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June 2022 - Week 1

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Central Government has extended the **Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** till the financial year **2025-26 (FY26)**, with a total outlay of **Rs.13,554.42 crore**. The extension of the scheme is over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Other modifications in the scheme:

- The government has increased the maximum project cost for manufacturing units from Rs. 25 lakh to **Rs. 50 lakh**, and for service units from Rs. 10 lakh to **Rs. 20 lakh**.
- Territories under Panchayati Raj institutions will be classified as rural, while areas under municipal jurisdiction will be classified as urban.
- The scheme will create sustainable employment opportunities for about 40 lakh persons in five financial years.
- PMEGP applicants under aspirational districts and transgender will be treated as special category applicants and entitled to a higher subsidy.

- For special category candidates such as SC, ST, OBC, women, transgender, physically challenged, north eastern region, aspirational, and border district applicants, the margin money subsidy under the scheme will be 25% of the project cost in urban areas and 35% of the project cost in rural regions.
 - The subsidy is 15% of the project cost in urban areas and 25% of the project cost in rural regions for general category applicants.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released benefits under the '**PM CARES for Children' scheme** via video-conferencing. He has transferred scholarships to school-going children and distributed passbooks of the PM CARES for Children to children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19. He has also handed over a health card for treatment up to Rs.5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to the eligible children.
3. **Param Ananta**, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer, has been commissioned at **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. It is capable of offering peak performance of 838 teraflops. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST). It is established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). It is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost.
4. Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract worth **Rs 2,971 crore** with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to procure several batches of the **Astra MK-I** beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missiles (AAM) and associated equipment. The missiles have been procured for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy.

Astra MK-I BVR AAM:

It has been indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based on the requirements issued by the IAF. The air-to-air missile with BVR capability provides large stand-off ranges to the IAF's fighter jets.

5. The Government of India (GoI) has raised the premium for its flagship insurance schemes '**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**' and '**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**'. The new premium rates are effective from 1st June 2022.
- The annual premium for PMJJBY has been increased from Rs.330 to **Rs.436**.
 - The annual premium for PMSBY has been increased from Rs.12 to **Rs.20**.
 - In percentage terms, the premium increase is 32 percent in case of PMJJBY and 67 percent for PMSBY.

The number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY and PMSBY as on 31st March 2022 were 6.4 crore and 22 crore, respectively.

6. Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325, operating the indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III aircraft, has been commissioned into the Indian Navy during an event in an INS Utkrosh, Port Blair of Andaman and Nicobar Island. The newly inducted aircraft flew for the first time over the Andaman Islands earlier and were officially inducted on 28th January 2022.

- The 'Eagle Owl' is the name of INAS 325. The Squadron derives its name for the keen sense of observation and tracking of the eagle is exemplified in the sensors and advanced avionics of the helicopter, while the nocturnal prowess of the owl is personified in the night vision capabilities of the aircraft.
- It has been developed and manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL)**.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid Plant** at **Kalol** in the Gandhinagar district of Gujarat. The plant has been set up by Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative (IFFCO).

- It has been constructed at a cost of around **Rs. 175 crores** to provide farmers the means to boost productivity and help increase their income.
- The plant will produce about 1.5 lakh bottles of 500 ml capacity per day.
- Nano Urea is essentially urea in the form of a nanoparticle.
- *One nanometre is equal to a billionth of a metre.*

Note: India is the second largest consumer of urea across the globe and third in production of urea.

8. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of an Olympic-level sports complex in Naranpura area of **Ahmedabad** city, Gujarat. This project will be completed in the next 30 months in 20.39 acres of land at a cost of **Rs 631.77** crore. The facility will provide training in 1012 different Olympic sports.

9. The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a **7-member inter-ministerial panel** to work on regulations for the **online gaming industry** and identify a nodal ministry to look after the sector.

- The seven-member panel includes government think-tank Niti Aayog's CEO as well as secretaries of home affairs, revenue, industries and internal trade, electronics and IT, information and broadcasting and sports.
- The panel will look into various aspects to promote online gaming and frame regulatory mechanisms for the segment, protection of gamers, ease of doing business, among others.

- 10.** The Central Government has set a target to increase **coal gasification to 100 million tonnes** (MT) by **2030** with investments worth over Rs.4 lakh crores. The government has also prepared a National Mission document to achieve 100 MT Coal Gasification by 2030.
- Coal Gasification is considered a cleaner option compared to the burning of coal. It facilitates utilization of the chemical properties of coal.
- 11.** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has developed an IT module for **Ministry of Defence** to integrate competent financial authorities and Internal Financial Advisers (IFA) for online e-concurrence and approval of procurement proposals on the GeM portal. The integration module has been launched by Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), in the presence of Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) at Defence Accounts Department Headquarters in New Delhi.

Cabinet approval (June 2022):

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a proposal to expand the mandate of Government e-Marketplace-Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM-SPV) to allow cooperative societies to register as buyers on this portal.

- At present, the platform is open for procurement by all government buyers: central and state ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions, local bodies, etc.
- As per existing mandate, GeM is not available for use by private sector buyers. Suppliers (sellers) can be from across all segments: government or private.

- 12.** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the '**Har Ghar Dastak 2.0**' campaign to vaccinate and cover the eligible population groups for first, second and precaution doses through door-to-door campaigns.
- It is a two-month-long door-to-door campaign that is being implemented from **1st June 2022 to 31st July 2022**.
 - This campaign will be focusing on old age homes, colleges, schools, out-of-school children (for coverage of children between 12 to 18 years of age), brick kilns, prisons, etc.
 - The campaign will also focus on improving sub-optimal coverage of persons aged 60 years and above with precaution dose.
 - The campaign is being supported by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

So far, 193.57 crore doses have been administered across the country. 3% of all persons above 15 years of age have received at least one dose and 86.3% have received both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

HarGharDastak 1.0 campaign:

It was launched in November 2021 to promote Covid-19 vaccination and protect individual citizens of India.

- 13.** India has commissioned its first and Asia's largest **International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT)** at the Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in **Uttarakhand**. The 4-meter (m) class telescope will monitor the sky for transient or variable objects like supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids.
- The ILMT is situated at an altitude of 2450 meters.
 - It has been designed and built at the Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems Corporation and the Centre Spatial de Liege, Belgium.
 - The major instrumentation funding of the Liquid Mirror Telescope has been jointly provided by Belgium and Canada while India is responsible for the operations and the upkeep of the telescope.
- 14.** The **Delhi Airport** has become the first Indian airport to introduce an '**RFID-enabled tag**' to track check-in luggage. The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology will give passengers real-time information about when and on which belt is their check-in luggage arriving in the terminal. The bag tags will be called "**BAGG TRAX**'.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID):

It refers to a wireless system comprised of two components: tags and readers. The reader is a device that has one or more antennas that emit radio waves and receive signals back from the RFID tag. They use radio frequencies ranging from 300 gigahertz (GHz) to as low as 9 kilohertz (kHz). It is also used in toll plazas in India.

- 15.** The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has constituted a committee to study the feasibility of a spectrum band for offering broadcast services directly to users' smartphones. "Band 526-582 MHz is envisaged to work in coordination with both mobile and broadcast services.
- In 2021, Public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati had announced a collaboration with IIT Kanpur to test the feasibility of the technology called D2M.

Direct-to-Mobile (D2M):

D2M is based on the convergence of broadband and broadcast, using which mobile phones can receive terrestrial digital TV. It would be similar to how people listen to FM radio on their phones, where a receiver within the phone can tap into radio frequencies. Using D2M, multimedia content can also be beamed to phones directly.

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16. Bangalore-based Datair Technology Pvt Ltd (**Ambee**), a global platform for hyperlocal and geospatial datasets on air quality, weather, pollen, soil, water vapour and fire, has joined **Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) Mission** of National Aeronautics and Space Administrations (NASA) as an early adopter.

PACE Mission:

It is currently in the design phase of mission development. It is scheduled to launch in 2024. PACE mission aims to make significant advances to aid air quality improvement and brings exciting new technology for the study of oceans and atmospheres.

