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June 2022 - Week 2

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the **National Air Sport policy 2022 (NASP 2022)** to provide safe, accessible, affordable, sustainable, and enjoyable air sports ecosystem in India. Air sports refers to various sports activities involving the medium of air.

Vision:

The vision of NASP 2022 is to make India one of the top sports nations by **2030**.

Sports under NASP 2022:

NASP 2022 covers 11 different air sports: Aerobatics, Aeromodelling and model rocketry, Amateur-built and experimental aircraft, Ballooning, Drones, Gliding and powered gliding, Hang gliding and powered hang gliding, Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE1 jumping and wingsuits etc.), Paragliding and paramotoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.), Powered aircraft (including ultralight, microlight and light sports aircraft etc.); and Rotorcraft (including autogyro).

Under the new policy, there will be a four-tier governance structure for air sports including:

- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) is the apex governing body
 - National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate
 - Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate;
 - District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.
2. India has successfully test-fired a night launch of the nuclear-capable **Agni-IV** Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. This test reaffirms India's policy of having a 'Credible Minimum Deterrence Capability'.
3. The indigenously developed sophisticated Agni-IV having **4,000 km** strike range is a two-stage surface-to-surface missile. It is 20 meter long with a weight of 17 tonnes. It is equipped with advanced Avionics, 5th generation On-Board Computer and distributed architecture. Agni IV is designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
4. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has chaired a meeting of the **Western Zonal Council** held in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The meeting has been held after a gap of two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. Various issues related to Inter-state boundary, security, infrastructure, transport, and industries have been discussed in the meeting.
- He has inaugurated the Khukri Memorial museum at decommissioned warship **INS Khukri** in Diu. INS Khukri was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. It was commissioned on 23 August 1989 in Mumbai by Krishna Chandra Pant.
 - He has also laid the foundation stone for various developmental projects worth **Rs 75 crore** at Diu.

Western Zonal Council:

It consist of **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**. The Zonal Councils provide an excellent forum where irritants between the Centre and States and amongst the States are resolved through free and frank discussions and consultations.

The idea of the creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956. The five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956. They are Western Zonal Council, Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, and Southern Zonal Council.

5. **Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal** in **Bangalore**, Karnataka, India's first centralized AC railway terminal, has become operational. It has been built at a cost of Rs.314 crore. The Ernakulam Tri-Weekly Express to Ernakulam, became the first train to depart from the station.
6. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the transfer of **10 in-orbit communication satellites** from Government of India (GoI) to M/s. **NewSpace India Ltd.** (NSIL), a wholly owned Public Sector Enterprise of GoI under the administrative control of the Department of Space.
The Union Cabinet has also approved increasing the authorized share capital of NSIL from Rs.1000 crore to **Rs. 7500 crore**.

Other Cabinet approvals (June 2022):

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on Cooperation in the field of Industries and Advanced Technologies.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Institute for Environmental Studies, **Japan** and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), India to carry out and implement joint research on air quality and climate change.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, India and Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V. (IFW Dresden e.V.), Dresden, **Germany** intended to scientific cooperation in the field of "Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials".
 - A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of **Australia** for Technical Cooperation for Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI).
 - A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), **USA** to contribute towards the development of new, improved and innovative biomedical tools and technologies to prevent and treat HIV, TB, Covid-19 and other emerging infectious and neglected diseases.
7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the **National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI)** in **New Delhi** as part of the celebrations of the "Azadi Ka Amrit" festival. NTRI will be a premier institution that will provide the tribal communities with the necessary resources and expertise to address their academic, legislative, and executive concerns mentioned in a statement by the ministry.

- It will also help in establishing and running effective Tribal Museums. It will collaborate and network with other institutions and monitor projects of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs), etc.
- It is being established at a cost of **Rs. 10 crores**.

Tribal Research Institute (TRI):

It is the research body of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the state level. There are 26 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

8. The Government of India (GoI) has enhanced the funding under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)** scheme of the Ministry of Defence from Rs 10 crore to **Rs.50 crore** per project.

TDF scheme:

It supports the indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups. It is executed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). The scheme facilitates up to 90 percent of the total project cost and allows industry to work in consortium with another industry/academia. Till date, 56 projects have been sanctioned under TDF scheme.

Note: The Centre under the Union Budget 2022-23 allocated 25% of defence R&D budget to private business, startups, and academics.

9. The Government of India (GoI) has finalised deals with **Namibia** and **South Africa** to get the planet's fastest animals, **cheetahs** that became extinct in India and will be released into the wild at **Kuno Palpur National Park** in Sheopur district of **Madhya Pradesh**, possibly by the end of 2022.
- There will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and 8 from Namibia.
 - Initially, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed for 10 years, which can be extended for another five years.
 - The project to translocate cheetahs from Africa to India is a long-term, one-time project being implemented by the environment ministry with the help of the Wildlife Institute of India to reintroduce the cheetah into wild, which became extinct in India in the 1950s.

10. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has created a new Guinness World Record by completing the longest highway length of **75 km** of bituminous concrete in a single lane on **NH53** between **Amravati and Akola** in 105 hours and 33 minutes. The 75 km of single-lane continuous bituminous concrete road is comparable to 37.5 km of two-lane paved shoulder road.

- Earlier, the Guinness World Record for the longest continuously built bituminous was set in Doha, Qatar in February 2019 for constructing 25.275 km in ten days.

- He has also announced the target of constructing **60 kilometers** of highway per day.

11. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched '**Polyversity**' and **Bharat Blockchain Network** at an event held at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Auditorium in New Delhi. Both initiatives are supported by AICTE and powered by USA-based Information Data Systems (IDS).

Bharat Blockchain Network:

It is **India's first nationwide hybrid blockchain network**. It is built by IDS. It will enable blockchain projects of academic interest around Governance, Issuance of verifiable credentials, Skill badges, Student transfer & Audit Trail along the lines of NEP (National Education Policy) 2020.

Polyversity:

It is India's largest **Educational Metaverse**, with over 100 Academic Partners establishing virtual campuses to make education more accessible, immersive, and meaningful. Land parcels will be assigned to academic partners in Polyversity.

12. Ministry of Finance has launched the **Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard** of PFMS (Public Financial Management System) to ensure effective leveraging of technology in public finance. The initiative forms part of PFMS reform that was initiated in 2021 with regards to how funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are released, disbursed, and monitored. It has been launched as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations by the Ministry of Finance.

SNA Model:

- The SNA model requires the states to notify an SNA for each CSS which will open a unique bank account at a commercial bank responsible for all transactions related to the implementation of the particular CSS.
- Now, the SNA dashboard is launched as a system to track the transfer of funds to states for centrally sponsored schemes and the utilization of funds by central agencies.
- The system would help cut down on the interest expenditure as money would be released at the stage where it is needed.

Note: The Ministry of Finance is observing the 'Iconic Week' celebrations from 6th to 11th June 2022 to celebrate AKAM.

13. The **National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has launched a "**CiSS application**" under the Baal Swaraj portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS). The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children

in street situations from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process.

Baal Swaraj Portal:

It is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection. The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS. The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court of India. It follows six stages framework for the rehabilitation of children.

