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June 2022 - Week 3

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first **Biotech Startup Expo - 2022** at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**. The expo has been organised by the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to mark the completion of ten years of BIRAC.
  - The expo provides a common platform to connect investors, entrepreneurs, scientists, researchers, industry leaders, manufacturers, bio-incubators, regulators and government officials.
  - Theme:** 'Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat'.
  - During the expo, PM Narendra Modi has launched the e-portal of 750 biotech products along with the biotech products developed during the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence and a coffee book of 75 women biotech entrepreneurs.

2. Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced at the Viva Technology 2022 event that India will get a full-fledged **5G services** by **March 2023**. He said that the auction of the 5G spectrum will be completed by July 2022.
3. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) have developed a robot named '**HomoSEP**' to eliminate the practice of **manual scavenging** in India. The aim is to prevent deaths which are reported annually across India due to manual scavenging in septic tanks, despite bans and prohibitory orders.
  - This robot has been developed by IIT-Madras and Solinas Integrity, an IIT-M incubated startup, in close coordination with the Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA), a non-profit dedicated to the elimination of manual scavenging in India.
4. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has conferred the first Type Certificate (TC) under Drone Rules 2021 to **IoTech World Avigation Private Limited**. It has received the Type Certificate in barely 34 days after submission of its online application on the DGCA's DigitalSky Platform on 11 May 2022.
  - IoTechWorld, one of India's leading manufacturers of kisan drones, was established in April 2017 in Gurugram, Haryana.
  - The Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25 Aug 2021 and the 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on 26 Jan 2022.
  - The Quality Council of India (QCI) has approved three globally-renowned Certification Bodies (CB) namely – TQ Cert, UL India and Bureau Veritas, whom drone manufacturers can approach for testing their drone prototype.
  - There are 14 drone prototypes that are currently undergoing certification tests.
  - India has set a target to become a drone hub by **2030**.
5. Indian Railways has launched India's first private train under its '**Bharat Gaurav**' scheme. The maiden service has started from **Coimbatore** North railway station in Tamil Nadu to **Sainagar Shirdi** in Maharashtra. The train will stop at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Yelahanka, Dharmavaram, Mantralayam Road and Wadi.
  - With this, the **Southern Railway** has become the first zone to get its first Registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' Scheme.

#### **Bharat Gaurav Scheme:**

Indian Railways launched the operation of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in November 2021. The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world through Bharat Gaurav Trains.

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **Jagatguru Sreesant Tukaram Maharaj Shila Mandir** at **Dehu** Village near **Pune**, Maharashtra. The Shila Mandir has been rebuilt in stone masonry with 36 peaks, and also carries an idol of Sant Tukaram. Shila Mandir is a temple dedicated to a slab of stone or rock on which Sant Tukaram meditated for 13 days.
- PM Narendra Modi has also announced the upgradation of the highways approaching the temple town from all directions, at a cost of **Rs. 1,180 crore**.

#### **Sant Tukaram:**

He was a **17th-century** Marathi Bhakti poet. His work are central to the **Warkari** sect spread across Maharashtra. He was famously known for Abhanga devotional poetry and community-oriented worship through spiritual songs known as Kirtans. His poetry was dedicated to *Vithoba or Vitthala*, an avatar of Vishnu, the Hindu God. He composed a Marathi genre of literature called **Abhanga poetry** which fused folk stories with spiritual themes. His master was **Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** of the Bhakti movement. He was a vocal critic of caste and gender injustice. He was the contemporary of the Maratha ruler **Shivaji**.

7. **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions** has recently reconstituted the committee to examine the representation of officials sacked for alleged corruption. The **three-member** panel includes:

- Chemical and Petrochemicals Secretary **Arti Ahuja** has been appointed in place of Leena Nandan, Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Puneet Kansal**, Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat has replaced Ashutosh Jindal, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat in the panel.
- One member of the panel will be nominated by the cadre controlling authority (under whose administrative control the alleged corrupt officials come).

The committee will examine the representation of employees who are sacked under Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (J), (I) and Rule 48 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 1972.

8. India has successfully test-fired the night launch of a short-range ballistic missile '**Prithvi II**' from an Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Earlier in 2018, Prithvi-II missile was tested at night of 21<sup>st</sup> February. After this, two consecutive tests of Prithvi-II were done on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019. All these tests were done from the range of Chandipur.

#### **Prithvi II:**

- It is a surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM).
- It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- It is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kilogram of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- It uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.

- It has a strike range of **250 km**.
- It was initially developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF) as its primary user and was later inducted into the Indian Army.

9. The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Centre (TTC)**) in **Colombo**, Sri Lanka. The MoA was signed by BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- The main objective of TTC is to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen cooperation in technology transfer among the BIMSTEC member states by promoting the transfer of technologies, sharing of experiences and capacity building.

**Other Cabinet approvals (June 2022):**

- Cabinet has approved an agreement between India and United Nations on a '**Way Finding Application**' to be used in the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). UNOG, consisting of five buildings and 21 floors, is housed at the historic Palais des Nations.
- Cabinet has approved an agreement signed among the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** (SCO) member states on cooperation in the field of youth work among the authorized bodies of the member states of SCO.
- Cabinet has approved a moratorium of three years (2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23) to **Cochin Port Authority (CoPA)** towards repayment of the balance outstanding Government of India (GoI) loans amounting to Rs. 446.83 crore to tide over the financial crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cabinet has approved the proposal for the development of Phase I of **New Greenfield Airport** at Dholera in the state of Gujarat at an estimated cost of **Rs.1305 crore**. The airport is planned to operationalize from the year 2025-26.
- Cabinet has approved the telecom department's proposal to conduct 5G spectrum auctions in **July 2022**. A total of **72,097.85 MHz** of spectrum with a validity period of **20 years** will be put to auction to be held on July 26, 2022.

10. **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai** has become India's first airport to launch a Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill) to explore the possibility of utilization of wind energy at the airport. With this, Mumbai has become the first city in India to establish a one-of-its-kind hybrid power project at its airport.

- This initiative will reduce dependence on conventional electricity which propels its journey towards 'Net Zero' emissions. The hybrid project has been launched in partnership with WindStream Energy Technologies India Pvt Ltd.

11. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**, has inaugurated the "**Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022**"- road map for carbon neutrality by 2070 in New Delhi. The objective of the summit is to overcome power shortage because it is necessary to develop alternative fuels.