17. The Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, BR Gavai and Aniruddha Bose in the Supreme Court of India has ordered that mining and construction of new permanent structures within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of **1-km** radius of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will not be permitted.

The court has directed that each protected forest, that is a national park or wildlife sanctuary, must have an eco-sensitive zone of a minimum of one kilometre measured from the demarcated boundary of such protected forest in which the activities proscribed and prescribed in the Guidelines of 9th February 2011, shall be strictly adhered to.

Note: For the Jamua Ramgarh wildlife sanctuary in Rajasthan, ESZ shall be 500 metres so far as subsisting activities are concerned.

18. President Ram Nath Kovind has paid tributes to Sant Kabir and inaugurated **Sant Kabir Academy** and **Research Centre** and **Swadesh Darshan Yojana** at Kabir Chaura Dham, Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of **Uttar Pradesh**. The foundation stone of this academy was laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. The Academy has been built at a cost of **Rs. 25 crore**.

Sant Kabir:

- He was born in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was a 15th century mystic poet, saint and social reformer and a proponent of the Bhakti Movement.
- He founded a religious community known as 'Kabir Panth' and the members of this forum are referred to as 'Kabir Panthis'.
- **Literary works:** Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthawali and Anurag Sagar.

19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement**', a global initiative, via video conferencing on the occasion of World Environment Day (5th June). The idea of LiFE promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.

The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021.

Aim of the LiFE Movement:

- To bring positive change in the environment by collective action.
- To persuade individuals across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives or adoption of environment-conscious lifestyle.
- To make the best use of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.
- To replace the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy with a **circular economy** of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.
- To create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely '**Pro-Planet People**' (P3).

Some of the major achievements of India in the environment sector:

- India's forest cover is increasing and so is the population of lions, tigers, leopards, elephants and rhinos.
- India's commitment to reach **40%** of installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources has been achieved, 9 years ahead of schedule.
- The target of **10% ethanol** blending in petrol has been achieved 5 months ahead of the November 2022 target. This is a major accomplishment given that blending was hardly 1.5% in 2013-14 and 5% in 2019-20.

20. Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated **National Food Laboratory** of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at **Raxaul** in Bihar. It has been established under the Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement to reduce the time in the testing of imported food samples brought into Raxaul from Nepal.

Earlier, all the imported samples having legal sanctity were being sent to National Food Laboratory at Kolkata, for testing.

21. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Territory of Chandigarh to set up the '**IAF Heritage Centre**' in **Chandigarh**. The objective is to showcase the role of the Indian Air Force in various wars and its overall functioning. This heritage centre will have artefact, simulators and interactive boards to highlight various facets of IAF.

22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the national portal for credit-linked government schemes '**Jan Samarth Portal**'. The main purpose of the portal is to encourage inclusive growth and development of various sectors by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital processes. As of now, at least 12 schemes that granted beneficiaries credit from banks has been included in the portal.
23. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that India will introduce a newly approved "made in India" TB infection skin test called '**c-TB**'. This cost-effective tool will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well. A new initiative, "**Adopt people with TB**" will also be launched this year, based on Indian values of collectivism.
24. The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has signed an agreement with **WiSig Networks Private Limited** and **VVDN Technologies Private Limited** to collaborate in the area of **Open RAN-based Radio Network for 5G solution**. This partnership will leverage the technical competencies of the Indian Research and Development (R&D) industry for indigenous design, development, manufacturing and deployment of cost-effective 5G products and solutions.
25. **Indian Railways** have been awarded by the UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards (ISRA) in the category of "**Best use of Zero-Carbon Technology**" for feeding Solar Energy directly to 25 KV AC Traction System. It has been awarded on the occasion of the World Environment Day (June 5th) in a gala ceremony held in Berlin, Germany.
26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a **special series of coins** of Rs.1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 denominations. These coins will have the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)** design. These new series of coins will remind citizens of the goal of Amrit Kal. It has been launched on the occasion of 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of Ministry of Finance from 6th June to 11th June 2022. These coins have also been made visually impaired friendly.
- **Note:** Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was officially started on 12th March 2021, and will be completed on 15th August 2023.
27. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved the procurement of military equipment and platforms worth **Rs 76,390 crore** from domestic industries. This includes:
- Procurement of Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT), Bridge Laying Tanks (BLTs), Wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Wh AFVs) with Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) and Weapon Locating Radars (WLRs) for the Indian Army.

- Procurement of Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) at an estimated cost of Rs 36,000 crore for the Indian Navy.
- Accorded AoNs (acceptance of necessity) for the manufacture of Dornier Aircraft and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by the Navratna CPSE M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with focus on enhancing indigenisation, particularly in indigenising aero-engine material.

STATES AFFAIRS

28. Maharashtra has become the leading producer of sugar in India after a five-year gap. It has overtaken Uttar Pradesh. During the current season of 2021-22 crushing year (October-September), Maharashtra has produced **138 lakh tonnes (lt)** of sugar, followed by Uttar Pradesh (104 lakh tonnes), Karnataka (60 lakh tonnes), and Gujarat (12 lakh tonnes).

Reasons for increasing sugar production in Maharashtra:

- The first is the bountiful rainfall Maharashtra has been receiving since the 2019 southwest monsoon season (June-September).
- The second is higher yields from farmers taking extra care of their crop.
- The third factor is due to the huge jump in “unregistered” cane cultivation.

Note: After Brazil, India is the second-largest producer of sugar in the world.

- 29.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has completed the excavation of **Nechiphu tunnel** in West Kameng district of **Arunachal Pradesh**. The last blast was initiated by BRO Director General Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhury virtually.
- The **500 metre** Nechiphu tunnel between Km 82 to 88 along the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road, which connects Balipara in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh bordering China, is located at an altitude of 5700 ft.
 - The D-shaped tunnel has been excavated under ‘**Project Vartak**’ and will accommodate two-way traffic.
 - It will be equipped with modern lighting and safety facilities.
 - The new Austrian tunnelling method has been used to achieve construction at a fast pace.
- 30.** The government of **Tamil Nadu** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to obtain life certificate from pensioners through doorstep services of the Postal Department. Under this MoU, the IPPB has agreed to offer the doorstep services at Rs.70 per digital life certificate.

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31. The state government of **Punjab** has abolished physical stamp papers and has launched an '**e-stamp facility**' to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue. The stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via 'e-stamp', which includes computerised print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the State government.
- The Punjab government will pay a commission of **2%** to the stamp vendors on e-stamps ranging from **Rs 1 to Rs 19,999**, while the general public would get stamp paper at the actual rate.
32. The state government of **Maharashtra** has launched the '**faceless Regional Transport Offices (RTOs)**' to help citizens avail facilities linked to the sector better. Through this arrangement, driving licences and several other services will be available to people who need not physically make the rounds of RTOs. This faceless platform will also help in saving paper.
- **Note:** Delhi is the first city to offer 'Faceless Services' which was launched through the Transport Department in 2021.
33. The Government of **Andhra Pradesh** has launched an app named "**ACB 14400**" to curb corruption at government offices across the State. The app has been developed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Through this app, the people can lodge corruption-related complaints against any government officials in the State.
34. The **Meghalaya** government key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architect (MeghEA) has bagged the Best Project Award in the "Role of Governments in Promoting ICTs for Development" category at the United Nations World Summit on Information Society Forum 2022. Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA) is India's only project to win the award this year.
35. '**Anchal**', a special health care campaign, has been launched for pregnant women in the **Karauli** district of **Rajasthan**. The aim is to provide all necessary medical aid to pregnant women at the pre and post-natal stage so that maternal and infant mortality rates could be reduced. It is also ensured that the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers in the district will keep in constant contact with the pregnant women of their respective areas and provide them with necessary counselling and treatment as and when required.
36. The Delhi government has planned to rename the city's streets and colonies with the word "Harijan" in their names after **BR Ambedkar**. A proposal to this effect has been tabled by Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam.

37. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has flagged off the luxury cruise liner “**Empress**” from Chennai port. The 11-storey tourist vessel can accommodate up to 2000 passengers and about 800 crew members. The packages include going to the high seas from the city port and to return, and also to anchor at Puducherry and Visakhapatnam harbours. The vessel has a swimming pool, children’s play area, gym, theatre and a multi-cuisine restaurant. This is considered the first luxury cruise liner to be operated from the state.
38. The Government of Sikkim has declared the ‘**Blue Duke**’ as the **State Butterfly of Sikkim**. Blue Duke has been selected as the state butterfly securing 57 percent of votes in a recent online poll conducted by the Forest Department.

Blue Duke:

- Scientific name: *Bassarona durga durga*
 - It is a species of nymphalid butterfly.
 - It is unique to Sikkim and the eastern Himalayas. It was discovered in the state in 1858.
 - It falls in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and is a protected species in the Himalayas.
39. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced that the state government is set to introduce the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** to the state’s sportspersons. He has made the announcement while addressing the inauguration and player award ceremony at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan. He has also informed that Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics will start from 29th August 2022 and more than 27 lakh players of all ages will take part in it.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

40. The Central African Republic (CAR) has become the second country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as official currency, after El Salvador. With this, CAR has become the first African country to adopt Bitcoin as its official currency. The nation has adopted Bitcoin along with the existing fiat currency, the Central African Franc.
41. **India and Sweden** have hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, as a part of their joint initiative i.e. **Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**. The LeadIT initiative lays specific focus on hard to abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate action and require specific interventions.
- The event has been addressed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, **Bhupender Yadav** and Minister for Climate and the Environment, Sweden, **Annika Strandhäll**.

- This high level of dialogue has contributed to the UN Conference 'Stockholm+50': a healthy planet for the prosperity of all –our responsibility, our opportunity', held on 2 and 3 June 2022 and set the agenda for COP27.
- During the event, India has also chaired the roundtable dialogues on Priorities for implementation 2022-23.

LeadIT:

- It was launched by India and Sweden at the UN Climate Action Summit in **September 2019** and is supported by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
 - Recently, Japan and South Africa have officially joined the LeadIT. This extends the total membership of LeadIT to 37 including countries and companies together.
- 42.** The United Nations has agreed to change the Republic of Turkey's country name at the organization from "Turkey" to "**Türkiye**", following the request from the government of Turkey. "Türkiye" will now be used in all foreign languages and the country's full official name will be 'Republic of Türkiye'.
- 43. Ex SAMPRITI-X**, a joint military training exercise between the armies of **India and Bangladesh**, has commenced recently at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.
- Indian Army is being represented by a Battalion of the **DOGRA Regiment** and Bangladesh Army is being represented by **Border Guards**.
- 44.** Albania's parliament has elected a top military official, **General Major Bajram Begaj** as the country's new president after no candidates were nominated in three rounds of voting. He will become **Albania's 8th** President and the 3rd from the military ranks. He will take oath as the new President on 25th July 2022 to replace the current President Ilir Meta.
- 45.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the **Rotary International Convention 2022**. The convention has been held in George R. Brown Convention Centre (GRB), **Houston, Texas**, the United States of America (USA).
- The 113th annual Rotary International Convention is organized by Rotary International.
 - Houston is hosting the Rotary convention for the 3rd time, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Rotary International Convention.
- Note:** Melbourne will host the 2023 Rotary International Convention.
- 46.** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has initiated **BALTOPS (Baltic Operations) 22**, a two-week United States-led naval exercise, on the **Baltic Sea** with more than 7,000

sailors, airmen and marines from 16 nations, including two aspiring to join the military alliance, Finland and Sweden.

- The annual BALTOPS naval exercise was initiated in 1972.
- It is an annual exercise that visibly demonstrates NATO's commitment to preserving regional peace and security by exercising a team of international forces that can rapidly respond in a time of crisis.
- It is scheduled to end in the German port of Kiel on 17th June 2022.

47. India and Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to increase cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation through a range of initiatives in areas such as renewable energy and plastic pollution. The MoU has been signed by environment minister **Bhupender Yadav** and his Canadian counterpart **Steven Guilbeault** in Stockholm, Sweden. It has been signed on the margins of the Stockholm+50 conference.

- India has increased its goal of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP from 35% to **45%** and is now aiming to generate half of its electricity from renewables by 2030, up from 40%.

48. Israel has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, its first such deal with an Arab state. Israel Minister of Economy and Industry Orna Barbiivay and the UAE Minister of Economy Abdalla Bin Touq Al Marri have signed the agreement in Dubai.

- **Objective:** To increase bilateral trade in goods and services, increase Israeli exports to UAE and provide customs exemption immediately or gradually on 96 percent of trade between the countries: food, agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, medication and more.

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REPORTS & INDICES

49. As per the official data from government on aggregate GST registrations in the 2017-22 period, **Maharashtra** and **Uttar Pradesh** have topped in Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration by businesses and dealers followed by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

- Maharashtra and UP have recorded **1.69 million** GST registrations.
- Gujarat has 1.09 million normal and composition tax payers, while Tamil Nadu has 1.06 million GST registrations.

- Uttar Pradesh has the largest share of small businesses with the state accounting for over 357,000 composition dealers, while Maharashtra has over 122,000 composition dealers, while Rajasthan has over 137,000 composition dealers.

50. National Statistical Office (NSO) has released Provisional Estimates (PE) of National Income and Quarterly Estimates of GDP (Q4) for 2021-22. Also, Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has released revenue-expenditure data for 2021-22.

- As per the data, India's GDP is estimated to grow at **8.7 percent** in FY22 as against 6.6 percent in 2020-21.
- India's GDP has declined to **4.1 percent** year-on-year in the January-March period of 2021-22 (Q4 FY22). The growth was 20.1 per cent, 8.4 per cent, and 5.4 per cent, in the first, second and third quarters, respectively.
- India's real GDP grew to Rs.147.36 lakh crore from Rs.135.58 lakh crore in 2020-21.
- Nominal GDP is estimated to grow 19.5 percent in FY22 to Rs 236.4 trillion.
- Gross value added (GVA)** at basic prices grew at **3.9 percent** in the fourth quarter and **8.1 percent** in FY22.
- Fiscal deficit** has improved to **6.7%** in FY22 as against revised budget estimate of 6.9% mainly on account of higher tax realisation.
- The combined **Index of Eight Core Industries** stood at 143.2 in April 2022, which is an increase of **8.4%** (provisional) as compared to the Index of April 2021.

GDP & GVA:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of a country's national income by adding up the expenditures in the economy. Whereas Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of total output and income in the economy and adds value to all goods and services produced in the economy.

- $GDP = GVA + \text{taxes earned by the government} - \text{subsidies provided by the government.}$

51. According to the 59th edition of the Top500 list of world's most powerful supercomputers, **Frontier**, a supercomputer built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) architecture and equipped with Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors, outperformed Supercomputer Fugaku (Japan) to become the world's fastest supercomputer. The supercomputer Frontier, built for the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), has reached Linmark benchmark score of **1.1 exaflops**.

- Frontier is followed by Fugaku (442 petaflops), LUMI system, installed at the EuroHPC centre at CSC in Finland (151.9 petaflops); Summit, an IBM-built system at ORNL in Tennessee, U.S. (148.8 petaflops); and Sierra, a system at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the U.S. (94.6 petaflops).
- 1 exaflop is equivalent to 1000 petaflops.

52. The Times Higher Education (THE) has announced the 'THE Awards Asia 2022'. The three Indian institutes have been recognized in 'THE Awards Asia 2022'.

- **Savitribai Phule Pune University:** 'THE Datapoints Research Improvement Award' category
- **Amity University (Online):** 'Student Recruitment Campaign of the Year' category
- **Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (Solan, Himachal Pradesh):** 'Outstanding Support for Students' category

Other awardees:

- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore: Leadership and Management Team of the Year category
- Seoul National University: Workplace of the Year category
- Izmir Institute of Technology: International Strategy of the Year category
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University: Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year category
- Diponegoro University: THE Datapoints Impact Award category
- Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS): Excellence and Innovation in the Arts category
- Burapha University: Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year category
- Taylor's University: Outstanding Support for Students category

THE Awards Asia recognise the achievements of higher education in Asia. It is awarded under 10 categories.