- Collection of the child's details through the portal.
- Investigating the child's background (Social investigation report (SIR)) under the supervision of the District Child Protection Unit.
- Allocating the schemes and benefits that the beneficiary can avail of.
- A checklist is made for the evaluation of the progress (Follow Ups).
- The order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) based on the (Social investigation report).
- Formulating an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for the child.

14. According to the recently released circular by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), all "hyper-sensitive" airports in India will have to install a **Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS)** by **31st December 2023**.

- The PIDS is a sensor that helps in alerting security agencies of any intrusion through the airport's boundary walls.
- Greenfield airports in the country that are not part of the central government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) will install PIDS as well.
- The airports coming up under the RCS will plan the installation of PIDS at the development stage itself.

Note: The Bengaluru International Airport in Karnataka has recently introduced Artificial Intelligence-driven, assistance robots. These AI-driven robots have been introduced to enhance the experience of flyers. At present, ten robots have been deployed under the trial stage.

15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the headquarters of the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** in the Bopal area of **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The project was approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2020.

- IN-SPACe is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities.
- It also facilitates the usage of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) facilities by private entities.

- It will ensure maximum private participation for the space sector.

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16. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) has developed India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine for animals named '**Anocovax**'.

- The vaccine is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits. The vaccine is an inactivated SARS-Cov-2 Delta (Covid-19) vaccine. It also contains Alhydrogel as an adjuvant. It is effective against both Delta and Omicron variants.
- The institute has also launched antibody detection kits for animals. '**CAN-CoV-2 ELISA**' kit is a sensitive and specific nucleocapsid protein-based indirect (Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay) ELISA kit.

17. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has paid a visit to **Gabon, Senegal & Qatar** nations from 30th May to 7th June 2022. He has been accompanied by a high-level delegation including Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar and three Members of Parliament, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi (Rajya Sabha), Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar (Rajya Sabha) and Shri P. Ravindhranath (Lok Sabha).

- This is India's first visit at the level of Vice President to all three countries.
- This is the first-ever high-level visit from India to Gabon and to Senegal.

Gabon (Capital: Libreville; **Prime Minister:** Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda):

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India's Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS) and Gabon's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- An agreement has signed between both the nations for establishment of a Joint Commission.

India-Gabon bilateral trade has reached **USD 1.12 billion** in FY 2021-22.

Senegal (Capital: Dakar; **President:** Macky Sall):

- Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between India and Senegal for 2022-26.
- Agreement on mutual exemption from the visa requirement for holders of diplomatic, official/service passports.
- MoU between India and Senegal on youth cooperation.

Senegal sees India as an integral and reliable partner in its vision of "Emerging Senegal 2035".

India-Senegal bilateral trade has reached **USD 1.65 billion** in FY 2021-22.

Qatar (Capital: Doha; Emir: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani)

- Both sides agreed to promote bilateral parliamentary exchanges.
- An agreement to establish an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at Qatar University has been reached.
- VP M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated an "India-Qatar Start-up Bridge" during the India-Qatar Business Forum, jointly organized by FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM along with Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

India-Qatar bilateral trade has crossed **USD 15 billion** in FY 2021-22. The year 2022 marks the **50th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between India and Qatar.

18. The Government of India (GoI) has decided to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of **USD 55 million** to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser. This credit line has been extended in response to an urgent request from the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL), amid the ongoing economic crisis.

- The LOC agreement has been signed between Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India at Colombo, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Minister of Agriculture Mahinda Amaraweera, and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay.
- This credit line will help Sri Lankan government secure urea fertilizer for the ongoing paddy sowing '**Yala**' season.

19. Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the **National Museum of Customs and GST 'Daroohar'** in Panaji, **Goa** as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic week celebration of the Ministry of Finance from 6th-11th June 2022.

- The national museum showcases the journey of the making of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and depicts custom procedures among others.
- The two-storey 'Blue building', which was earlier known as Alfandega, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.
- 'Dharohar' has eight galleries viz: Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well-being, Journey of Indirect taxes –Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.
- GST Gallery is a brand new addition to the Dharohar Museum.

20. The Indian Government has planned to distribute Fortified Rice under Phase II in **291** aspirational and high-burden districts across the country through Public Distribution System (PDS) by **March 2023**.

- Under Phase II, which began in April 2022, overcoming all production-related challenges, 90 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of fortified rice has already been produced.
- The government has planned to provide **175 lakh Metric Tonnes** of fortified rice during Phase II.
- The Phase II of the programme includes Phase I plus Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).
- 2.20 LMT fortified rice has been distributed till 31st May 2022, under the PDS.
- More than 90 districts in 16 states have started lifting fortified rice.

Under Phase-1, which was completed in 2021-22, nearly **17 lakh Million Tonnes** fortified rice had been distributed under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and PM-POSHAN.

Rice fortification:

It is a process of adding micronutrients like Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12, is an effective, preventive and cost-efficient complementary strategy to address the challenge of anaemia. According to FSSAI, India losses about one percent of GDP, over Rs.2 lakh crore per year due to iron deficiency anaemia.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement on 75th Independence Day 2021 to mandate rice fortification in all social safety net schemes by 2024.

21. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, has launched the **Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)-2022** in the presence of Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Health Minister of Manipur. IDCF programme is being implemented from **13th June to 27th June, 2022** in all States/UTs. The aim is **to attain zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.**

- IDCF is being organized since 2014.
- It consists of a set of activities to be implemented in an intensified manner for prevention and control of deaths due to dehydration from diarrhoea across all States & UTs.
- These activities mainly include intensification of advocacy & awareness generation activities for diarrhoea management, strengthening service provision for diarrhoea case management, establishment of ORS-Zinc corners, repositioning of ORS by ASHA in households with under-five children and awareness generation activities for hygiene and sanitation.

22. The Ministry of Defence has amended the service rule of three defence forces – Army, Navy and Air Force -- related to the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a post that remains vacant since the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on 8th December 2021 in Coonoor, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

- As per the amendment, the retired three-star generals from Army, Air Force, and Navy Chief and their second in command in the armed forces are eligible for the post of CDS if they are not older than **62 years** of age.
- This has been done by inserting a new clause.
- The government may extend the services of the CDS for such a period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65 years.

Note: General Bipin Rawat was India's first CDS.

23. The **38th edition** of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (**IND-INDO CORPAT**) Exercise has commenced in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca from 13th June to 24th June 2022. The Indian Navy units of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and the Indonesian Navy are participating in the exercise.

- It is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries.
- It includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to ANC at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and visit by Indian Navy Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- The two navies have been carrying out the coordinated patrol along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002.

24. Department of Science and Technology has launched the **Self Certification Portal** for the **Geospatial Data and Maps** for India. It is developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC). The portal has replaced the process of prior approvals, security clearances, and other restrictions for the collection, storage, publication, and/or digitization of Geospatial Data and Maps, with self-certification.

25. Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur has released 2 books titled '**Loktantra ke Swar**' and '**The Republican Ethic**'. The books are a compilation of selected speeches of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Ram Nath Kovind.

26. Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has participated via virtual mode in the **2nd BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** meeting under the BRICS China chairmanship. The agenda of the meeting included discussions on outcomes of BRICS Financial Cooperation agenda for 2022. During the meeting, BRICS nations have vowed to deepen financial cooperation and customs cooperation and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

27. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently (June 2022) approved the increase in the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for all mandated **Kharif crops** for marketing season 2022-23.
- The MSP of common grade variety of paddy has been increased to **Rs. 2,040** per quintal for the 2022-23 crop year from Rs.1,940 in the previous year.
 - The support price of 'A' grade variety of paddy has been hiked to **Rs. 2,060** per quintal from Rs. 1,960.

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STATES AFFAIRS

28. The Government of **Goa** has launched the '**Beach Vigil App**' to allow users to report violations like drinking/cooking on the beach, unattended litter, illegal hawking, touting for services like massages, tattoos as well as illegal services. The app will cover everything from reporting illegal hawkers and illegal massage services to beach cleanliness.
29. The state government of **Karnataka** has launched the **Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS)** software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes.
- The software has been developed by National Informatics Centre, Karnataka unit.
 - Through this software, farmers can access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer under PM Kisan, payment for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication and ration cards.
30. **Sital Sasthi**, a sacred Hindu festival, has been observed in the Sambalpur district of **Odisha**. This week-long special festival highlights the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
- According to the Hindu calendar, Sital Sasthi is observed on the sixth day of the 'Jyestha' month during the Shukla Paksha.
 - People observing this festival believe that Lord Shiva represents the scorching heat of summer while Goddess Parvati signifies the first rain.
 - This festival is usually celebrated in a form of a grand carnival. The Sambalpur carnival, which is a popular event, attracts thousands of tourists from all over India and abroad.
 - This year, an assembly of more than 6,000 artists from across Odisha as well as other states have performed in the festival.

- 31.** The Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (MSBWL) has approved **12 new conservation reserves** and **3 wildlife sanctuaries** to boost wildlife conservation and environment protection movement.
- These protected areas (PAs) will have an area of almost 1,000 sq km (around **692.74 sq km** for conservation reserves and **303 sq km** for wildlife sanctuaries), which is twice the size of Mumbai city's 482 sq km.
 - So far, 15 conservation reserves have been notified in Maharashtra. With new additions, the number will rise to 27.
 - The board has also approved the 10 endangered wildlife habitats.

12 new conservation reserves: Chivatibavari and Alaldari in Dhule; Kalwan, Muragad, Triambakeshwar and Igatpuri in Nashik; Raigad and Roha in Raigad district; Bhor in Pune; Dare Khurd (Mahadare) in Satara; Masai plateau in Kolhapur and Mogarkasa in Nagpur.

3 wildlife sanctuaries: Extension of the Lonar wildlife sanctuary (0.8694 sq km), Kolamarka in Gadchiroli (180.72 sq km) and Muktai Bhawani in Jalgaon (122.74 sq km).

10 endangered wildlife habitats: Mayureshwar-Supe (5.145 sq km), Bor (61.64 sq km), New Bor (60.69 sq km), Narnala (12.35 sq km), Lonar wildlife sanctuary (3.65 sq km), Gugamal national park (361.28 sq km), Yedshi Ramlinghat wildlife sanctuary (22.37 sq km), Naigaon-Mayur wildlife sanctuary (29.90 sq km) and Deulgaon-Rehkuri blackbuck sanctuary (2.17 sq km).

Note: As per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the consent of the wildlife board is a must before notifying any fresh PAs in the state.

- 32.** The Government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched a skilling program '**Nalaya Thiran**' (Tomorrow's Potential) to help the industry get skilled students. In this program, 50,000 college students will train with knowledge in computer science, electronics and IT domains, provide them with skills on problem-solving using technologies. This multi-agency programme has been co-created by Nasscom, ICT Academy and Skill Development Corporation.

- 33.** The Baikho festival is observed annually in the state of **Assam**, which is called as the gateway to northeast India. It is celebrated by Rabha tribes of India in June. It is celebrated to bring in an auspicious harvest season and to fill it with abundant crops and good health.

Rabha tribe:

Rabhas are a Tibeto-Burman community. They reside in Lower Assam in the Garo hills and Dooar region of West Bengal. They are an agriculture-based community.

- 34.** The **Himachal Pradesh** government has given nod to a drone policy to enable the use of drones and similar technology for different public services in the hill state. The 'Himachal

Pradesh Drone Policy 2022' has been approved by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur. The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of "Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD)."

- With this new drone policy, Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to formally acknowledge the public use of drones.
- **Note:** India has witnessed 34.4% surge in number of drone or UAV start-ups between August 2021 and February 2022.

35. The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three leading nationalized banks of India: **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank** and with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to boost the UP Defence Industrial Corridor. As per the MoU, the bank will provide financial assistance in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor.
- UPEIDA has also signed an MoU with **IIT Kanpur** Research and Technology Park Foundation (Technopark@iitk) to address the growing R&D requirements and opportunities for collaboration of IIT Kanpur with the domestic Aerospace and Defence ecosystem.
36. Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has launched an '**Accidental insurance scheme**' under which Jammu & Kashmir bank will extend free group personal insurance cover of **Rs 15 lakh** for all government employees.
- The lender has also launched the 'Phone Pe Loan' facility for government employees.
 - Under the '**Phone Pe Loan**' scheme, the salaried employees can avail personal consumption loan and cash credit facilities at discounted rate of interest.
 - The bank has contracted with Oriental Insurance Company for extending the cover.
37. The Government of **Kerala** has launched a vehicle monitoring system '**Suraksha-Mitra Project**'. In case of any accident, the system sends distress messages to the owners' mobile phones. The project has been launched by the Motor Vehicle Department under the Nirbhaya scheme and has become operational in the State, to make road travel safer.
- Kerala govt. has also inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre '**Karkinos Healthcare**' in **Kochi**. It is slated to be the country's first oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnostic services.
38. The Government of **Assam** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **NLC India**, the public sector navaratna company, to set up a first-of-its-kind joint venture company (JVC) for generating 1 GW of solar power with an investment of Rs.5000 crore. NLC India will hold 51 percent stake in the solar JVC.

39. The State Government of Telangana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka-based Elest, a Fortune-500 company, for the establishment of India's first display fabrication unit '**Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB**'.
- The display fab unit will be set up in **Hyderabad, Telangana** with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.
 - It will be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
 - AMOLED is a display technology and stands for Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diodes.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

40. "**Ex Khaan Quest 2022**", a Multinational Peacekeeping exercise, has been hosted by **Mongolia**. The exercise features participation from military contingents from 16 countries. Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the **LADAKH SCOUTS**. The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military-to-military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.
Note: The year 2021 marked the 66th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Mongolia.
41. **India and Poland** have signed a **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** on **criminal matters**. The treaty aims to enhance the effectiveness of both the nations in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, including those related to terrorism. With this, Poland has become the 45th country to sign an MLAT on criminal matters with New Delhi.
42. **Queen Elizabeth II** (Britain) has become the second longest-reigning monarch in the entire world, right behind French King Louis XIV. She has surpassed Thailand's King **Bhumibol Adulyadej**, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days between 1927 and 2016, to set another record. **Louis XIV** of France remains the longest-reigning monarch, with a 72-year and 110-day reign from 1643 until 1715.
43. The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution on **multilingualism**. The resolution is co-sponsored by **India** and co-facilitated by Andorra and Columbia.
- The resolution promoted the UN's Department of Global Communications to use both official and non-official languages, including **Bangla, Hindi, and Urdu**, in its communications. It also mentioned languages like Portuguese, Kiswahili, and Persian.