### **Decarbonization:**

Decarbonization means reduction of carbon. It means the conversion to an economic system that compensates and sustainably reduces emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The long-term goal of decarbonization is to create a CO<sub>2</sub>-free global economy.

12. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the '**National Yoga Olympiad 2022**' and quiz competition in New Delhi. It has been organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- Around 600 students from 26 states/UTs and Demonstration Multipurpose Schools of Regional Institutions of Education have participated in the competition.
  - **Note:** NCERT started the National Yoga Olympiad in 2016.
13. The Ministry of Education initiative to use Information & Communication Technology (ICT) under the "PM eVidya" scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic has won the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) recognition.
14. The **Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)**, a constituent unit of the NCERT has been awarded with the **UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize** for the use of ICT in Education for the year 2021. This award recognises innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its **Goal 4 on Education**.

### **PM eVidya:**

- It was initiated as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on **17th May 2020** which unifies all efforts related to digital, online, on-air education to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimise learning losses.
- UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize was established in 2005 with the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The prize rewards individuals and organisations that are implementing outstanding projects and promoting creative use of technologies to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance in the digital age. Each prize winner receives USD 25,000, a medal and a diploma.

15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects worth more than **Rs 27000 crore** in Karnataka.

**Key projects:**

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated a new campus of **Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE)** University in Bangalore, Karnataka. The BASE University was set up in 2017 in recognition of BR Ambedkar's contributions to Independent India on his 125th birth anniversary.
- He has launched **150 'technology hubs'** that have been developed by transforming the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across Karnataka. These technology hubs are developed at a cost of more than Rs 4,700 crore.
- He has inaugurated the **Centre for Brain Research (CBR)** and laid the foundation for **Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital** at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- He has also unveiled a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at the BASE University.

16. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Eastern Region has inducted the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III**, indigenously developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu. It will be the first aircraft of the newly created "840 Squadron". The aircraft is equipped for carrying out target neutralisation with its mounted heavy machine gun.

- Till date, HAL has delivered 13 out of 16 such aircraft to the ICG.

17. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has organised a **National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security** (Cyber Apradh Se Azadi, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) at Vigyan Bhawan in **New Delhi**.

- **Chief Guest:** Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation
- The conference is part of the efforts to create mass awareness for prevention of cyber-crimes in the country.
- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), in the MHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in the run up to the conference has also organized functions at 75 places in different States/Union Territories on Cyber Hygiene, Prevention of Cyber Crimes, Cyber Safety and National Security under the banner "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" from 8 to 17 June 2022.

18. The **Ministry of Culture** has organized '**Yoga Mahotsav**' in collaboration with the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** at Purana Qila in New Delhi. The event has been held

as part of the celebrations for the International Day of Yoga 2022 (21<sup>st</sup> June). The purpose of the event is to instil the everlasting value of cultural wellbeing among the people.

19. Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued **150 women** including many girls from becoming the victims of human trafficking during pan India drive **Operation Mahila Suraksha**. It has also arrested over 7000 men for traveling in coaches reserved for women.
- **Note:** Operation Mahila Suraksha was launched from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to ensure the safe and secure travel of women over the Indian Railways.
20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **Jal Bhushan Building** at Raj Bhawan in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He has also inaugurated an underground '**Gallery of Revolutionaries**' museum dedicated to the luminaries of the freedom struggle, at the Raj Bhavan. The gallery includes information on the freedom movement heroes, their role in the movement, sculptures, rare photographs, murals and details on tribal revolutionaries drawn by school-kids.
21. National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (**NCMRWF**), Ministry of Earth Sciences, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Navy**, Ministry of Defence for cooperation on Numerical Model Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology.
22. The **Ministry of Tourism** has launched the **National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and the Responsible Traveller Campaign** at the National Summit on Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tourist Destinations held in New Delhi. The summit has been in partnership with the United Environment Program (UNEP) and Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI).

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## STATES AFFAIRS

23. **Tamil Nadu** Government has launched the '**Ennum Ezhuthum**' scheme **to fill the learning gap** occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic among students aged below 8. The scheme has been launched at an event in Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school, Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu.
- The scheme ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by **2025**.



- Under this scheme, the education department will distribute workbooks to students from Classes 1 to 3 to assess and bridge the learning gap.
  - The children will be trained in 3 subjects: Tamil, English, and Mathematics.
24. The state government of Haryana has launched a pilot project the 'Sujal' initiative for Panchkula to monitor the water supply and control its flow in the region. Under this initiative, a device will be installed in every drinking water meter, tubewell and connections of **Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran** (HSVP) that will store the water usage data online.
25. The government of **Delhi**, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has set up an oxygen generation plant at G. B. Pant Hospital in the national capital to augment the oxygen supply capabilities. UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, **Kanni Wignaraja**, has inaugurated the oxygen plant in the presence of Medical Director G. B. Pant Hospital **Dr. Anil Agarwal**.
- The oxygen plant produces about **1,000 litres** of oxygen per minute using pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology.
  - It will serve about 750 hospital beds, including ventilator-assisted beds and the Intensive Care Unit.
26. The state government of **Haryana** has signed a joint declaration with **Israel** in the field of integrated water resources management and capacity building. This joint declaration will strengthen the relationship in the water management sector, preserve water resources in public water areas in Haryana, improve public health in the region, and cooperate and coordinate efforts to protect the water resources.
27. India's first-ever girl Panchayat, "**Balika Panchayat**", has been started in several villages of **Kutch district of Gujarat**. The aim is to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation of girls in politics.
- This initiative has been started by the Women and Child Development Welfare department of Gujarat Government.
  - It has been launched under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
  - Currently, this initiative has been started in *Kunaria, Motagua, Maska, and Vadsar* villages of the Kutch district of Gujarat.
  - It is managed by people aged **11-21 years**.
  - The member of Balika Panchayat is nominated just like Gram Panchayat.
28. India's first 100 MLD (million liters per day) capacity desalination plant has been inaugurated at **Dahej** in Bharuch district of Gujarat. It has been set up by the Gujarat Industrial

Development Corporation (GIDC) with an investment of **Rs 881.19 crore**. The plant can desalinate 100 million litres of water per day. It will supply water to the industries in the area. Its construction work was awarded to the joint venture company of Larsen & Toubro and Tecton. The price of 1000 litres of treated water will be **Rs.26**.