53. According to the latest Bloomberg's Billionaires Index, **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries, has become the richest man in India as well as in Asia with a net worth of **USD 99.7 billion**, surpassing Gautam Adani, chairman and founder of the Adani Group whose net worth was at USD 98.7 billion.

- Globally, Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 8th and Gautam Adani has been ranked 9th richest man in the world.
- **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has topped the index with a net worth of USD 227 billion, followed by Jeff Bezos (USD 149 billion), and Bernard Arnault (USD 138 billion).

54. A report titled '*Digital payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity*' has been prepared by **PhonePe** in collaboration with **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**. The report states that digital payments in India will reach **\$10 trillion** in value by **2026** from \$3 trillion now. Digital payments (non-cash) will constitute two out of three payment transactions by 2026.

- UPI (Unified Payments Interface) will surge from 35% in FY21 to 75% in the next 5 years.
- Digital payments will constitute nearly 65% of all payments by 2026, up from the current 40%.

- UPI saw about 9 times transaction volume increase in the past 3 years, increasing from 5 billion transactions in FY19 to about 46 billion transactions in FY22. This accounts for more than 60% non-cash transaction volumes in FY22.
- Tier 1-2 cities have witnessed the high acceptance of digital payments. The next wave of growth will now come from Tier 3-6 locations.

- 55.** The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released a new report titled '**Global Plastics Outlook Policy Scenarios to 2060**'. The report states that global plastic waste will almost triple by 2060 due to economic and population growth.
- The report estimates that the OECD countries will double their plastic use while Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are expected to have the largest increase.
 - The annual production of fossil-fuel based plastics is set to top 1.2 billion tonnes by 2060 and waste to exceed 1 billion tonnes.
 - The absence of new policies will result in an increase in global plastic consumption from 460 million metric tons in 2019 to 1.2 billion metric tons in 2060.

The full report will be launched on 21st June 2022 at the OECD Green Talks Live webinar series.

- 56.** According to the analysis of key financial parameters of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) conducted by Bank Unions, the 12 PSBs have collectively doubled their net profit during the financial year 2021-22 to **Rs. 66,539 crore**, a 110 percent increase from Rs 31,816 crore in the financial year 2020-21.
- The **State Bank of India's (SBI's)** net profit was the highest at **Rs 31,675 crore**, which is 55 percent higher than the previous year. It accounted for 47 percent of the total profits of public sector banks.
 - SBI is followed by Bank of Baroda, with a net profit of Rs 7,272 crore, earned 10 percent of PSBs' profits, followed by Canara Bank, which stood at Rs 5,678 crore, which was 8 percent of total net profit.
 - The highest revenue growth was reported by **Bank of Baroda**, followed by UCO Bank.
 - The collective dividend of public sector banks is more than **Rs 8,000 crore**.
 - The **Bank of Maharashtra** has shown the highest improvement in deposits and advances and is the only PSB to have a net non-performing asset (NPA) of less than 1 percent. It has also recorded the highest growth in advances of 25 percent, driven by the retail segment, which rose by 23 percent.
 - Private Banks registered a net profit of over **Rs 91,000 crore**, up 29 percent from Rs 70,435 crore in the previous year. Private Banks were led by **HDFC Bank** (Rs 36,961 crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 23,339 crore), Axis Bank (Rs 13,025 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (Rs 8,572 crore), IndusInd Bank (Rs 4,611 crore) and Federal Bank. 1889 crores).

- 57.** The world's first Fishing Cat census has been conducted outside the protected area network in **Chilika Lake** in Odisha. The census has been conducted by the Chilika Development

Authority (CDA) in collaboration with The Fishing Cat Project (TFCP). As per the census, Chilika Lake has **176 fishing cats**. A range of 131-237 species have been recorded as Schedule I species during the survey.

Fishing Cat:

- **Scientific Name:** Prionailurus viverrinus
- The fishing cat is nocturnal (active at night) and apart from fish also preys on frogs, crustaceans, snakes, birds, and scavenges on carcasses of larger animals.
- It is an adept swimmer and enters water frequently to prey on fish.
- They are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.
- It is listed as '**Endangered**' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List.

58. Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022 has been released by the Times Higher Education (THE). India is the third most-represented country, behind Japan and mainland China with 71 of its institutes figuring in the list. Out of these, **four** Indian Universities have made it to the top 100 and 17 Indian universities topped the list under top 200.

Top 4 Indian universities under top 100:

- Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (42nd)
- JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (65th)
- Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (68th)
- Indian Institute of Technology Indore (87th)

Japan is the most-represented nation again this year, with 118 institutions, up from 116 last year. China is home to the continent's top two universities for the third consecutive year, with Tsinghua and Peking universities holding on to first and second place, respectively. Palestinian university is ranked for the first time and Saudi Arabia has increased its representation in the top 100 from four to six institutions.

59. As per the latest estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained its 10th position among the top global BPM (Business Process Management) providers in 2021. The ranking is based on a composite score of revenue, which was over \$3 billion for TCS, and revenue growth, which grew by 14-16% over 2020.

- The **top 5 BPM players in terms of revenue** were Automatic Data Processing (ADP), Teleperformance, Accenture, Concentrix, and Sitel Group.
- The **top 5 fastest-growing companies** year-on-year were Tech Mahindra, Telus International, Majorel, Teleperformance, and Comdata.
- The BPM businesses of Infosys, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra were ranked at 20, 21, and 22 with revenue of \$1.3 billion, \$1.4-\$1.5 billion, and \$675 million respectively.

- 60.** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has released a report titled **“Road accidents in India- 2020”**. The report highlights that the number of road accidents has been on decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase of 0.46% in 2018.
- In India, road accident parameters decreased in 2020 compared to 2019.
 - According to the report, compared to the previous year’s average, total road accidents decreased by **18.46 percent**. The number of deaths due to road accidents also decreased by **12.84 percent** and the number of injuries also decreased by **22.84 percent**.
 - The Union Territories and the States have reported a total of **3,66,138 road accidents** in the year 2020. The reported accidents have caused 1,31,714 deaths and 3,48,279 injuries.
 - Young adults in the 18-45 age group accounted for 70 percent of the total victims in 2020. People in the 18-60 working-age group have accounted for 86 percent of all total fatalities related to road accidents.
 - The highest number of road accidents on the National Highways was in **Tamil Nadu** in 2020. The number of people killed in road accidents was highest in **Uttar Pradesh**, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Rajasthan.
 - The states that reported fewer fatalities and road accidents in 2020 are **Kerala**, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
 - According to the report, across the national highways in the country, there are 5,803 black spots. The maximum number of black spots are located in **Tamil Nadu (748) and West Bengal (701)**.
 - According to the report, the highest accident severity has been reported in **Mizoram (79)**, Bihar (78), and Punjab (75). The severity of road accidents is calculated by the number of deaths caused per 100 accidents. The national average of the country increased to **36** in 2020 from 33.7 in 2019, the highest in the last two decades. In 2000, it was 20.2.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

61. Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):

- It is a central sector scheme being administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- It was launched in **2008** by combining two schemes, namely Prime Minister’s Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), for the generation of employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in rural and urban areas.
- It is being implemented by the *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)* at the national level.
- It is being implemented through banks, District Industries Centres (DICs), State KVIC Directorates, and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) at the state level.

62. PM CARES for Children scheme:

- It was launched on **29th May 2021**.
- The scheme benefits those children who lost their parents to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The scheme provides monetary support of **Rs.4000** per month to meet the daily needs of children (between the age of 18 to 23 years), as well as financial assistance for schooling, a higher education scholarship.
- The scheme also provides lump sum amount of **Rs 10 lakh** on attaining 23 years of age.