- English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and French are the six official languages of the United Nations.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York is **TS Tirumurti**.

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- 44. Thailand** has officially legalized the growing and selling of cannabis or marijuana for medical and industrial use. With this, Thailand has become the first Asian country to do so.
- Cannabis is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used primarily for medical or recreational purposes.
 - The main psychoactive component of cannabis is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is one of the 483 known compounds in the plant, including at least 65 other cannabinoids, including cannabidiol (CBD).
 - It is used by smoking, vaporizing, within the food, or as an extract.
- 45. Chinese Scientists** have released a new comprehensive geologic map of the moon. This is the world's "**most detailed to date**" map of the moon. The new map of scale **1:2,500,000** has been published by Science Bulletin. The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures, providing abundant information about geology of the moon and its evolution. It is expected to make a great contribution to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the moon.
- 46.** The **New York** state legislature in the United States has passed the world's first '**Right to Repair**' law that allows digital electronics manufacturers to make parts, tools, information, and software available to consumers and independent repair shops. The law does not include motor vehicles, home appliances, medical devices, public safety communications equipment like police radios, agricultural equipment, and off-road equipment.
- 47. India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Vietnam** on mutual logistics support. It is the first such major agreement that Vietnam has signed with any country.
- The MoU has been signed between the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart **General Phan Van Giang** in Hanoi.
 - Both the nations have also signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of existing defence cooperation.

- Both Ministers also agreed for early finalisation of **USD 500 million** Defence Line of Credit extended to Vietnam.
- India has handed over **12 High Speed Guard Boats**, constructed under India's USD 100 million Line of Credit, to Vietnam

48. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has officially visited Vietnam from 8-10 June 2022. During his visit, he visited **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, a revered Buddhist temple which reaffirmed the age-old civilizational and people-to-people linkages between the two countries.

The **DAVINCI (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) mission** of NASA will launch in **2029**. The mission aims to investigate Venus' atmosphere-climate system and shed new light on the scorching planet's potentially habitable past.

- It will be the first mission to study Venus by means of both flybys and descent.
- Spacecraft is likely to explore layered Venusian atmosphere. It will reach Venusian surface by June 2031.

49. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected five countries as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2023-2024 term. These countries are **Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland**. The newly-elected countries will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway at the horse-shoe table from 1st January 2023.

- The newly elected nations will join Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates as well as the five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK and the US as UNSC members for the year 2023.

50. **Singapore** has hosted the 19th edition of '**Shangri-La Dialogue**' (Asia Security Summit) from 10-12 June 2022. It has been hosted by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). About 500 delegates from more than 40 countries have participated in the summit. Prime Minister of Japan, **Fumio Kishida**, has presented the opening keynote address in the summit.

- The participating countries include: Singapore, Australia, Cambodia, Brunei, Chile, France, Canada, China, India, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, Laos, South Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Vietnam, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

REPORTS & INDICES

51. The **Tracking SDG 7 – The Energy Progress Report 2022** has been released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO). The report highlights that the Russia-Ukraine war and Covid-19 crisis have considerably slowed down efforts towards attaining the Seventh Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7) target.

SDG 7 has a target of universal access to **clean and affordable energy** by 2030.

Key highlights:

- The share of the world's population with access to electricity has increased from 83% in 2010 to **91%** in 2020, increasing the number of people with access by 1.3 billion globally.
- With the current rates of progress, the world will reach only 92% electrification by **2030**.
- The share of the global population with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies has increased to **69%** in 2020, an increase of 3% points over last year 2021.
- Rising commodity, energy and shipping prices, as well as restrictive trade measures, have increased the cost of producing and transporting solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, wind turbines, and biofuels, adding uncertainty for future renewable energy projects.
- From 2010 to 2019, global annual improvements in energy intensity averaged around 1.9%, well below the target.
- International public financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy decreased for the second year in a row, falling to **USD 10.9 billion** in 2019.

The 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The SDGs were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in **Rio de Janeiro in 2012**. It was adopted in 2015 and came into effect in January 2016. They are meant to be achieved by 2030.

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

52. The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022** has been released by the researchers at the Earth Institute of Yale and Columbia University. The index has ranked the 180 countries on 40 performance indicators across the 11 issue categories on environmental health, climate change performance, and ecosystem vitality.

- **Denmark** has topped the index with a total score of **77.90**.
- Denmark is followed by United Kingdom (77.70 score) and Finland (76.50 score).

India's performance:

- India has been ranked at **180th position** with a total score of **18.9**.
- India's Category wise score: Ecosystem vitality (19.30), Health (12.50), and Climate policy (21.70).
- **India's neighbouring nations:** Pakistan (176), Bangladesh (177), Nepal (162), and Sri Lanka (132).

Note: India ranked 168 in the EPI 2020 and 177 in EPI 2018.

53. World Bank in its latest Global Economic Prospects report has lowered India's GDP forecast for FY23 to **7.5%** from 8% projected in April 2022. This is due to rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions. World Bank has also projected India's GDP at 7.1% for FY24 and 6.5% for FY25.

- World Bank has also lowered its global growth forecast for calendar year 2022 to **2.9%** from 4.1% (January 2022 forecast).

54. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released the **4th** edition of the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2022** on the occasion of World Food Safety Day (7th June). The report has been prepared by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety.

Five parameters of food safety: Human resources and institutional data; compliance; food testing facility; training and capacity building; and Consumer empowerment.

- **Larger states:** **Tamil Nadu** has topped the list with a score of 82, followed by Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- **Smaller states:** **Goa** has topped among smaller states with a score of 56, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- **UTs:** **Jammu & Kashmir** has topped the list with a score of 68.5, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.

The State Food Safety Index (SFSI) was started in 2018-19 to create a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.

Ayurveda Aahar:

During the occasion of World Food Safety Day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has also launched the logo for '**Ayurveda Aahar**'. This logo is meant to create a unique identity of 'Ayurveda Aahar' and aims to facilitate its easy identification. The logo contains the initials of Ayurveda and Ahara with 5 leaves symbolizing five elements of nature.

Ayurveda Aahar refers to food prepared following the recipes or ingredients and/or processes as per methods described in the books of Ayurveda listed under 'Schedule A' of the regulations.

55. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has awarded the winners of **Eat Right Challenge for Cities and Districts 2021-22** organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). 75 cities and districts of the country have been chosen as winners with the objective of recognizing the efforts to adopt food security initiatives, promote rules and change.

- **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh) has secured the first position along with **Varanasi** (Uttar Pradesh) with a total score of **79**.
- Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) has secured the second position with a score of 77, followed by Vadodara Municipal Corporation (Gujarat) and Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) with a total score of 74.