### **Desalinate plant:**

A desalination plant turns salt water into water that is fit to drink. The most commonly used technology for the process is reverse osmosis where an external pressure is applied to push solvents from an area of high-solute concentration to an area of low-solute concentration through a membrane.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojna**'- a nutrition scheme for pregnant and lactating mothers, during the public meeting called 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' held in **Vadodara, Gujarat**. The scheme will offer monthly supply of 2 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of yellow split pigeon peas (toor dal) and 1 kg of edible oil free of cost from Anganwadi Centres for three years. It will cover 7 lakh women with an outlay of **Rs. 800 crore**.

During the meeting, PM Narendra Modi has launched schemes worth **Rs 21,000 crore** in Gujarat. These are as follows:

- He has laid the foundation stone for Railway projects worth more than Rs 16,000 crore—works that include a new 357-km long Palanpur-Madar section of a dedicated freight corridor (DFC).
- He has also laid the foundation stones for the redevelopment of Surat, Udhna, Somnath and Sabarmati railway stations.
- He has dedicated 138,000 houses worth Rs 1,800 crore in urban areas and Rs 1,530 crore in rural areas.
- He has laid the foundation stone of **Gujarat Central University** in Kundhela village of Dabhoi taluka near Vadodara. It will be constructed at a cost of around Rs 425 crore and will be able to carry a capacity of over 2,500 students.
- He has inaugurated the redeveloped **Kalika Mata temple** at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat's Panchmahal district. The temple has been renovated at a cost of Rs 125 crore.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

30. As per the recent data, **Iraq** has become the top oil supplier to India in May 2022. Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil, as Russian crude is currently available at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine. Indian refiners have bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil in May or over 16 per cent of all their oil imports.

- **India's top oil supplier in 2021:** Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE, U.S., Nigeria.
- **Note:** India is the world's third-biggest oil-importing and consuming nation after USA and China.

- 31.** The first-ever **India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations** has been held in **Brussels, Belgium**. The consultation has been held in accordance with the decision taken at India-EU Summit in July 2020. The consultation has been co-chaired by Joint secretary of Ministry of Defence **Somnath Ghosh** and Joint Secretary (Europe West) of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) **Sandeep Chakravorty** from India and Director Security and Defence Policy, from European Union.
- Both sides discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India's neighbourhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment including India's participation in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).
  - Both the sides noted number of positive developments in security and defence cooperation area in recent years.
- 32.** **India** has hosted the **8th** meeting of the Heads of Border Services of the competent authorities of member states of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in New Delhi. It has been attended by representatives of the border services of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO. India has been represented by Border Security Force (BSF) Director-General (DG) **Pankaj Kumar Singh**.

#### Key highlights:

- The Plan for the preparation and conduct of the **Joint Border Operation Friendship Border 2022** has been reviewed and approved.
  - The members has supported the initiative of **China** to conduct the 9<sup>th</sup> round of Joint Border Operations of the border services of the competent authorities of the SCO member states i.e. '**Solidarity - 2023**' in 2023.
  - The members assessed the situation on the state borders of the SCO member states, trends, and forecasts of its development.
- 33.** India has hosted the **Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM)** in New Delhi to mark the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of its dialogue relations & 10 years of its Strategic Partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The foreign ministers of India and ASEAN countries have participated in the meeting. **Myanmar** did not participated in the meeting.

The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of sectoral partnership in 1992 which graduated to full dialogue partnership in December 1995 and summit level partnership in 2002. The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2012.

### **ASEAN:**

ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration). The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community". The members include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

- **ASEAN Secretariat:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Secretary-General:** Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi

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**34. Lake Sawa**, also known as the '*pearl of the south*', is located in Muthanna Governorate, **Iraq**. Recently, the lake has run dry amid water crisis that is induced by climate change, including record low rainfall and back-to-back drought.

- Lake Sawa was formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formations and has no inlet or outlet.
- The lake rises 5 meters above sea level and is about 4.5 km long and 1.8 km wide.
- It appears in some old Islamic texts. It is said the lake miraculously formed on the day the Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 A.D.

**35. Egypt** has hosted the **8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians** in Sharm El Sheikh to address climate change. The two-day conference has been jointly organized by the House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

- The conference provides a platform for young Member of Parliament (MPs) from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment.
- Around 200 young MPs, from 60 countries have participated in the conference to discuss strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement.
- According to official information shared by IPU, there are 35,177 Parliamentary seats globally but just 2.66 percent of these are held by young MPs.

**S. Phangon Konyak**, Nagaland's first woman elected as MP to Rajya Sabha, has represented India at the Conference. She, along with two other young Lok Sabha MPs from India, has shared her thoughts on the 'Young MPs for Climate Actions'.

**36.** The **12th Ministerial Conference (MC12)** of the World Trade Organization (**WTO**) has been held in Geneva, Switzerland. It has been co-hosted by **Kazakhstan** and chaired by Timur Suleimenov, Deputy Chief of Staff of Kazakhstan's President. Kazakhstan was originally scheduled to host MC12 in June 2020 but the conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The focus of WTO MC12 is to review the functioning of the multilateral trading system, to make general statements and to take action on the future work of the WTO.
- During the meeting, WTO members have agreed on tackling the following food insecurity concerns, curbing harmful fishing subsidies, temporarily waiving intellectual property (IP) obligations concerning COVID-19 vaccines, deals on e-commerce, responding to pandemics and reforming the organization itself.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal**, has represented India at the WTO's MC12 during the Thematic Session on Agriculture.
- He has also attended the ministerial meeting of G33, a coalition of developing countries of which India is a key member.

**37.** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has organized an eight-day long Mango Festival in **Bahrain** to boost the export of Mangoes. Around 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, have been displayed at eight different locations of Bahrain's Al Jazira group supermarket. This show is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.

**38. Unmesh**, a three-day international literary festival, has been organized at Gaiety Theatre in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**. The festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture and the Sahitya Akademi with the support of the Himachal Pradesh Department of Art and Culture as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

- The festival has been inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture **Arjun Ram Meghwal**.
- Around 425 writers, poets, translators, critics and distinguished personalities from 15 countries, representing over 60 languages, have participated in the event.

**39.** The United States of America (USA) has announced the formation of '**I2U2**', a new QUAD group that includes **India, Israel, USA, and United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This new grouping will enhance economic, and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, especially

through trade, climate change mitigation, energy cooperation, and other vital shared interests.

- The first summit of the 'I2U2' grouping will be virtually hosted by **US President Joe Biden** during his visit to West Asia from 13<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The summit will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Israeli PM Neftali Bennet and UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The summit will focus on the food security challenge and other areas of cooperation.

**40. Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia** has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The decision has been made during the 34th session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme taking place in Paris, France.