63. National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):

- It was established in 2015.
- It is being jointly steered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and the IISc, Bengaluru.
- The target of the mission is set to establish a network of supercomputers ranging from a few Tera Flops (TF) to Hundreds of Tera Flops (TF) and three systems with greater than or equal to 3 Peta Flops (PF) in academic and research institutions of National importance across the country by 2022.

64. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):

- It is a life insurance scheme that offers coverage for death due to any reason.
- Any individual in the age group of **18-50 years** having a savings bank or a post office account are eligible to enroll under the scheme.
- It provides life insurance cover of **Rs 2 lakh**.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

- It is accidental insurance scheme that offers coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- Any individual in the age group of 18-70 years having a savings bank or a post office account is eligible to enroll under the scheme. It provides accidental death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh for death or disability due to an accident. Rs.1 lakh is provided in case of partial disability.

Both the above mentioned schemes were launched on **9th May 2015** from Kolkata, West Bengal.

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65. Government e Marketplace (GeM):

- It was launched on **9th August 2016** by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to create an open and transparent procurement platform for Government buyers.
- A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the name of Government e- Marketplace (GeM SPV) was set up as the National Public Procurement Portal on 17th May, 2017 in pursuance of the approval, of the Union Cabinet accorded on 12th April, 2017.

66. The Government of India (GoI) has approved new guidelines for the Central Sector Scheme "**Promotion of MSMEs in the North East Region and Sikkim**". The scheme will be implemented during 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26). The Scheme is envisaged to provide financial support for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the NER and Sikkim.

Components of Scheme:

- **Setting up of new and modernization of existing Mini Technology Centres:** Under this, maximum financial support to state governments for setting up new and modernizing existing Mini Technology Centres has been increased from Rs 10 crore to **Rs 13.50 crore**. The financial assistance of Central Government will be **90%**. The projects with total project cost more than Rs. 15.00 crore, will also be considered.
- **Development of new and existing Industrial Estates:** Under this, financial assistance for development of new and existing industrial estates, flatted factory complexes has been increased to **Rs 9 crore** for new industrial estates and **Rs 13.50 crore** for existing ones. Earlier, the upper limit was Rs 8 crore for both new and existing estates. The financial assistance of Government will be **90%**. The maximum project cost for calculation of assistance shall be Rs.15.00 crore for development of new industrial estate whereas Rs.10.00 crore for development of existing Industrial Estate.
- **Development of Tourism Sector:** The financial assistance of Central Government will be **90%** for projects with maximum assistance limited to **Rs. 4.50 crore**.

67. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the "SHRESHTA" scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas. It has been launched at an event in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- **SHRESHTA** stands for '**Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas**'
- **Objective:** To provide quality education and opportunities for even the poorest Scheduled Caste students, as per the Constitutional mandate.
- The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme for admission in class 9th and 11th.
- Students belonging to marginalized income group within the SC community, whose parental annual income is upto **Rs.2.5 Lakh** are eligible.
- The scholarships will be funded by Government of India (GoI), which will cover the school fee, hostel fee via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The maximum limits set to cover all these expenses are: 9th class: Rs.1 lakh p.a. per student, 10th class: Rs.1.10 lakh p.a. per student, 11th class: Rs.1.25 lakh p.a. per student and 12th class: Rs.1.35 lakh p.a. per student.
- Approximately 3000 students will be selected through National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS). They will be admitted in Best Private Residential-CBSE affiliated School in classes 9th and 11th, for completion of education till 12th standard.
- Another feature of this scheme is the "*provision for bridge course*". This will help students in adapting to the new school environment. This course will be provided for 3 months to students from state schools and rural areas.

- 68.** Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Bhagwant Khuba, has launched the Pan-India Rooftop Solar Awareness Campaign named "**Ghar Ke Upar Solar Is Super**" during an event at Bidar, Karnataka.
- The campaign is initiated by **National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)** with the support of the German Solar Association (BSW) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Sequa KVP Programme.
 - It is a **3-year** long campaign.
 - It aims to raise awareness of Solar Rooftops among 100 Indian towns and cities, especially tier 2 and tier 3 towns/cities.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is providing **40% of subsidy** for households to install solar. Under PM-KUSUM scheme, the farmers will be given **30%** subsidy each by centre and state to install solar pumps.

- 69. Sagarmala Young Professional (SYP) scheme** for engagement of Young Professionals in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has been formulated to engage talented, forward-thinking and dynamic young professionals in various divisions of the Ministry. Under this scheme, initially, more than **25** young professionals will be hired for **2 years** (extendable to 2 more years) to deliver high-quality inputs in areas such as infrastructure, data analysis,

project management, start-up, innovation, skill development, digital transformation and the environment, among others.

Sagarmala Project:

It is an ambitious national initiative, launched in **2015**, to transform India's Logistics Sector performance. The project aims to harness the 7500 km long coastline of the country to unleash its economic potential. The vision is to reduce logistics costs for EXIM (Export-Import) and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 70.** Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (**TPEML**), a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd, and Ford India Private Limited (**FIPL**), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of **Gujarat** (GoG) for the potential acquisition of FIPL's Sanand vehicle manufacturing facility, including land, buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant, machinery and equipment.
- TPEML will invest into new machinery and equipment. With the proposed investments, it will establish an installed capacity of 300,000 units per annum, which will be scalable to more than 400,000 units.
- 71.** According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Finance, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is around **Rs 1.41 lakh crore**. This is a **44 percent** increase in comparison to May 2021 (Rs. 97,821 crore).
- GST revenue in May 2022 is **15%** lower than the record high collection of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022. GST revenue in March was Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while in February it was Rs 1.33 lakh crore.
 - In May 2022, the GST revenue collected is Rs 1,40,885 crore which is divided into: **CGST**: Rs 25,036 crore, **SGST**: Rs 32,001 crore, **IGST**: Rs 73,345 crore which includes Rs 37,469 crore collected on import of goods, and **Cess**: Rs 10,502 crore which includes Rs 931 crore collected on import of goods.

Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- GST is an indirect tax used in India on the supply of goods and services. It is a value-added tax levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.
- It was launched in India on **1 July 2017** as a comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country.
- It is of three types i.e. CGST to be levied by the Centre, SGST to be levied by the States, and IGST a tax levied on all Inter-State supplies of goods and/or services.
- The GST Council headed by the **Union Finance Minister** is the governing and key decision-making body for GST.

- 72. Blue Dart Express**, an Indian logistics company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group, has signed the '**Climate Neutral Now**' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.
- Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to **Euro 7 billion** to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.
 - CNN was launched in 2015. This Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by **2050** as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.
- 73.** The Government of India (GoI) has approved **8.1 percent** rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22 to each member of the EPF scheme. The 8.1 percent EPF rate of interest is the lowest since 1977-78, when it stood at 8 percent.
- In March 2022, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 to 8.1 percent from 8.5 percent provided in 2020-21.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

It is the statutory body under the Government of India's Ministry of Labour and Employment. It is responsible for regulation and management of provident funds in India. It is located in New Delhi.

- 74. Bajaj Finance Limited**, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, a leading conglomerate in financial services, has launched the financial education awareness initiative '**Har Time EMI On Time**'. It is a digital campaign to drive awareness around the need and benefits of adopting good financial habits for a healthy financial future.
- The brand campaign features the endearing Gupta Ji, of 'Savdhaan Rahein. Safe Rahein.' fame teaching Tinku Ji, the simple ways of paying his monthly EMIs on time, in an entertaining and melodious style.
 - 'Har Time EMI On Time' is an extension of its original educational series, 'ABC of EMI' launched during the observance of the Financial Literacy Week in February 2022.
- 75. Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Muthoot Finance** to offer gold loans through Airtel Thanks app. Under this partnership, there will be no-processing charge on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to 75 percent of the pledged gold value as a loan. The loan facility will also be available at the 5 lakh banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.
- 76.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of shareholding in **Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd.** by HCJI Holdings G.K., Citrus Investments, HCJ

Holdings 2 G.K., Japan Industrial V – GP K.K., and other investors. It has been proposed to acquire **26%** in the Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. from Hitachi Ltd., on a fully diluted basis.