He has also awarded the **11 winning smart cities** of the **Eat Smart Cities Challenge**, launched by FSSAI in 2021-22 in association with the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The cities are: Rajkot (Gujarat), Rourkela (Odisha), Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Surat (Gujarat), Tumakuru (Karnataka), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Chandigarh, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), and Panaji (Goa).

56. The **Global Sustainable Development Report 2022** has been released by a group of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The report is tracking and ranking the performance of 163 UN member states on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015.

Key highlights:

- For the second year in a row, world is no longer making progress on the SDGs.
- Based on 2022 International Spillover Index, rich countries generate negative international spillovers notably through unsustainable consumption.
- Peace, diplomacy, and international cooperation are fundamental conditions for the world to progress on the SDGs towards 2030 and beyond.

India's performance:

- In the 2022 Global Index of SDGs, India has been ranked at **121st position** among the 163 countries. It had ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- India has achieved 2 SDG goals (SDG 12 & 13), challenges remain in 1 (SDG 4), significant challenges remain in 3 (SDG 1, 7 & 10) and major challenges remain in 11 out of total 17 SDGs (SDG 2, 3, 5,6,8,9,11,14,15,16 & 17).

United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN):

It was launched in 2012 by the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development and implement SDGs. It works closely with UN agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

Annual reports: Sustainable Development Report (SDR) and World Happiness Report (WHR).

57. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its 'OECD Economic Outlook, June 2022' has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to **6.9% in FY23** from 8.1% estimated earlier. Real GDP is projected to rise by 6.9% in FY23 and 6.2% in FY24.

- OECD expects the global economy to expand 3% in 2022, down from 4.5% it predicted in December 2021, while inflation is forecast at around 9%.
- **Note:** India's Gross domestic product (GDP) grew 8.7% in FY22, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

58. According to Mercom India Research's newly released report Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q1 2022, India has added **513 MW** of new open access solar capacity in the first quarter (Q1) of the calendar year (CY) 2022. It has registered a growth of **58%** quarter-over-quarter (QoQ), compared to 324 MW installed in Q4 2021. The year-over-year (YoY) installations increased by **22%** compared to 422 MW in Q1 2021.

- The country's development pipeline of open access solar projects is 2 GW at the end of Q1 2022.
- The top five states accounted for 86% of the total installations for the quarter.
- Karnataka was the largest market in Q1, accounting for 30% of the total open access installations. The state accounted for 37% of the total installations.
- Maharashtra was the second-largest market in Q1 2022, with a massive jump of 131% QoQ in solar open access installations compared to Q4 2021.
- Gujarat accounted for 12.7% of the market, making it the third-largest market.

59. London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released the 19th edition of **QS World University Rankings 2023**. It ranks the top 900 universities based on 8 key ranking indicators.

Rank	University	Overall Score
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, United States	100
2	University of Cambridge, UK	98.8
3	Stanford University, USA	98.5

India's performance: Forty one (41) Indian universities have featured in this highly regarded university ranking system this year.

- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** has emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institute in the QS World University Rankings 2023. It has ranked at **155th position** and emerged as the fastest-rising South Asian University among the top 200 Universities.
- IISc Bangalore is followed by IIT Bombay (172nd), and IIT Delhi (174th).
- OP Jindal Global University is the highest-ranked private university for the 3rd consecutive year.

60. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its latest World Investment Report highlights that India has become the **7th largest** recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021 despite FDI inflows into the country declining.

- FDI inflows into India have declined to **\$45 billion** in 2021 from \$64 billion in the preceding year.
- Outward FDI from India rose 43 percent to \$15.5 billion in 2021.
- The United States (\$367 billion) has remained the top recipient of FDI, followed by China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion).

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

61. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has reduced the capital required by insurance companies offering policies under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** by almost **50 percent**. This has been done to enable insurers to offer more policies under the scheme, and provide financial security to the bottom-of-the-pyramid segment in India.

PMJJBY:

It is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason. Individuals in the age group of 18-50 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. The scheme provides life cover of **Rs.2 lakh** in case of death due to any reason against a premium of **Rs. 436** per annum (earlier Rs.330).

Important data:

According to government data, the number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY as of March 31, 2022, is **64 million**. The claims ratio (percentage of amount of claims paid to premium earned) for PMJJBY was **145.24 percent** as of March 31, 2022. About Rs 9,737 crore has been collected as premium under the scheme while claims of Rs 14,144 crore have been paid.

62. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has launched a **Management Information System (MIS) dashboard** for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (**PMMSY**) for aggregating information on one platform. The project investment of **Rs 7,242.90 crore** has been made in FY20-FY22 under PMMSY.

Note: India aims to double marine product exports to Rs.1 lakh crore in the next 5 years from the present around Rs.50,000 crore.

PMMSY:

It was launched in 2020. It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of **Rs 20,050 crore** for its implementation during a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.

63. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the fifth edition of **Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE 5.0**, which provides the *Common Public Sector Banks (PSBs) Reforms Agenda* for FY23 under the EASENext Program. It has been launched in New Delhi as part of the Iconic Week celebration of the Ministry of Finance from 6th-11th June 2022.

EASE has evolved for four annual editions from FY 2019 to FY 2022. It has also catalysed reforms in diverse areas in Public Sector Banks.

- Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will be investing in new-age capabilities. It will also deepen the ongoing reforms for responding to evolving customer needs, technology environment and changing competition.
- It will focus on digital customer experience, as well as integrated & inclusive banking. It will also emphasise on supporting agriculture and small businesses.
- All PSBs will create a bank-specific 3-year strategic roadmap, which will entail strategic initiatives beyond EASE 5.0.
- The initiatives will be implemented across diverse themes namely, business growth, risk, profitability, operation, customer service, and capability building.

The EASENext program will comprise of two initiatives: EASE 5.0 (common PSB reforms agenda), and Bank specific strategic 3-year roadmap (on the basis of individual bank's business priorities).

Other initiatives launched during the Iconic Week celebration:

- Ministry of Finance has launched the '**NETRA** (New e-Tracking and Remote Administration)' Portal and Mobile Application for Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).
- A short film '**Sahyog se Samridhi**' on Externally Aided Projects has been released.
- NSDL's outreach initiative '**Market Ka Eklavya – Express**' has been screened. It is a programme specially designed to introduce students to the basics of investing and financial markets.
- A symposium on '**Jaagruk Niveshak: Samridha Bharat ki Neev**' has been organised by SEBI in collaboration with Department of Economic Affairs.
- Union Minister of State (MoS) for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad has released an e-book titled "**Pratidhwani**". The e-book showcases policy initiatives and changes in the Income Tax Department and the growth of the nation through the lens of the Department's outreach programmes during the period 2000 to 2022.

64. UdeDeshkaAamNagrik (UDAN) scheme has observed its 5th anniversary in 2022. It is the flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- UDAN was launched on **21 October 2016** by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- The objective is to connect small and medium cities with big cities through air service and enhance aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and III cities.
- The first flight under UDAN scheme took off on **27 April 2017** from Jubbarhatti Airport, Shimla to New Delhi.
- It is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016.
- Under the scheme, the fare for 500 km is Rs.2500.
- It is being implemented by the **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**.