- Khuvsgul Lake, the largest freshwater lake, is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border.
- It is holding nearly 70 percent of Mongolia's fresh water, or 0.4 per cent of the world's total.
- The lake is 1,645 meters above sea level, 136 km long and 262 meters deep.

**Additional Information:**

The Man and the Biosphere Programme is an intergovernmental scientific program set up by UNESCO in the early 1970s with the aim of establishing a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

**41. China** has launched its third aircraft carrier, named "**Fujian**" to extend the range of its navy in Indo-Pacific region. It has been launched at a brief ceremony held at the Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard.

- The Fujian, which is the "first fully domestically developed and constructed" **aircraft carrier** with catapults, has a flat, straight flight deck that has been equipped with electromagnetic catapults and arresting devices.
- It has been built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited.
- It has been named after Fujian province of China.

**42.** The seventh round of the **India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission** has been held in New Delhi. It has been co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen.

- Both nations have agreed to expand their strategic partnership to explore cooperation in areas of AI, cyber security, startups and Fintech and also expand ties in the railways sector as well as cross-border river management and conservation.

- It is noteworthy that Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia.

## REPORTS & INDICES

- 43.** According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's retail inflation based on **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** has come down to **7.04%** in May 2022 from 7.79% in April 2022. In May 2021, the retail inflation stood at 6.3 percent.
- The overall food inflation has grown by **7.97%** in May 2022 as against 8.31% in April 2022 and 5.01% in the corresponding period of last fiscal (FY22).
  - The CPI-based inflation has breached the upper limit of RBI's tolerance band, ranging from 2-6%, for the fifth consecutive month.
  - Whereas, India's **wholesale price index (WPI)**-based inflation has increased to **15.88%** in May 2022 as against 15.08% in April 2022. This comes as food prices accelerated while commodity rates hardened further.
- 44.** The annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020 to June 2021, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, showed that India's unemployment rate, as per usual status (reference period of last 365 days preceding the survey), has declined by **0.6%** to **4.2%** in 2020-21 from 4.8% in 2019-20. It is 2.1 percent for women and 3.9 percent for men in rural areas. In metropolitan regions, it is higher among women, at 8.6%, than among men, at 6.1 percent.
- The overall **Labour force participation rate (LFPR)** for people of all ages in typical status in India has grown slightly from 40.1 percent in 2019-20 to **41.6 percent** in 2020-21.
  - The LFPR in usual status for persons of age 15-29 years in India is 41.4%, while for persons of age 15 years and above in India, it is 54.9%.
  - The all-India female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in usual status has increased **2.3%** in 2021 to **25.1%** as compared to 22.8% a year ago.
  - For rural, female LFPR has increased 3% to 27.7%, while urban women participation rate has seen a 0.1 rise to 18.6%.
  - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** in usual status for persons of all ages in India is **39.8%** (Rural-41.3%, Urban-36.3%; Male-54.9%, Female-24.2%) from 38.2% in 2019-20.

### Important terms:

- The usual status of a person is defined as the activity status on which he or she spent a significant amount of time in the 365 days prior to the survey date.
- WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

- Unemployment Rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

**45.** US-based open online course provider Coursera has released the **Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022**. The report benchmarks three of the most in-demand skill areas driving employment in the digital economy – business, technology, and data science.

- As per the report, **Switzerland** ranks first with 99% in business, 94% in technology, and 97% in data science. It is followed by Denmark, Indonesia, Belgium, and Singapore.
- The report ranks the USA 29<sup>th</sup> in overall skills proficiency, lagging behind countries in Asia and Europe.

**India's position:**

- India has slipped 4 places to be ranked at the **68th position** globally. In Asia, India stands at the **19th position**.
- The report shows an increase in India's technology proficiency levels from 38% to 46% and proficiency in data science has dipped from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022, leading to a 12-rank drop.
- State-wise, **West Bengal** leads in terms of skills proficiency. **Karnataka** ranks number four in technology and number 6 in data science. **Andhra Pradesh** is one of the top three performing states with high proficiency in business and technology skills.

**Note:** The report estimates that 28 million new technology jobs will be created in India by 2025.

**46.** The Institute for Management Development has recently compiled and released the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the **World Competitiveness Index 2022**. The major 4 factors in ranking are Economic performance, Government efficiency, Business efficiency, and Infrastructure.

- **Denmark** has topped the index among 63 economies. It was ranked at third position in 2021.
- Denmark is followed by Switzerland and Singapore.
- India has improved 6 positions from **43<sup>rd</sup>** in 2021 to **37<sup>th</sup>** in the 2022 ranking.
- India's ranking in Economic performance has increased from 37 in 2021 to 28 in 2022, Government efficiency has increased from 46 to 45, and Business efficiency has increased from 32 to 33. Infrastructure remains at 49.

**47.** As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India's total exports, merchandise and services combined, have increased by **24.03 percent** year-on-year to **USD 62.21 billion** in May 2022. The overall exports in April-May 2022 are estimated to be USD 124.59 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 25.90 percent over the same period last. The merchandise exports in May 2022 were USD 38.94 Billion, as compared to USD 32.30 Billion in May 2021.



**Imports:**

India's overall imports (Merchandise and Services combined) in May 2022 are estimated to be **USD 77.65 Billion**, exhibiting a positive growth of **59.19 percent** over the same period last year. The overall imports in April-May 2022 are estimated to be USD 151.89 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 45.44 percent over the same period last year. The merchandise imports in May 2022 were USD 63.22 Billion, which is an increase of 62.83 percent over imports of USD 38.83 Billion in May 2021.

**Trade deficit:**

The merchandise trade deficit in May 2022 was estimated at **USD 24.29 Billion** as against USD 6.53 Billion in May 2021, which is an increase of **271.96 percent**.

48. Start-up Genome, a world-leading innovation policy advisory and research firm, has released the **Global Start-up Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2022**. The report has been created by Start-up Genome in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) and Crunch base.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Silicon Valley** has ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in GSER 2022, followed by New York and London in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and Boston in 4<sup>th</sup> and Beijing in 5<sup>th</sup> position.
- North America dominates the global ranking with around 47% of the top 30 ecosystems in the region.
- A record 540 companies achieved unicorn status in 2021, up from 150 in 2020.

