports and increase health awareness.
- Apart from the previously held under-14, under-17 and 17 to 25 age groups for the first time, there will also be competitions in the 25 to 40 year, 40 to 50 year and 50 to 60 year age groups.
- The Punjab Khed Mela, which will be held from block to the state level, will kick start on the occasion of the National Sports Day on the 29th of August.
- This was disclosed by Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer at Chandigarh last evening.
- The Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Khed Mela, said the The Sports Minister said that around three lakh players of Punjab will participate in the Sports Mela. Minister.

4. INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY: JUL 29



- International Tiger Day is being celebrated today. The main aim behind this day is to

promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise awareness and support for tiger conservation.

- According to World Wildlife Fund, tiger populations are currently stable or increasing in India.
- The tiger reserves of India were set up in 1973 and are governed by Project Tiger, which is administrated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- There are a total of 51 Tiger reserves in India. According to the latest Tiger Census of 2018-19 conducted in India, 2,967 Tigers live in the country.
- The population growth rate of Tiger is six per cent per annum. India is home to 80 per cent of tigers in the world
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded all those who are actively working to protect the tiger, on International Tiger Day.
- He said, innovative measures are being undertaken to involve local communities in tiger protection.
- On International Tiger Day today, Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has expressed happiness that through efforts made by National
- Tiger Conservation Authority NTCA, India almost doubled its tiger population in 2018-19 from 2014.

5. DEPARTMENT OF POSTS OFFERS EXCLUSIVE WATERPROOF ENVELOPES FOR RAKSHA BANDHAN



- Department of Posts has come out with exclusive Rakhi Envelopes, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

- The envelopes have a unique texture and are completely waterproof and tearproof.
- The cost of these Rakhi Envelopes is priced at an economical cost of 15 rupees per envelope. Raksha Bandhan is being celebrated on 11th August.
- Delhi Postal Circle has made an exclusive arrangement for the sale of high-quality Rakhi Envelopes with excellent Strength, tear resistance, waterproof, light weight and elegant printability through Post Offices in Delhi City.
- The sale of Rakhi Envelopes in Post Offices of Delhi has already been commenced.
- It will continue to be sold till the 8th of next month for posting within the state and up to the 7th of August for other states.

6. UNION BANK SETS UP “RACE” GOAL AS PART OF ITS PLAN TO BE AMONG TOP 3 PSBs



- A. Manimekhalai, MD & CEO of Union Bank of India (UBI), wants Union Bank of India to surpass other Public Sector Banks and take the third-largest Public Sector Bank position in a time of few years.
- Union Bank of India may even take into consideration buying a bank along the route.
- Manimekhalai, who became UBI's first female leader on June 7th, emphasised that the bank has set “RACE” as its aim for the year.
- Union Bank of India, sometimes known as Union Bank or UBI, is a government-owned bank in India with over 120 million clients and US\$106 billion in annual revenue.
- The combined organisation became one of the largest PSU banks in terms of branch network with the combination with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, which went into effect on 1 April 2020.
- There are currently about 9500 branches. Four of them are abroad, in Sydney, Dubai, Antwerp, and Hong Kong.

7. ASIA CUP 2022 TO BE HELD IN THE UAE, HOSTING RIGHTS REMAIN WITH SRI LANKA



- As informed by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), the Asia Cup 2022 will now be held in United Arab Emirates (UAE). Earlier this event was scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka.
- However, due to the economic crisis in the island nation, the tournament has been shifted to UAE.
- But the hosting rights of the game will still remain with Sri Lanka.
- The tournament will be held from August 27 to September 11, 2022, in the T20 format. This is the second consecutive time that the tournament will be played in the UAE.

8. PUNJABI SINGER BALWINDER SAFRI PASSES AWAY, DILJIT DOSANJH PAYS TRIBUTE



- Veteran Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri has passed away. He was 63. Punjab-born Safri, who was based in Birmingham, was part of the UK bhangra scene since 1980

and formed the Safri Boyz Band in 1990.

- Safri, known for hit Punjabi tracks such as “Rahaye Rahaye” and “Chan Mere Makhna”, slipped into coma in April after suffering brain damage following a heart surgery.
- He was discharged from New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton on July 15 after recovering from coma and was moved to a specialist rehabilitation centre.
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9. NORTHERN IRISH NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER DAVID TRIMBLE PASSES AWAY AT 77



- Former Northern Irish first minister David Trimble, a pro-British leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for his role as a key architect in ending three decades of bloodshed in the region, has passed away at the age of 77.
- Trimble and John Hume, former leaders of the Catholic
- Social Democratic and Labour Party, jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for their roles in helping end the sectarian violence that claimed some 3,600 lives.

By Sameer Singal

National News

1. POINT 5140 AT DRAS SECTOR NAMED AS GUN HILL TO MARK VICTORY OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES DURING OPERATION VIJAY



- To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in “Operation Vijay”, Point 5140 at Dras in Kargil sector has been christened as Gun Hill.
- Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defences including Point 5140, which was the key factor in the early completion of operations.
- On behalf of the Regiment of Artillery, a wreath was laid by Lieutenant General TK Chawla, Director General of Artillery at Kargil War Memorial, Dras, along with Veteran Gunners who had participated in the operation. The ceremony was conducted in the presence of Veterans from all Artillery Regiments, which got the honour title “KARGIL” in Operation Vijay.
- Serving Officers of the Gunner fraternity were also present on the occasion.