At present, 415 UDAN routes connect 66 underserved/unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it.

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN scheme by the year 2026.

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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

65. Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has installed a **20 MegaWatt Peak (MWp)** carport-type solar power plant at its **Manesar** facility in Gurugram, Haryana to ensure the maximum utilisation of renewable energy in its operations. This plant will produce 28,000 MWh per annum of solar power. It can accommodate at least 9,000 finished vehicles inside the facility.

- Earlier in 2014, the company installed its first solar power plant of 1 MWp capacity at its Manesar facility, which was later expanded to 1.3 MWp.
- Maruti Suzuki commissioned a 5 MWp carport style photovoltaic solar power plant at its Gurugram factory in 2020.

66. The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) in partnership with Indian agri-land marketplace **SFarmsIndia** has launched India's first Agri Land Price Index named '**IIMA-SFarmsIndia Agri Land Price Index (ISALPI)**'. This will record and present 'quality controlled' data of prices of agricultural land across the country.

Currently, ISALPI is based on land listing data from states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

67. WhatsApp India has launched the **SMBSaathi Utsav** at Johri and Bapu Bazaar in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The aim of this initiative is to support small businesses by providing training on various aspects of running the business online. It has been launched in collaboration with Josh Talks. The SMBSaathi Utsav is the second phase of the SMBSaathi campaign.

68. The Government of India and WhatsApp India have also collaborated to expand the features of **WhatsApp Chatbot** to include dedicated medical opinion for cancer consultation online, or electronic history capturing of patients.

The Technology Development Board (TDB) has planned to launch **Rs. 1,000 crore startup fund** under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

- The objective of the fund is to invest in startups across various sectors. The new fund will also invest in early stage startups.
- The fund will be launched in two phases.
- In the first phase, a corpus of Rs.400 crore will be set up, of which Rs.200 crore will be contributed by a private limited company that has not been named yet.
- In the second phase, TDB will partner with more companies to raise money for the fund and invest the equal sum of money together with the companies.

69. Spices Board has signed a Terms of Understanding (ToU) with **Flipkart** to enable national market access and help promote farmers and grassroots organisations working in the spices sector. This ToU has been signed under the Flipkart Samarth programme, which aims to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) artisans, entrepreneurs, and rural seller, and farmer communities.

70. Bangalore-based **XPay.Life**, a fintech startup, has launched India's first blockchain-enabled transaction Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services, as it completes three years of operations. It aims to make financial facilities accessible for people in rural areas who need financial support the most.

Rohit Kumar is the Founder & CEO of XPay.Life.

BANKING & FINANCE

71. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its **Advisory Committee on Mutual Funds**. The committee is mandated to advise SEBI on issues related to regulation and development of the mutual fund industry.

- The 25-member advisory committee will be chaired by **Usha Thorat**, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Earlier, the panel had 24 members.
- SEBI has inducted Chairman of NJ India Invest Neeraj Choksi in the advisory committee.
- Other members include Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund Sunil Gulati and Independent Trustee at DSP Mutual Fund Dharmishta Narendraprasad Raval, Tata Asset Management MD and CEO Prathit D Bhoje, SBI Funds Management MD and CEO Vinay Tonse, Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) CEO Swarup Mohanty, Sundaram Asset Management Company MD Sunil Subramaniam, among others.

72. Suryoday Small Finance Bank has tied up with Mobisafar Services Pvt. Ltd. to provide banking services through all Mobisafar's franchisees and Business Correspondent networks

across India. It aims to strengthen financial inclusion by providing key banking services digitally to the underbanked customers even in the remote parts of the country.

- 73. SBI Foundation** has introduced **UpSchool**, a digital learning program for students from class 1-10, in partnership with **Khan Academy**, an educational non-profit. This program will be available in English, Hindi and Kannada languages. The program aims to reduce learning gaps and build a solid foundation in math and reading for their current academic year.
- 74. DBS Bank India** has launched its first credit card in India in collaboration with **Bajaj Finance Limited**, namely 'Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard'. It is powered by Visa. It is designed to de-clutter customers' wallets by eliminating the need to have multiple credit cards.
- The SuperCard will provide its customers with benefits and rewards across different product categories and exclusive benefits on the Bajaj Finserv's range of products and services.
- 75.** Tamilnad Mercantile Bank has received the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval to launch and raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The Initial Public Offer (IPO) comprises a fresh issue of 1,58,27,495 equity shares and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 12,505 equity shares by shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).
- 76. Bharat BillPay**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has on-boarded **CRED** as a key agent institution (AI) to provide bill payment solutions to CRED users. As an Agent Institution, CRED will create member touchpoints, provide member assistance (registration, Quickpay, complaint resolution), instant confirmation, awareness (payment and charges), BBPS brand visibility, etc.
- 77. Axis Bank** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** have announced the launch of a co-branded RuPay contactless credit card named 'INDIAN OIL AXIS BANK RuPay Credit Card' in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Users of this card will be entitled to 100% cashback up to Rs.250 on all fuel spent within the first 30 days of issuing of the card. It will also provide a surcharge waiver of 1% on fuel spent between Rs.200 to Rs.5000.
- 78. CoinSwitch Kuber**, India's largest crypto-trading platform, has launched '**CRE8 (Crypto Rupee Index)**, India's first benchmark index that will track the performance of the rupee-based crypto market.

- CRE8 tracks the performance of eight crypto assets such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Binance coin, and Cardano that represent over 85 percent of the total market capitalization of cryptos traded in the Indian Rupee. It doesn't include stablecoins and derivatives of other index components.

- 79.** Electric two-wheeler manufacturer **Ather Energy** has collaborated with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to provide customers with vehicle financing. This collaboration will enable the customers of Ather Energy to get instant loans at interest rates as low as **9.55 percent** per annum. Pre-approved loans will also be administered, depending on the buyer's creditworthiness. The customers, depending on their profiles, will be eligible to avail of loans up to 85 percent of the on-road prices of the electric two-wheelers.
- 80. Fino Payments Bank** has tied up with **Go Digit General Insurance** to offer shop insurance policy to small and medium businesses. Fino Payments Bank is associated with Go Digit as a corporate agent.
- This tie-up will allow small and medium businesses to avail the benefits of Digit's My Business Policy in case of any adverse event.
 - The policy will be valid for one year.
 - It will cover loss or damage to the inventory or stock due to burglary, earthquake, fire, lightning, storm, flood, riots, among others.
- 81. ICICI Bank** has partnered with **ZestMoney**, a digital EMI/pay-later platform to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for purchases at retail and e-commerce platforms. Customers can convert transactions up to Rs 10 lakh into Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs).
- With this partnership, the bank's customers will be able to use ZestMoney's flagship 'Pay-in-3' offering, where they can split the bill into three EMIs without extra cost.

RBI IN NEWS

- 82.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines regarding Provisioning for Standard assets by **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)-Upper Layer (UL)**. They have to set aside 0.25%-2% of the loan amount for standard assets as provisions. These guidelines will come into effect from **1st October 2022**.