**India's performance:**

- As per the report, **Bangalore** has ranked **22<sup>nd</sup>** on the global ranking, while Delhi has ranked 26<sup>th</sup> and Mumbai has ranked 36<sup>th</sup>.
- The ecosystem value of Bangalore is USD 105 billion which is higher than Singapore (USD 89 billion) and Tokyo (USD 62 billion).
- **Kerala** has ranked **first** in Asia and **4th** in global ranking in Affordable talent in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2022. While **Telangana** has ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Asia in Affordable Talent.

*Start-up Genome published the first edition of GSER in 2012. It is based on 5 factors: Performance, Funding, Connectedness, Market reach, Knowledge, Talent & Experience.*

49. Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) has released the 41<sup>st</sup> issue of its Micrometer Report for Q4 Financial Year 2021-22. As per the report, **Tamil Nadu** has become the largest

state in terms of portfolio outstanding followed by Bihar and West Bengal. Tamil Nadu's gross loan portfolio (GLP) was Rs. 36,806 crore as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the gross loan portfolio of India's microfinance industry has increased by **10%** in 2021-22 to **Rs. 2.85 trillion**.
- As per the report, the East, Northeast, and Southern regions account for around 64% of the microfinance portfolio.
- The data showed that 12 banks held the largest share of portfolio in micro-credit with total loan outstanding of Rs.1.14 trillion, about 40% of total micro-credit universe.
- NBFC-MFIs are the second largest provider of micro-credit with a loan amount outstanding of Rs.1 trillion, accounting for 35.2% of the total industry portfolio.

**50.** SkyTrax, an aviation rating firm, has announced the 2022 winners for its annual World Airport Awards, which reveals the World's Best Airports 2022. The winners have been announced at the Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris, France. **Hamad International Airport** in Doha, Qatar has been named the World's Best Airport 2022 for the second year. It has been followed by Tokyo Haneda International Airport, Japan (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Changi Airport Singapore (3<sup>rd</sup> place).

#### Other winners:

- **Kempegowda International Airport** in Bengaluru has bagged the *Best Regional Airport* in India and South Asia title.
- World's Best Airport Staff Service and World's Best Airport Dining: **Singapore Changi Airport**
- World's Best Airport Shopping and Most Family-Friendly Airport: **Istanbul Airport**
- **Tokyo Haneda Airport** has won awards as the World's Cleanest Airport, the World's Best Domestic Airport, the Best Airport in Asia, and the Best Airport PRM & Accessible Facilities.
- **King Khalid International Airport** in Riyadh has secured the award as the World's Most Improved Airport.
- Nagoya's **Chubu Centrair International Airport** has named the World's Best Regional Airport.
- **Copenhagen Airport** has won the World's Best Airport Immigration Processing award.
- **Zurich Airport** has won the World's Best Airport Security Processing award.

**51.** As per Kantar Brandz, 2022 'Most Valuable Global Brands report', 4 Indian companies namely, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** have been featured among the top 100 global biggest brands.

- TCS has jumped 12 positions to **46th position** from 58th in 2021. Its brand value was up 61 percent.

- HDFC Bank's rank has raised 5 positions to **61** along with an increased brand value of 35%.
- Infosys for the 1<sup>st</sup> time entered the list at **64<sup>th</sup> position** at a brand value of USD 33,551 billion.
- LIC has slipped 19 positions to **92<sup>nd</sup>** rank with a decrease of 4% of brand value compared to 2021.

**Apple** has retained its 1<sup>st</sup> position to become the first trillion-dollar brand with a brand value of USD 947.1 billion. It is followed by Google, Amazon, and Microsoft.

**52.** Burgundy Private, a private banking platform of Axis Bank, and Hurun India, has launched **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 – Special Report (SR)**". The update has been for the period of October 2021-April 2022.

- As per the report, **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has become India's most valuable company with a value of Rs.18.9 lakh crore. It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with Rs.12.9 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with Rs.7.7 lakh crore.
- Among the Unlisted companies, **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has become most valuable company with a value of Rs.2,28,100 crore. It is followed by Serum Institute of India, and BYJU's.
- Among Industrial Group, Tata Group has become most valuable company with a value of Rs.22,02,823 crore. It is followed by Adani Group, and Aditya Birla Group.
- The companies featured in the report come from 15 states, led by Maharashtra (195), Karnataka (60), and Tamil Nadu (43).
- In term of cities, Mumbai led the list with 159 companies followed by Bangalore with 59 companies, Gurugram with 38 and Chennai and Delhi with 36 each.

**53.** REN21, a global renewable energy community, has published the Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022). As per the report, India has been ranked **3rd** in the world for total renewable power capacity additions with **15.4 GW** in 2021. It is third highest after **China (136 GW)** and the **US (43 GW)**.

- India is now the third-largest market in the world for new solar PV capacity and ranked fourth in the world for total solar energy installations (60.4 GW) following China (305.9 GW).
- India ranked 2nd in new Solar Water Heating Capacity addition, 3rd in Hydropower capacity addition and 5th in Ethanol production addition in 2021.
- **USD 24.3 billion** was allotted for its solar energy schemes, providing incentives to domestic and international companies to set up battery manufacturing plants.
- India has invested **USD 11.3 billion** in renewables in 2021.

REN21 is the only global community of actors from science, governments, NGOs and industry working collectively to drive the rapid uptake of renewables. It was created in 2004 as an outcome of the Bonn 2004 International Conference on Renewable Energy.

54. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has published its “2022 annual Global Trends Report”. As per the report, nearly 5 million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021.
- The report highlights that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.
  - The **United States of America (USA)** was the world’s largest recipient of new individual applications (188,900), followed by Germany (148,200), Mexico (132,700), Costa Rica (108,500) and France (90,200).
  - According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), in 2021, there were 23.7 million new internal displacements globally due to disasters (these are in addition to those internally displaced due to conflict and violence). This represented a decrease of seven million, or 23 percent, compared to the previous year.
  - The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in **China (6.0 million)**, the **Philippines (5.7 million)** and **India (4.9 million)**.
  - By the end of 2021, those displaced by war, violence, persecution, and human rights abuses stood at 89.3 million, up 8 percent on a year earlier.
55. Union Minister of State Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, has released the second edition of the **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021** (NeSDA 2021). It has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG).

NeSDA has followed the Good Governance Index 2021 grouping of the States and UTs.

- Group 1: North-East and Hill States
- Group 2: Union Territories
- Group 3: Remaining States – Group A
- Group 4: Remaining States – Group B

In NeSDA 2021, 1400 services across all States and UTs were assessed as compared to 872 in 2019, an increase of over 60%. It covers services across **seven sectors**: *Finance, Labour & Employment, Education, Local Governance & Utility Services, Social Welfare, Environment and Tourism sectors*.