2. GUJARAT: PM MODI LAUNCHES INDIA’S FIRST INTERNATIONAL BULLION EXCHANGE IN GANDHINAGAR



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched India’s first International Bullion

Exchange (IIBE) at Gujarat

- International Finance Tech (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar today.
- Prime Minister also launched NSE IFSC-SGX Connect and laid the foundation stone of the headquarters of the
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) at GIFT City.
- Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister said GIFT city has been established as an integrated finance and technology services hub for India and the world.
- Mr Modi said India is now entering the league of countries like USA UK and Singapore which are giving direction to global finance.
- He said with the inauguration of IIBE, India can not only influence the gold pricing but also play a role in setting the gold prices.
- The Prime minister said the country has witnessed a new wave of financial inclusion in which poorest of the poor is getting connected to formal financial institutions, therefore it is the need of the hour that all government and private players should come together to spread financial literacy.

3. SEASONED DIPLOMAT, IFS PRANAY KUMAR VERMA APPOINTED AS INDIA'S NEXT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH



- A seasoned diplomat and IFS officer of 1994 batch Pranay Kumar Verma has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He is currently serving as India's Ambassador to Vietnam.
- This was announced on Friday by the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly in place of the current High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami who is tipped to take over as the High Commissioner of India to UK.
- Ambassador Pranay Kumar Verma has held diplomatic assignments in Hong Kong, San Francisco, Beijing, Kathmandu, and Washington DC.
- He served as the Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division at the Ministry of External

Affairs in New Delhi.

- He also served as the Joint Secretary for external relations at the Department of Atomic Energy looking after India's nuclear diplomacy.

4. COCA-COLA TAKES 'LIMCA' TO NO-FIZZ SEGMENT, SIGNS ON NEERAJ CHOPRA



- Coca-Cola has signed Olympic gold medalist, Neeraj Chopra for Limca Sportz promotion.
- Recently, Neeraj Chopra has become the first ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships with his best throw of 88.13 m.
- Also, Neeraj Chopra has been ruled out of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 in England due to an injury he picked up at World Athletics Championships.
- Coca-Cola India and its bottling partners are investing around \$1 billion (around Rs 7,990 crore) to expand the production capacity by up to 40 per cent.
- Besides, the beverage major is also launching Limca Sportz, which comes with glucose and electrolytes.

5. 14-YEAR OLD SQUASH PLAYER ANAHAT SINGH, THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF INDIA'S BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022 CONTINGENT



- Anahat Singh is the youngest player at the Commonwealth Games 2022. She has been playing badminton since she was 6 with her sister Amira.

- Anahat developed an interest in Squash. She liked to play badminton and squash but as her affection for squash grew more, she showed remarkable success in Squash.
- She is currently studying in 9th standard and she joined the Commonwealth Games 2022 with the Indian contingent.
- She's just 14 years old, and with her extraordinary performance, she was able to get her foot in Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Anahat Singh is growing every day with a tremendous number of opportunities. She has won 46 National circuit titles.
- In just six years she won two national championships and eight international titles. Anahat Singh is the first Indian sportswoman to win British Junior Squash Open in 2019 and US Junior Squash Open in 2021.
- She won the U-15 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Pattaya in 2022.

6. APAN: SAKURAJIMA VOLCANO ERUPTION TRIGGERS LEVEL 5 ALERT, RESIDENTIAL EVACUATIONS



- A Volcanic eruption took place on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu.
- The locals are ordered to evacuate the place as soon as possible so that no person is affected by the volcanic eruption.
- The officials and Government of Japan have taken safety measures to make sure that the locals are safe.
- The eruption was followed by a showing of red-hot rocks and dark fumes from the Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima Prefecture.
- Till now, there are no reports of any damage caused by the volcanic eruption.
- The alert level for the eruption has been raised to five.
- The Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki has ensured that the people's life will be their priority and everyone is prepared to face any kind of emergency.
- During Saturday and Sunday, the Volcano erupted about four times with plumes of 1200m.

7. SEBASTIAN VETTEL TO RETIRE FROM FORMULA ONE AT END OF SEASON



- Four-time Formula One champion, Sebastian Vettel who is currently a part of Aston Martin announced his retirement.
- The 35-year-old German driver declared that he will retire at the end of the season.
- He is one of the most successful drivers in the F1 race is currently third on the list of all-time Grand Prix winners with 53 victories, trailing only Lewis Hamilton and Michael Schumacher.
- Sebastian Vettel won his first three F1 titles consecutively from the year 2010 to 2013 with Team Red Bull.
- His previous race win was in the year 2019 with Ferrari. In his career, Vettel has driven for BMW Sauber, Toro Rosso, Red Bull, Ferrari, and Aston Martin.
- He is the youngest World Champion in Formula One and has 122 podium finishes, and 57 pole positions..

8. BORIS JOHNSON GIVES CHURCHILL LEADERSHIP AWARD TO UKRAINE'S ZELENSKYY



- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday presented Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award, drawing comparisons between the two leaders in times of crises.

- Zelenskyy accepted the award by video link during a ceremony at Johnson's London office that was attended by members of the Churchill family, Ukrainian Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko and Ukrainians who have received training from British soldiers.
- The Churchill leadership award was first presented in 2006. Past recipients include Prince Charles, former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

9. LULO ROSE: RARE PINK DIAMOND, LIKELY THE LARGEST IN 300 YEARS



- A rare pure pink diamond, believed to be the largest found in 300 years, has been unearthed in Angola, a country in Central Africa.
- The Lulo Rose is a type 2a diamond, meaning it has few or no impurities.
- It is the fifth largest diamond recovered from the Lulo mine – a joint venture between Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company and the Angolan government.
- It is a 170-carat pink diamond & has been named 'The Lulo Rose'.
- It weighs 34 grams.
- Similar diamonds have been bought for tens of millions of dollars in the past, with one – known as Pink Star – selling at a Hong Kong auction for \$71.2m (£59m) in 2017.

By Sameer Singal