Category of Assets	Rates of Provision
Individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs)	0.25%
Housing loans extended at teaser rates	2% which will decrease to 0.40% after 1 year from the date on

	which the rates are reset at higher rates.
Advances to Commercial Real Estate – Residential Housing (CRE –RH) Sector	0.75%
Advances to Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Sector (other than CRE-RH)	1%
Restructured Advances	As stipulated in the applicable prudential norms for restructuring of advances.
All other loans and advances not included above, including loans to Medium Enterprises	0.40%

83. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (June 2022) cancelled the certificate of registration (CoR) of three Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including two housing finance companies (HFCs).

HFCs:

- North East Region Housing Finance Company Limited in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Aryarth Housing Finance Limited in Gurugram, Haryana.

NBFCs:

- Noida-based Malik Motor Finance Limited
- Ernakulam-based Empower India Capital Investments Private Limited
- Kolkata-based Mangalmayee Garments Private Limited (presently known as Abhijeet Ferrotech Limited).

RBI has also cancelled the licence of the **Mudhol Co-operative Bank**, Bagalkot (Karnataka) citing inadequate capital situation.

84. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee has met on June 6-8 2022 and released the RBI's 2nd bi-monthly policy of FY23.

Key Highlights:

- Repo rate has increased by **50 basis points** to 4.90%.
- Standing Deposit Facility and Marginal Standing Facility rates have also raised by **50 basis points**. Standing Deposit Facility rate now 4.65 percent, and Marginal Standing Facility rate now 5.15 percent.
- RBI has retained India's Real GDP forecast for FY23 at **7.2%** with Q1 (April-June) 2022 GDP growth forecast at 16.2%, Q2 (July-September) 2022 GDP growth forecast at 6.2%, Q3

(October-December) 2022 GDP growth forecast at 4.1%, and Q4 (January-March '23) GDP growth forecast at 4.0%.

- RBI has also revised the inflation projection for FY23 to **6.7 %** from 5.7% in May 2022 with 7.5% in Q1, 7.4% in Q2, 6.2% in Q3, and 5.8% in Q4.
- The limit for e-mandates on Credit or Debit Cards has been increased to **Rs.15,000** from Rs.5000.
- RBI has allowed Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to provide **Doorstep Banking Services** to their customers on a voluntary basis, at par with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
- RBI has allowed linking of credit cards to UPI platform.
- Rural co-operative banks can now extend finance to commercial real estate, or loans for residential housing projects, within the limit of **5%** of their total assets.
- Increased Upper limit on housing loans for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

The limits for tier-I/ tier-II UCBs stand revised from Rs. 30 lakh to **Rs. 60 lakh** and Rs. 70 lakh to **Rs 1.40 lakh**, respectively. As regards rural co-operative banks (RCBs), the limits stand revised from Rs 20 lakh to **Rs 50 lakh** for RCBs with assessed net worth less than Rs 100 crore and for other RCBs, the limits will increase from Rs. 30 lakh to **Rs. 75 lakh**.

Policy rates as of June 2022	
Repo rate	4.90%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	4.65%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.15%%
Bank Rate	5.15%
Reserves Ratio as of June 2022	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

Note: The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during August 2-4, 2022

- 85.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **R Subramaniakumar**, former MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **RBL Bank** for three years. He has succeeded Vishwavir Ahuja.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

86. The 2nd edition of the Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning has been organized at Dr Ambedkar International Centre. **30 districts** have been awarded with District Skill Development Planning (DSDP) Awards 2022 for their innovative best practices in skill development in the region.
- **Rajkot** in Gujarat, **Cachar** in Assam, and **Satara** in Maharashtra, respectively have been ranked among the top three districts.

Awards have been given under 3 categories:

Category 1: Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning – 8 Winners

Category 2: Certificate for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning – 13 Winners

Category 3: Letter of Appreciation for District Skill Development Planning – 9 Winners

DSDP awards were instituted under the **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion** (SANKALP) Scheme in June 2018 for promoting decentralized planning, acknowledging and rewarding the extraordinary and innovative work done by the districts in the field of skill development. The first edition of DSDP awards was held in 2018-19.

87. The World Health Organization (WHO) has given the Regional Director Special Recognition Award to the **Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)** of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh. The Resource Centre for Tobacco Control provides information related to tobacco control in India, including circulars and orders, policies and legislations, multidisciplinary publications.
88. The Union Government of India has launched the **Rashtriya Puruskar Portal** for inviting nominations for various awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies to ensure transparency and public partnership. This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards under one digital platform. It aims to facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards instituted by the Government of India.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

89. International Institute of Sports Management (IISM), India's sports management college, has launched India's first-ever book on Sports Marketing titled '**Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success**'. The book has been authored by **Vinit Karnik**, Head - Sports, Esports & Entertainment at GroupM South Asia. The book has been launched as part of a knowledge series. The book has been published under the banner of Popular Prakashan.

PERSON IN NEWS

90. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for appointment of **Alok Kumar Choudhary**, former SBI's Deputy Managing Director (DMD), as Managing Director (MD) in **State Bank of India (SBI)** with effect from the date of assumption of office and up to the date of his superannuation i.e. 30 June 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He will be handling the Retail Business and Operations of the lender in SBI.
- He has replaced former MD **Ashwani Bhatia** who took charge as the whole time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
91. Hindalco Industries MD **Satish Pai** has been appointed as the new chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the body representing the global primary aluminum industry. He has succeeded Ben Kahrs.
92. Doordarshan and Doordarshan News Director-General **Mayank Kumar Agrawal** has been given the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer at the country's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. He has succeeded Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
93. Music composer **A R Rahman** has been named the ambassador of the British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture'. The Season of Culture aims to strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English, and education. It was officially launched by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham. The launch marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
94. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has announced the appointment of Indian economist **Krishna Srinivasan** as Director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) with effect from 22nd June 2022. He will succeed Changyong Rhee.
95. Ambassador **Rabab Fatima**, Permanent Representative of **Bangladesh** to the United Nations, has been appointed as the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and also appointed as High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). She has succeeded Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet. With this, she has become the first woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post.
96. **Shreyas G. Hosur** has become the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon, considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world. This event includes 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running. He

has completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes on 5th June 2022, in Hamburg, Germany.

- Shreyas G. Hosur, is an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch. He is returned from deputation to National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), Delhi and is currently serving as Dy. FA&CAO in Construction/SWR.

97. Ramkrishna Mukkavilli, the Founder and Managing Director of Maithri Aquatech, has become the first Indian to be recognized by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) as a **Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Pioneer** for Water Stewardship.

- The UNGC has announced **10 new SDG Pioneers**-business leaders who are doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the implementation of the UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labor and anti-corruption. It has been announced during the UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit 2022.

98. Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, achieving the title after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 held in Italy. His current Elo rating is 2468.

- **Note:** Bharath Subramaniam had become the country's 73rd GM in January 2022.

OBITUARIES

99. Former Sony president and CEO **Nobuyuki Idei** has recently passed away due to liver failure in Tokyo, Japan. He was born on 22 November 1937 in Seijo, Tokyo, Japan. He headed Japan's **Sony** from 1998 to 2005.