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BANKING & FINANCE

77. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life), a joint venture company established by Tata Sons and AIA Group (AIA), has launched a '**Smart Value Income Plan**', a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments. It is first of its kind in the industry.

- Individuals between the age group of 1 and 65 can buy the Smart Value Income Plan, with a maximum maturity age of 100 years. The policyholder may also be eligible for tax advantages under Sections 80 C and 10 (10 D) of the Income Tax Act of 1961.

78. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its **Risk Management Review Committee (RMRC)**, which reviews the risk management framework for the cash and derivatives, including commodity derivatives.

- The 14-member committee will be headed by IIM Ahmedabad Professor **Jayanth R Varma**.
- The members of the committee include SEBI officials, managing directors of NSE Clearing, Indian Clearing Corporation, Metropolitan Clearing Corporation of India, Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation, National Commodity Clearing, Clearing Corporation of India and the president of Commodity Participants Association of India (CPAI).
- Other members of the committee are: Sriram Krishnan, Managing Director, Head of Securities Services at Deutsche Bank, Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, ICICI Bank, Kuryan G Stephanos, Vice President – Finance and MIS at ITC Ltd and Gopalarethinam, Head Commercial and Bullion Management of Titan Company Ltd.

79. HDFC Limited has partnered with Accenture to digitally transform its lending business by using a cloud-native platform for application, processing, credit underwriting and disbursement. Under this partnership, HDFC Limited will deploy machine learning, automation, and advanced analytics to make it a straight-through and paperless process for the customer.

- 80.** Kotak Investment Advisors, a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank, has launched a one-stop curated open architecture investment management platform named '**Kotak Cherry**'. The platform aims to be an open architecture platform, which will help investors in choosing from a wide array of offerings beyond the ones manufactured by Kotak group companies.
- 81. ICICI Home Finance Limited** has entered into a co-lending partnership with **Easy Home Finance Limited** to provide affordable home loans in India. This partnership will enable speedy disbursement of affordable home loans, allowing people to realise their dream of owning a home.
- 82. CarTrade Tech** Limited has tied up with **IDFC First Bank** to provide easy and smart financing for used cars. Under this partnership, IDFC First Bank will become the preferred financier for customers purchasing used vehicles from *CarWale abSure's* dealers with customized offerings to suit their needs. CarWale abSure is the used car platform of CarTrade Tech.
- 83. Ashwani Bhatia** has been appointed as Whole Time Member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will handle the department of debt and hybrid securities (DDHS), alternative investment fund and foreign portfolio investors department (AFD), market intermediaries' regulation and supervision department (MIRSD), corporation finance investigation department (CFID) and office of investor assistance & education (OIAE). He was previously the Managing Director (MD) of state-owned State Bank of India (SBI).
- SEBI now has three WTMs. The government is yet to appoint the fourth member.
- 84. SBI General Insurance**, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI), has launched a new **health insurance vertical**, through which the company plans to focus on new innovative health products, in-house claim settlement process, among others, to boost customer experience.

Recent Partnerships:

- SBI General Insurance has partnered with **Apollo 24/7** to provide its customers with access to a variety of services offered by Apollo 24/7.
 - SBI General Insurance has also partnered with **Sevamob**, an organisation working extensively to address health issues faced by women, children, and senior citizens in North India, especially Uttar Pradesh.
- 85.** Kiya.ai, a digital solutions provider to financial institutions and governments, has launched India's first-ever **banking metaverse** named **Kiyaverse** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It intends

to merge use cases of real-world banking with metaverse banking through an avatar (virtual humanoid) based interactions.

- Kiyaverse will provide 3-dimensional analysis of data for Banks including CMO Insights, Product Performance, Risk Analysis and Channel Analytics.
- It will interface its Open API connectors with Aggregators, and Gateways to enable a Super-App and Marketplace on the metaverse.
- It uses tokens as NFTs (Non-fungible token) and to support Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to enable open finance in a Web3.0 environment.

86. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman Dr GR Chintala has launched '**My Pad My Right**' (MPMR) project in **Leh**, Ladakh. The project has been launched by NABARD's NabFoundation with machinery and materials of a cost of 7.5 lakh.

- The project is an initiative of **NABARD** and **NAB Foundation**, to provide better livelihood and menstrual hygiene to women in rural areas through grants-in-aid, wage support and equipment.
- Under the initiative, one sanitary pad making machine, raw materials for two months, wages for 50 days, packaging material with accessories and a five-day training in three phases are provided.
- The project aims to help rural women improve menstrual hygiene.

87. The Reserve Bank had launched its first global hackathon - "HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments'.

The results of the Hackathon are as follows:

PRACTICE MOCK

Sl. No.	Problem Statement		Results	Products Description
1	Innovative, easy-to-use, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode	Winner	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)	The solution enables quick and easy peer-to-peer (P2P) or peer-to-merchant (P2M) payments with customers making payments by using their voice. It generates a unique identification code for a customer's voice and the same is used for authenticating the payments.
		Runner-up	Extolabs LLC (USA)	ExtoPay provides a biometric smart card-based solution that supports multi-factor authentication including biometric authentication. It provides a screen on the card to display transaction details. It facilitates easy to use payment option for people not having mobile phones.
2	Alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments	Winner	napID Cybersec Pvt. Ltd. (INDIA)	The solution enables a customer to activate/de-activate payment credentials (username, password, card number, etc.) with a click on napID application.
		Joint Runners-up	1) neoEYED (USA)	The neoEYED AI algorithm monitors behavioural patterns (typing speed, mouse movement, pattern of holding mobile phone, etc.) to create a digital profile of the user. It generates a "Trust Score" of each transaction based on customer behaviour and matches it with the digital profile to authenticate the transaction.
			2) Sperotel Technologies LLP (INDIA)	Sperotel Messaging is an end-to-end encrypted messaging platform that can be used to send secure OTP. On the payment portal, the customer can choose this platform instead of SMS for receiving OTP.
3	Context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment*	Winner	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)	The solution creates a virtual area inside the store which can be detected by the customer's mobile phone. The customer can select the product/s by just speaking the name of the product. Payments are made automatically/through voice authentication on completion of purchase.
4	Social Media Analysis and Monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption	Winner	TrustCheckr (INDIA)	TrustCheckr provides AI-based solution analysing information from social media platforms to assist in warning customers about potential frauds.
		Joint Runners-up	1) Ezetap Mobile Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (INDIA)	This solution facilitates social media analytics using predictive analysis, machine learning, sentiment analysis, etc. to provide fraud detection and prevention services.
			2) Lalit Kumar Pagaria (INDIA)	Obsei, the product, is an AI-powered real-time social media analytics tool. It performs sentiment analysis, classification, and provides results in the form of a customisable and programmable dashboard. It can also help understand customer feedback in their native languages.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

88. Rashmi Sahoo, director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, has won the **Times Business Award 2022**. She has been given the award by renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood. The award has been given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY -TO-EAT brand. She also started and established Frozit – Odisha's first frozen food company.

89. Salman Rushdie, an Indian-born British novelist and the author of the 1981 Booker Prize-winning novel 'Midnight's Children', leads a list of over 40 professionals and community champions of Indian-origin to be honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022. He will be awarded the '**Companion of Honor**' by Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, for his service in the literary world.

- The 'Companion of Honor' given by the Queen is a special award which is given for notable contribution in the fields of arts, science, medicine etc.

Other Indian-origin awardees among the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022:

- **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE):** Avnish Mitter Goyal
- **Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBEs):** Kishorkant (Vinu) Bhattessa for charitable and voluntary services, particularly during COVID-19, and Rohit Naik for services to education.
- **Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE):** Pranav Bhanot, Chila Kumari Singh Burman, Sandeep Mahal, Professor Daljit Nagra and Dr Chithra Ramakrishnan, etc.

90. The International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2022 has been held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It has been hosted by Salman Khan, Maniesh Paul, and Riteish Deshmukh.