The states and UTs were assessed on **four parameters**, viz., *Accessibility, Content Availability, Ease of Use, and Information Security & Privacy*. The Services Portals were assessed on an additional

three parameters, viz., *End-service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery, and Status & Request Tracking.*

### Ranking of State / UT Portals: Top 3

Rank	North-East and Hill States	Remaining States - Group A	Remaining States - Group B	Union Territories
1	Nagaland	Kerala	Odisha	Jammu & Kashmir
2	Meghalaya	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
3	Assam	Punjab	Bihar	Puducherry

### Ranking of State / UT Services Portals: Top 3

Rank	North-East and Hill States	Remaining States - Group A	Remaining States - Group B	Union Territories
1	Meghalaya	Punjab	Rajasthan	Jammu & Kashmir
2	Tripura	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
3	Assam	Haryana	Madhya Pradesh	Delhi

### Ranking of Central Ministries: Top 3

Rank	Ministry Portal	Ministry Services Portal
1	Home Affairs	Finance - Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)

2	Rural Development	Home Affairs - Digital Police
3	Education	Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions - Bhavishya Portal

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### Key highlights:

- In the Union Territories category, **Jammu & Kashmir** has been assessed for the first time in NeSDA 2021 and has scored the highest amongst all UTs for six sectors with an overall compliance of nearly 90%.
- Amongst all the States and UTs, **Kerala** has the highest overall compliance score.
- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh has a compliance of more than 85%.
- Among the North-East and Hill States, Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading State Portals with an overall compliance of more than 90%.
- Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan are the leading states with compliance of more than 75% across all parameters for their Services Portals.
- Among the Services Portals for North-East and Hill States, the highest-ranking states of Meghalaya and Tripura showed improvement across all six sectors compared to NeSDA 2019.
- Among Remaining State Category: The overall score of Tamil Nadu increased the most in 2021 compared to 2019. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa, and Odisha also improved the compliance of their services portals by 100%.

**56. Switzerland** ranks first in the Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022 with 99% in business, 94% in technology, and 97% in data science. It is followed by Denmark, Indonesia, Belgium, and Singapore.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

**57.** The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the new recruitment scheme called '**Agneepath**'. It is a pan-India merit-based recruitment scheme for enrolling soldiers, airmen and sailors. Initially, it was named as 'Tour of Duty'.

### Key features:

- Under this new scheme, the soldiers will be inducted for a service duration of **4 years** including training period.
- The starting annual package will be Rs 4.76 lakh, which can be increased to 6.92 lakh by the end of service.
- The age range to be eligible for the scheme is **17.5-21 years**. However, the upper age limit has been relaxed to **23 years** for the current year's (2022) recruitment.
- The scheme provides Non-contributory life insurance cover of **Rs 48 lakhs** for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.
- On completion of the service period, the soldiers will receive a tax free service fund package of **Rs.11.71 lakh** as Seva Nidhi Package.
- Only **25%** of them will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.
- Women will also be inducted into armed forces under this scheme.
- Around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually.

The process of recruitment will commence in 90 days with a planned intake of about **46,000** young men and women in 2022. This will reduce the defence pension bill.

Central Government has approved following support measures to accommodate Agniveers after their 4-year of service:

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved a **10% reservation** for Agniveers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles recruitment. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also decided to grant a three-year age relaxation to Agniveers in the CAPFs and Assam Rifles who are between the ages of 17.5 and 21.
- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has announced avenues for smooth transition of Agniveers in various roles of the merchant navy.
- **Ministry of Defence** has approved a 10% reservation in the Indian Coast Guard and defence civilian posts, and all the 16 Defence PSUs.

**58.** Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has launched Indian Railway Innovation Policy - "**Start-ups for Railways**" in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi. This policy aims to bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem.

**Key features:**

- Under this policy, Indian railways ensures for **50%**, up to **Rs.1.5 crore** capital grant on equal basis in milestone-wise payment.
- Complete process from floating of problem statement to development of prototype is online with defined time line to make it transparent and objective.
- Trials of prototypes will be done in Railways. Enhanced funding will be provided to scale up deployment on successful performance of prototypes.

- Selection of Innovator/s will be done through online portal.
- Developed Intellectual property rights (IPR) will remain with **innovator** only.
- Assured developmental order to innovator.
- De-centralization of complete product development process at divisional level to avoid delays.

Out of over 100 problem statements received from different divisions, field offices/zones of Railways, **11 problem** statements like rail fracture, headway reduction etc. have been taken up for phase 1 of this policy. These will be presented before the start ups to find innovative solutions.

**59. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched the “**National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers' (NIPUN)** initiative. It has been launched by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri.

- NIPUN is an initiative under the flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission **DAY-NULM** to train over **1 lakh** construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.
- It will be implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- NIPUN project has been divided into three parts: Training by means of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites, Training through Fresh skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC, and International Placement through builders, industries, and contractors.
- Under the RPL certification, onsite skill training will be provided to around **80,000** construction workers through industry associations, while **14,000** candidates will receive fresh skilling through plumbing and infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC). It also aims to place at least **12,000** people in foreign countries like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other GCC countries.
- It will provide trainees with ‘**Kaushal Bima**’, a 3-year accidental insurance with coverage of Rs 2 lakhs, digital skills like BHIM app and cashless transactions, orientation regarding entrepreneurship, and EPF and BOCW facilities.
- A project committee with members from both NSDC and MoHUA will be formed under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary-cum-Mission Director, DAY-NULM to oversee and monitor project.

#### **DAY-NULM:**

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and a flagship mission under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**. It is being implemented since 2014-15. Its objective is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable



improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor.

**60.** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has recently (June 2022) extended the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom equipment manufacturing by **one year**. It has also amended the scheme to raise the incentive rate by an additional **1 percent**, aimed towards incentivising design-led manufacturing in the sector. The government has opened applications from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### Other amendments:

- 11 new telecom and networking products has been approved to the existing list, on the basis of suggestions of stakeholders.
- Guidelines for PLI Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products have also been amended, in order to introduce Design-led Manufacturing along with additional incentive rates.
- Allocation for MSMEs has been increased from Rs 1000 crore to **Rs 2,500 crore**.
- Existing PLI beneficiaries will have an option to select either FY 2021-22 or FY 2022-23 as first year of incentive.
- For design-led manufacturing, incentives will be given for five years, commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- The minimum investment threshold under the scheme is **Rs 10 crore** for MSMEs while **Rs 100 crores** for non-MSMEs applicants (Land and building costs will not be counted under investments).
- Eligibility of the investment is subject to incremental sales of manufactured goods over base year FY 2019-20.