100. India's Long-Distance Running legend, **Hari Chand**, has recently passed away in Jalandhar, Punjab. He was a two-time Olympian and also won two gold medals in the 5000m and 10000m races at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. He had also created a national record for the 25-lapper set in the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games and it had stood for 32 years. He was conferred with the **Arjuna Award** in **1975**.

- **Bhogeshwara**, an elephant with the longest tusks in Asia, has recently passed away at the age of 60 due to natural causes in the Gundre range of the **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** in Karnataka. The wild elephant was also known as **Mr Kabini**. According to forest department officials, Bhogeshwar's tusks were 2.54 meters and 2.34 meters long.

SPORTS

101. Indian men's hockey team, captained by Gurinder Singh, has won the inaugural edition of the **FIH Hockey 5s** tournament held in Lausanne, Switzerland. India has won the tournament by defeating Poland in the final match. The two-day tournament has been organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Hockey 5s:

It is a hockey variant that features five players on each team (including a goalkeeper). The field of play is also 55 m long and 41.70 m wide which is approximately half the size of a regular pitch.

102. Indian women's cricket team captain, **Mithali Raj**, has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. She played 12 Tests, 232 ODIs, and 89 T20Is spread across three decades from 1999 to 2022. She hails from Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

- She announced her retirement from T20Is in 2019.
- She made her One Day International debut in 1999 against Ireland at Milton Keynes.
- She is the only female cricketer to surpass the 7,000 run mark in Women's One Day International matches.
- She is ranked 6th in the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings (June 2022).

Awards & Honours: Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer in the World in 2017, Arjuna Award in 2003, the Padma Shri in 2015, and Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna in 2021.

103. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has unveiled the mascot and the logo for the **44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022**. The Official Mascot of 44th Chess Olympiad is '**Thambi**'. The word 'Thambi' in Tamil language means - little or younger brother. The international event will be held at Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28th July to 10th August 2022.

- The mascot 'Thambi' is a knight dressed in the traditional Tamil attire veshti (Dhoti) with a shirt and is seen with folded hands, apparently extending the Tamil greeting 'Vanakkam'. The words "Chess Believe" are seen on its shirt.

104. The 44th edition of **Stuttgart Open 2022** has been held at the Tennis Club Weissenhof in Stuttgart, Germany. It is the men's and women's tournament that includes:

2022 BOSS Open (Men): Played on outdoor grass courts

- **Matteo Berrettini (Italy)** has won the men's singles title after defeating Andy Murray (Britain).
- Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) and Mate Pavić (Croatia) have won the doubles title.

2022 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (Women): Played on clay courts

- **Iga Swiatek** of Poland has won the women's singles title after defeating Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus).
- Desirae Krawczyk (America) and Demi Schuurs (Netherlands) have won the doubles title.

105. The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2022 has been held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Republic of Korea has topped the medal tally with 5 Gold and 3 Bronze, followed by USA with 4 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze.

- India has finished 5th in the championship with **5 medals** (2 Gold and 3 Silver).

Indian medal winners:

- Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Shreya Agrawal: Gold (Women's team's 10m air rifle)
- Swapnil Kusale and Ashi Chouksey: Gold (50m rifle 3 positions mixed team)
- Swapnil Kusale: Silver (Individual men's 50m rifle 3 positions)
- Anjum Moudgil: Silver (Individual women's 50m rifle 3 positions)
- Swapnil Kusale, Deepak Kumar and Goldie Gurjar: Silver (Men's rifle 3 positions team)

106. The 10th edition of the Norway Chess 2022 has been held at Finansparken in Stavanger, Norway. **Magnus Carlsen (Norway)** has won the Norway Chess Tournament for a fourth time in a row and for the fifth time in 10 editions after beating Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) in Armageddon.

- Indian GM **Vishwanathan Anand** has won the final round against Norwegian chess player Aryan Tari to place **3rd** with 14.5 points in the Norway Chess Tournament.
- Indian GM **R Praggnanandhaa** has won the Norway Chess Group 'A' Open Chess Tournament with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

107. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Sri Lanka's batting star **Angelo Mathews** as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2022 and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation **Tuba Hassan** as the ICC Women's Players of the Month for May 2022.

108. The 4th edition of **Khelo India Youth Games 2021** has been held from 4th June to 13th June 2022 in Panchkula, Haryana. The mascot of the game is '*Dhakad*'. Five indigenous sports - mallakhamb, gatka, kalaripayattu, thang-ta and yogasana - made their KIYG debut this season.

Around 4,700 athletes, including 2,262 women, from all of India's 36 states and Union Territories have participated at KIYG 2021.

- **Haryana** has won the title of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021 with 137 medals (**52 Gold, 39 Silver and 46 Bronze**).
- This is Haryana's second KIYG title. Haryana won the inaugural title in 2018 but finished second to Maharashtra in the next two seasons.
- Haryana is followed by Maharashtra with 125 medals (45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze) and Karnataka with 67 medals (22 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze).
- A total of 33 states won at least one medal at KIYG 2021 while 28 won at least one gold.

Key players in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021:

- Maharashtra's **Sanyukta Kale** swept all the five gold medals on offer in rhythmic gymnastics.
- Weightlifter **Harshada Garud** broke the youth national record in the girls' 45kg category by lifting 83kg to win the gold.
- Haryana's **Shiva Narwal** won the gold medal in the air pistol event.
- Haryana athlete **Unnati Hooda** won the girl's badminton title.

Note: Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

- 109. World Oceans Day** is observed annually on **8th of June** to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the United Nations in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The day was first observed in 2009.
- Theme 2022: "**Revitalization: collective action for the ocean**".

- 110.** The 25th Founding Day of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** has been observed in **Dhaka**, Bangladesh. Diplomats from BIMSTEC and other countries, Ministers, government officials, eminent citizens and the media have participated in the event.

BIMSTEC:

BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on **6 June 1997** through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes **seven** Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including *Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka*, and two from Southeast Asia, including *Myanmar and Thailand*.

- **Secretariat:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Secretary-General:** Tenzin Lekphell

- 111. World Accreditation Day** is observed annually on **9th June** to highlight the value of accreditation in the economy. It is a global initiative jointly launched by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The day was first observed in 2008. The year 2022 marks the 15th anniversary of World Accreditation Day.

- **Theme 2022:** "Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment."

112. The **14th International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD)** has been observed on **9th June 2022** to create awareness about level crossing safety. The motto of 2022 ILCAD is "Don't put your life at risk, stay away from tracks!"

- The 13th ILCAD was observed on 10th June 2021 and the 12th edition was observed on 11th June 2020.

113. World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually on **12th June** to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched this day in 2002 to spread awareness about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour, all over the world.

- **Theme 2022:** "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour"
- "Week of Action against Child Labour" has been observed from 3-12 June 2022.

114. World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on **14th June** to spread awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner. This day was first initiated and established on 14 June 2004 by the **World Health Organization** (WHO).

In May 2005, WHO with its 192 member states established Blood Donor Day at the 58th World Health Assembly.

- For 2022, the World Blood Donor Day slogan is "*Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives*"
- The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is **Mexico**.

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