Winners of IIFA 2022:

- **Best Actor (Male):** Vicky Kaushal (Sardar Udham)
- **Best Actor (Female):** Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
- **Best Director:** Vishnuvaradhan (Shershaah)
- **Best Film:** Shershaah
- **Best Playback Singer Female:** Asees Kaur for 'Raataan Lambiyan', (Shershaah)
- **Best Playback Singer Male:** Jubin Nautiyal for song 'Raataan Lambiyan', (Shershaah)
- **Best Lyrics:** Kausar Munir for 'Lehra Do', 83
- **Best Music Direction:** A R Rahman for Atrangi Re and Jasleen Royal, Javed-Mohsin, Vikram Montrose, B Praak, Jaani for Shershaah
- **Best Male Debut:** Ahan Shetty (Tadap)
- **Best Female Debut:** Sharvari Wagh (Bunty Aur Babli 2)
- **Best Story Adapted:** Kabir Khan, Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for 83
- **Best Original Story:** Ludo by Anurag Basu
- **Best Supporting Actor Female:** Sai Tamhankar (Mimi)
- **Best Supporting Actor Male:** Pankaj Tripathi (Ludo)

BOOKS & AUTHORS

91. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh has released 2 e-books titled '**E-book on 8 years Achievements of DoPPW-2014-2022**' and '**E-book on 8 years Achievements of Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)**', during the webinar on Administrative and Pension reforms -2014-2022 in New Delhi.

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PERSON IN NEWS

92. The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Pankaj Sharma**, Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS) as part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA). He has succeeded Vandita Kaul.

- PFRDA consist of a Chairman, 3 whole-time members, and 3 part-time members.
- Anne George Matthew, Additional Secretary in Finance Ministry is the other part-time member in PFRDA Board.

The GoI has also appointed **Suchindra Mishra**, Additional Secretary in the Department of Financial Services as a member of the Board of International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA). It has also appointed **Shashank Saxena**, Senior Economic Advisor in the Department of Economic Affairs as a member in IFSCA, which is currently the Gift City regulator.

93. Senior IAS officer **Vandita Sharma** (Punjab) has been appointed as the 39th Chief Secretary of **Karnataka**. She has succeeded P Ravi Kumar. She will hold the office till November 2023. With this, she has become the fourth woman to occupy the post, after Teresa Bhattacharya in 2000, Malathi Das in 2006, and K Ratna Prabha in 2017.

- She is a 1986-batch IAS officer and is currently serving as the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Karnataka.

94. Former State Bank of India (SBI) executive **Natarajan Sundar** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from 30th May 2022. He has been appointed to replace the incumbent CEO Padmakumar M Nair.

- **Karnam Sekar**, who headed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) till June 30, 2020, has been appointed non-executive chairman of NARCL.
- **Malvika Sinha**, who retired as executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), also joined the NARCL board as an independent director.

95. Senior scientist **Rajesh Gera** has been appointed as the Director-General of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). He joined NIC as Deputy Director General (DDG) in 2020.

National Informatics Centre (NIC):

It is an Indian government organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It was established in 1976 with the objective to provide technology-driven solutions to central and state governments. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

96. Indian former cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** will continue as 'Goodwill Ambassador' of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of

underprivileged children. He has been associated with UNICEF for over 2 decades for various causes.

- In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India.
- In 2008, he was roped in to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities and has been continuing to do so over the years.
- In 2013, he was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.

97. Senior IPS officer **S L Thaisen** has been appointed as the new Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). He has been appointed for a tenure up to his superannuation on 30th November 2023 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. He is a 1988 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh-cadre.

- The SSB chief's post has been lying vacant after incumbent DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra retired on 31st December 2021.
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Sanjay Arora has been holding the additional charge of the SSB since then.

98. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India (UBI), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), and Punjab & Sind Bank.

Union Bank of India:

The Centre has approved the appointment of **A. Manimekhalai**, executive director, Canara Bank as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO) in Union Bank of India for three years. With this, she has become the **first woman** MD and CEO of Union Bank of India. She has succeeded Rajkiran Rai. G who retired on 31st May 2022.

Indian Overseas Bank:

The Centre has approved the appointment of **Ajay Kumar Srivastava**, executive director, Indian Overseas Bank as MD & CEO of the bank for three years. He will replace **Partha Pratim Sengupta** whose term will end on December 2022.

Punjab & Sindh Bank:

The Centre has approved the appointment of **Swarup Kumar Saha**, executive director, Punjab National Bank as MD & CEO in Punjab & Sind Bank for three years. He has succeeded S. Krishnan who retired on 31st May 2022.

99. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed Indian cricketer **Yash Dhull** as the ECI State Icon for the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi to motivate youngsters to get enrolled to exercise their right to vote. As the ECI State Icon Yash Dhull will educate and motivate the youngsters to enrol themselves in the electoral roll.

100. The Dutch documentary film **“Turn Your Body to the Sun”** has won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film at the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2022. The Award carries a Golden Conch, a Certificate and cash prize of Rs 1 million (Rs 10 lakhs). The film is directed by **Aliona Van der Horst**. The film tells the incredible life story of a Soviet soldier of Tatar descent, who was captured by the Nazis during World War II.

Other winners at MIFF 2022:

Best Short-fiction: (Silver Conch, a certificate and cash prize of Rs. 2.5 lakhs)

- *‘Saakshatkaaram’* (Malayalam) by Sudesh Balan
- *‘Brother Troll’* (Faroese language) by Gudmund Helmsal

Best Animation Film: (Silver Conch, a certificate and cash prize of Rs.5 lakhs)

‘Prince in a Pastry Shop’ (Poland) by Katarzyna Agopsowicz

Pramod Pati - Most Innovative / Experimental Film: (Cash prize of Rs.1 lakh along with a trophy and certificate)

‘Closed to the Light’ directed and produced by Italian film maker Nicola Piovesan

Special mention by International Jury:

- *‘Ghar Ka Pata’* by Madhulika Jalali
- Films Division production *‘Who Says The Lepchas Are Vanishing?’* by Abhuydaya Khaitan

National Competition Awards:

- **‘Admitted’** directed by Ojaswnee Sharma has won the Silver Conch award for Best Documentary Film (above 60 minutes) in National Competition section.
- **‘Screaming Butterflies’** directed by Assamese Director Aimee Barua and produced by Mala Barua has won the Silver Conch award for Best Documentary Film (below 60 minutes) in National Competition section.
- **‘Geru Patra’** directed by Shristipal Singh has won the Silver Conch for ‘Best Short Fiction Film’ (upto 45 minutes) in National Competition section.
- **‘Kandittundu (Seen It)’** directed by Adithi Krishnadas has been awarded the Silver Conch for Best Animation Film in National Competition section for its subtly hilarious take on the fantasy folklore of Kerala.

Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Director:

Bimal Poddar for his film **‘Radha’**. The award carries a trophy, certificate and prize money of Rs. 1 lakh.

IDPA Award for Best Student Film:

'**Megha**', a Bengali film, directed by Rishi Bhaumik. The award carries a trophy, certificate and prize money of Rs. 1 lakh.