The telecom PLI scheme, with an outlay of **Rs 12,195 crore** was notified in 2021, under which 31 global and local companies were selected to undertake incremental production worth Rs 1.82 trillion over five years.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 61. Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL)**, a subsidiary of Adani Group, has collaborated with **TotalEnergies** of France to build the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem.
- 'Total Energies' will invest at least **USD 12.5 billion** to acquire a 25% minority interest in ANIL from Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) as part of this partnership.
  - Over the next ten years, ANIL plans to invest **USD 50 billion** on green hydrogen.
  - Before 2030, ANIL will build a production capacity of 1 million tonnes a year for green hydrogen.
- 62. Amara Raja Power Systems**, a part of Amara Raja group, has bagged a contract from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling

station in **Leh, Ladakh**. Amara Raja will run and maintain the fuelling station for three years at a cost of Rs 41 crore.

- This pilot project is being set up at a height of 3,600 meters above sea level.
- The pilot project will produce a minimum of 80kg/day of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen which will be compressed, stored and dispensed.
- This is in line with the government's vision of achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2070.

**63. LinkedIn**, the world's largest professional network, has partnered with **UN Women** for the LINK Women project with an investment of **USD 5, 00,000** (Rs 3.88 crore) to advance women's economic empowerment.

- **Aim:** To create a cadre of women who will acquire new digital and employability skills, leading to better jobs.
- This is a **15-month** pilot project launched in **Maharashtra**, after which UN Women and LinkedIn will incorporate lessons learned and evaluative feedback to improve the programmes.

**64. Bharti Airtel** has launched '**Xstream multiplex**' India's first multiplex on the Partynite Metaverse platform. It is an extension of Airtel's Xstream Premium offering. It is a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading OTT partners available on the application. It will enable sampling of top original shows and movies with content pieces.

- The idea of the multiplex was initiated by Essence, Airtel's integrated media agency of record, and developed by Gamitronics, the creator of Partynite, a blockchain-powered digital parallel universe.

**65. Google** has launched a start-up accelerator program for women founders named '**Google for Start-ups Accelerator - India Women Founders**' to help them address challenges such as fundraising and hiring.

- The program will accept up to 20 women-founded / co-founded start-ups in the country, and support them through a three-month program.
- The program will run from July 2022 to September 2022.

**66. CASHe**, a financial wellness platform, has launched an industry-first credit line service using its AI-powered chat capability on **WhatsApp**. The objective is to offer customers with a fast, seamless and convenient way to access instant credit line by merely typing their name without the need for any documents, app downloads or filling up tedious application forms.

**67. China** has become the biggest importer of Indian broken rice during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the import of **7.7 percent** of India's total rice export in financial year 2021-22.

The analysis shows that out of China's total rice import from India of **16.34 LMT**, nearly 97 percent was broken rice.

### **Rice exports of India:**

- In 2021-22, India's total rice exports, both basmati and non-basmati, stood at **212.10 LMT**, which is 19.30 per cent higher than the 177.79 LMT exported in 2020-21.
- Of India's total rice export in 2021-22, Basmati rice was 39.48 LMT, which was 14.73 percent lower than 46.30 LMT exported in 2020-21.
- Non-basmati rice accounts for the lion's share in the basket of Indian rice exports.
- The export of rice other than Basmati was **172.62 LMT** during 2021-22, an increase of 31.27 percent from 131.49 LMT in 2020-21.

**68.** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has declared the Information Technology (IT) resources of **ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** as '**Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)**' under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2000. The computer resources of their associated dependencies will also be regarded as the protected systems.

- The IT resources under CII include Core Banking Solution, Real Time Gross Settlement and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) comprising Structured Financial Messaging Server.

### **Critical Information Infrastructure (CII):**

According to Information Technology Act of 2000, "Critical Information Infrastructure" is a "computer resource". Incapacitation or destruction of such resource have debilitating impact on national security, public health, economy, or public safety". The Union government has the power to declare any data, IT network, database, or communications infrastructure as CII. In India, CIIs are protected through a nodal agency "National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)".

**69. Pontaq**, an innovation fund, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Tamil Nadu Start-up and Innovation Mission (TANSIM)** – StartupTN backed by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. Under this MoU, the government of Tamil Nadu will help the Pontaq-supported companies to expand their business operation in Tamil Nadu.

- In June 2022, **Tata Technologies** has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the **Tamil Nadu** government for five years to transform 71 government industrial training institutes (ITIs) across the state into technology centres with modern infrastructure and training facilities to meet the industry 4.0 standards. The total proposed investment under this project would be **Rs 2,204 crore**.

- 70.** The **BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Centre** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the BRICS **New Development Bank (NDB)** to facilitate bilateral cooperation and promote the common development of BRICS countries.
- The MoU has been signed between **Huang Wenhui**, executive vice chairman of the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre council, and **Marcos Troyjo**, President of the NDB during a meeting held via virtually in the port city of Xiamen, East China's Fujian Province.
- 71.** DBS Bank India has acquired a **9.9 percent** stake in the micro businesses-focused non-bank finance company Svakarma Finance for an undisclosed sum.

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## **BANKING & FINANCE**

- 72. HSBC India**, a retail banking and financial services provider, has announced **USD 250 million** in lending support for high-growth, technology-led start-ups in India, which has the world's third largest start-up ecosystem. HSBC India will administer the lending through its commercial banking division.
- 73.** Indian Bank has launched its **KCC Digital Renewal scheme** to enable eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts via digital modes.
- This initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' - World of Advanced Virtual Experience.
  - The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndOASIS mobile app, internet banking and via its website.
  - Currently, it is being offered to customers having outstanding loans below Rs.1.60 lakh.
- 74. HDFC Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a leading early-stage venture capital firm, **100X.VC** to support start-ups.
- Under this MoU, HDFC Bank will extend its full suite of specialised services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as **Smart-Up**, to all the firms associated with 100X.VC.
  - It will also extend additional credit facilities and evaluate investment opportunities in these startups.