OBITUARIES

- 101.** Noted singer **Krishnakumar Kunnath**, popularly known as KK, has recently passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 23rd August 1968 in Delhi.
- He made his film debut with an A.R. Rahman soundtrack.
 - He launched his debut album titled 'Pal' in 1996, from which songs "**Pal**" and "**Yaaro**" became very popular.
 - His popular songs included "Tadap Tadap" from Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam (1999), "Dola Re Dola" from Devdas (2002), "Kya Mujhe Pyaar Hai" from Woh Lamhe (2006), "Aankhon Mein Teri" from Om Shanti Om (2007), "Khuda Jane" from Bachna Ae Haseeno (2008), "Piya Aaye Na" from Aashiqui 2 (2013), "India Wale" from Happy New Year (2014) and "Tu Jo Mila" from Bajrangi Bhaijaan (2015), among others.
- 102.** Santoor player and renowned music composer **Pandit Bhajan Sopori** has recently passed away in Gurugram, Haryana. He was born in 1948 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- He belonged to the Sufiana gharana of Indian classical music.
 - He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2004**, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992 and the Jammu and Kashmir State Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.
 - The Indian Postal Department honoured Bhajan Sopori with a Rs.5 stamp in 2011 as a tribute for his exceptional work in the world of art and culture.
- 103.** **Prof Bhim Singh**, founder of the **Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP)** and former legislator, has recently passed away in Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir. He was born on 17th August 1941 in Bhugterian village, J&K.
- He was the first Indian to have travelled through 150 countries across the world by a motorcycle from 1967 to 1973.
 - He was also the first Indian to be elected as secretary of the University of London Students Union in 1971.
 - He had been a leading campaigner against Article 370, which provided a special status to J&K.
- 104.** Freedom fighter and veteran of Indian National Army (INA) **Anjalai Ponnusamy** has recently passed away in Sentul, Malaysia. She had joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, the women's unit of the INA, during the World War II and fought for India's freedom from the British. She witnessed both India and Malaysia obtain freedom in 1947 and 1957, respectively.

SPORTS

- 105.** Grandmaster **Wesley Barbossa So**, a Filipino-American chess grandmaster, has won the 10th edition of the 2022 Norway Chess Blitz tournament by defeating Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen (Norway). The tournament has been held in Finansparken, Stavanger, Norway.
- The Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has defeated GM Magnus Carlsen and has secured 4th position in the tournament.
- 106.** Indian Para Canoeist **Prachi Yadav** has won the bronze medal in the women's VL2 200m event at the 2022 ICF Paracanoe World Cup. The tournament has been held in Poznan, Poland. With this, she has become the first-ever Indian to win a medal in the International Canoe Federation (ICF) World Cup.
- Prachi Yadav hails from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
 - She had become the first para-canoeist from the country to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.
 - She had bagged gold in VL2 200m at the Asian Canoe Sprint Championships in Thailand.
- 107.** International Hockey Federation's (FIH) World Rankings 2022 has ranked the **Indian Women's Hockey Team**, captained by Savita Punia, at the **6th position**, for the first time, with 2029.396 points. The women's ranking is topped by the Netherlands (Rank 1), followed by Argentina (Rank 2), and Australia (Rank 3).
- **Indian Men's Hockey Team** has slipped to the **4th rank** in the FIH World Rankings 2022. The men's ranking is topped by Australia, followed by Belgium, and the Netherlands.
- 108.** **Harini Logan**, a 14-year-old Indian origin teenager, has won the Scripps National Spelling Bee 2022. She has participated in this competition for the fourth time. She correctly spelt 22 words in the historic spell-off and won 50,000 USD. She hails from San Antonio, Texas.
- **Vikram Raju**, a 12-year old Indian origin boy, has finished second place and spelt 15 words correctly.
- 109.** Former West Indies captain, **Daren Sammy** has been honoured with the '**Sitara-i-Pakistan Award**', Pakistan's third-highest civilian award, for his excellent contribution to the revival of international cricket in Pakistan. He represented **West Indies** in 38 Tests, 126 ODIs, and 68 T20Is.
- Earlier (2020), he received the highest civilian medal of Pakistan, Nishan-e-Pakistan, for his part in helping bring international cricket back to Pakistan.
 - He was also awarded honorary Pakistani citizenship by the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi.

110. Team Hockey of **South Korea** has won the **2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup** title after defeating Malaysia in the final match held in Jakarta, Indonesia. This is the fifth time the South Korean team has lifted the prestigious trophy. The tournament has been organized by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

- **India** has won the **bronze medal** by defeating Japan in the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2022.

Awards & Recognition (2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup):

- **Top scorer:** Razie Rahim of Malaysia
- **Promising Goalkeeper:** Akmal Hussain of Pakistan
- **Best Goalkeeper:** Takashi Yoshikawa of Japan
- **Rising Star:** Uttam Singh of India
- **Hero Best Player:** Jang Jonghyun of Korea
- **AHF Athlete Ambassador:** SV Sunil (India), Razie Rahim (Malaysia), and Mubashar Ali (Pakistan)

Note: India will host the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.

111. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has extended the tenure of Sports Authority of India (SAI's) **Director-General Sandip Pradhan** to another two years till **30th September 2024**. He is a 1990 batch IRS-IT officer. He became the Director General of SAI in 2019.

112. According to Forbes, **LeBron Raymone James Sr.**, an American professional **basketball** player for the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association, has officially become a billionaire with a net worth of USD 1 billion. He has become the 1st active NBA player to become a billionaire. He has won 4 NBA championships and has been named NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award 4 times.

- **Note:** Michael Jordan became the first NBA player to become a billionaire in 2014, almost 11 years after he retired as a player.

113. The 2022 French Open, a Grand Slam tennis tournament, has been held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

French Open 2022	
Title	Winner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain) (14th French Open title)

Women's Singles	Iga Świątek (Poland) (2nd French Open title)
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador), Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands)
Women's doubles	Caroline Garcia (France), Kristina Mladenovic (France)
Mixed doubles	Ena Shibahara (Japan), Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)

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IMPORTANT DAYS

114. World Milk Day is observed annually on **1st June** to recognize milk as global food and to celebrate the dairy industry. The goal of World Milk Day is to reach 'Dairy Net Zero' by lowering greenhouse emissions and improving waste management over the next 30 years. The day was established by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in 2001.

- **Note:** India is the largest producer of milk followed by the US, Pakistan, and China, and also accounts for 22 percent of the global milk production.

115. Global Day of Parents is observed annually on **1st June** to honour all parents around the world for their selfless commitment and lifelong sacrifice they make for their children. It also aims to raise awareness about the importance of quality parenting and family life. The day was first observed in 2013.

- **Theme 2022:** "Appreciate All Parents Throughout the World".

116. Telangana Formation Day is observed annually on **2nd June** to celebrate the foundation of the youngest state of India which was formed on the same day in **2014**. The year 2022 marks the 8th Formation Day of Telangana.

- Telangana became India's 29th state, however, at present, it is the 28th state as Jammu and Kashmir were made UT in 2019.
- The day commemorates the official separation of Telangana from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

- 117. World Bicycle Day** is observed annually on **3rd June** to recognise bicycling as a way to get a sustainable form of travelling that also ensures one's physical well-being. The day was first observed in 2018.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur has launched a nationwide '**Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle rally**' on World Bicycle Day 2022.
 - The aim of cycle rally is to encourage and motivate people to adopt cycling in their daily lives for physical fitness and keep them immune to health disorders including obesity, stress, anxiety, and diseases.
- 118. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** is observed annually on **4th June** to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. The day was first observed on 19th August 1982. At that time, the day was focused on victims of the Lebanon War.
- 119. World Environment Day (WED)** is observed annually on **5th June** to create awareness among people about the importance of nature. The day is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and held annually since 1973. The day was established in 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Only One Earth'
 - The year 2022 marks the **50 year anniversary** of the 1972 Stockholm Conference.
 - WED 2022 is hosted by **Sweden** with the focus on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature".
- 120. International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** is observed annually on **5th June** to draw attention to the threats posed by Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities to the sustainable use of fisheries resources as well as to ongoing efforts to fight these activities. The day was first observed in 2018.
- According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) IUU fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of US\$10–23 billion.
 - The United Nations has declared 2022 as the *International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture*.
- 121. World Pest Day** is observed annually on **6th June** to spread awareness about the need for pest management and the role of pest management organisations in protecting public health. The day was first observed in 2017.

122. The **UN Russian Language Day** is observed annually on **6th June** to spread awareness about the history, culture, and development of the Russian language. The day also marks the birth anniversary of the Great Russian poet A.S. Pushkin, the father of modern Russian literature.

- It is one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization.
- The day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.

Note: Six official languages of the UN are English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and French.

123. World Food Safety Day is observed annually on **7th June** to draw attention and mobilize action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks and improve human health. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organizations. The day was first observed in 2019.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Safer food, better health'

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