- 75. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has signed an agreement with **Lyra Network**, a provider of payment solutions in France, to allow Indians to pay using UPI and Rupay cards at Lyra Networks terminals and ATMs, making payment easier for Indian students and visitors. With this, **France** has become the first country in Europe to accept the UPI payment system and RuPay Cards.
- NPCI International was established in 2020 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation India (NPCI), which was created in 2018. Internationally, RuPay and UPI are being rolled out by the international arm. The current CEO is Ritesh Shukla.
- 76. Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has launched an **"out-of-network cash advance"** facility to help customers with monetary support at any hospital which is not part of EGI's network. This facility will provide up to **Rs 10000** to customers to take care of admission charges or other expenses during the hospitalization. The advance will be adjusted at the time of claim.
- 77.** Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) Life Insurance has rebranded and renamed itself as **Canara HSBC Life Insurance**. It has also launched its first brand campaign **#PromisesKaPartner** aligned to its new positioning. The campaign tagline is 'Powering India to re-imagine their dreams and aspirations'.
- At present, Canara Bank holds 51% of stake in the insurance arm, and HSBC holds 26% and PNB 23%. Following PNB's exit, the stake will be acquired by existing shareholders.
- 78.** In June 2022, SEBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 10.9 crore** on seven entities, including Teledata Technology Solutions Ltd, in a case pertaining to irregularities in the issuance of Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) of the company. The penalty includes Rs 10.1 crore on Teledata, Rs 20 lakh each on K Padmanabhan and Arun Panchariya and Rs 10 lakh each on N Sakthivel, M S Ramakrishnan, R Ravichandran and G Jagadish.
- 79.** Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook to **Stable** from Negative on the Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) of **9 India-based banks**. These banks are State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda (BOB), Bank of Baroda (New Zealand) Ltd, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Union Bank of India.

- 80.** In June 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of **Millath Co-operative Bank Ltd.**, Davangere in Karnataka, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects, and its continued operations is prejudicial to the interests of depositors.
- 81.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a Building Advisory committee to advise and assist on premises related matters like planning, acquisition, and furnishing.
- The 7-member committee will be headed by **BK Katyal**, former Chief General Manager at RBI.
  - **Other members:** K. V. Krishna Rao, former head of department Civil Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai; Rajiv Mishra, Principal, Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai; K M Soni, former ADG, Central Public Works Department, Delhi; and Rajesh Bhagwani SE (Electrical), Central Public Works Department, Mumbai.
- 82. Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched an exclusive saving account for kids, '**ENJOI**' with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to coincide with Father's Day. The objective is to introduce kids to the financial world and encourage them to develop the saving habit early.

**Key features:**

- ENJOI will allow kids of 0-18 years to open a savings account under the supervision of their parents.
  - The account offers 7% interest for savings balances between Rs.5 Lakh to Rs.2 crore.
  - The account offers flexibility to choose the mode of savings either as a savings account, balance starting as low as Rs. 1,000; RD (recurring deposit) for Rs.500 monthly; FD (fixed deposit) for Rs. 10,000.
- 83.** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has amended its following regulation for certain revision:
- IBBI (**Grievance and Complaint Handling Procedure**) Regulations, 2017 which provide mechanism for redressal of complaints filed against insolvency professionals (IPs), insolvency professional agencies (IPAs) and information utilities (IUs).
  - IBBI (**Inspection and Investigation**) Regulations, 2017 which provide mechanism for carrying out inspections and investigations on IPAs, IPs and IUs.
  - IBBI (**Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons**) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2016
  - IBBI (**Information Utilities**) Regulations, 2017

The amended rules provides for revisions in various timelines related to enforcement process for addressing the issue of delay in the present mechanism. These amendments are effective from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

*IBBI was established in 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 as one of the key pillars of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of IBC. It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and the present Chairman is Ravi Mittal.*

**84. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and **Nainital Bank** have launched co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card that is designed to reward customers for everyday spend categories like grocery and departmental stores. It has been launched in the centenary year of Nainital Bank.

**85.** The Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) has tied up with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) to activate **e-commerce** in the agricultural domain. It is one of the first initiatives to drive ONDC enablement in the domain.

Under this, ONDC & NABARD will organise a Grand Hackathon from **1-3 July 2022** to connect agritech players with market-ready Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and to bring e-commerce to agriculture domain.

**86.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has extended the '**Use and File**' procedure for most of **Life Insurance products** to make insurance more accessible to the general public. However, board-approved product management and pricing policy (BAPMPP) is required.

- Earlier, IRDAI has extended similar relaxations for all Health insurance products and almost all the General insurance products.

## RBI IN NEWS

**87.** The Central Government has nominated **4 part-time non-official directors** on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointment will remain valid for **four years** with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

- **Anand Mahindra:** Chairman of the Mahindra Group, non-executive chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra and Tech Mahindra.
- **Venu Srinivasan:** Chairman emeritus of two-wheeler maker TVS Motor Company.
- **Pankaj Patel:** Chairman and Managing Director of Zydus Lifesciences.
- **Ravindra Dholakia:** Former member of the Monetary Policy Committee.

With the appointments, the RBI's central board now consists of **5 official directors** and **10 non-official directors**.

- RBI governor Shaktikanta Das and deputy governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, MD Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar are the official directors.
- Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Ajay Seth and Sanjay Malhotra are non-official directors of RBI.

**88.** In June 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions imposed on **Mastercard**. The Central bank had announced restrictions on Mastercard in 2021 for failing to comply with the local data storage norms. Under RBI Mastercard restrictions, the US-based payment gateway was barred from on boarding the new customers (debit, credit, or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22, 2021.

**89.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved **Shriram Group's** composite scheme of arrangement and amalgamation of financial services business. The scheme was announced in 2021. The approval has been given for the merger of Shriram City Union Finance (SCUF), and Shriram Capital Limited (SCL) with Shriram Transport Finance Company (STFC), to form India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC).

**90.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released "**Payments Vision 2025**" document to provide every user safe and affordable e-payment options. The theme of the document is 'E-payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime (4Es). The document includes:

- Regulations for BigTechs and fintechs in payments
- Guidelines on payments along with "Buy Now Pay Later" (BNPL) services
- Introducing Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
- Linking credit cards as well as credit components of banking products with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Activities which will be taken up by RBI up to 2025 have been categorised under **five goal posts** namely, "*integrity, innovation, inclusion, institutionalisation and internationalisation*". These goal posts comprise of 47 initiatives by which RBI aims to achieve 10 outcomes, including increasing the number of digital payment transactions three times, the UPI registering 50 percent annualised growth, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) registering 20 percent growth, and debit card usage surpassing credit card usage.

**Expected outcomes of various initiatives proposed under the 5 goal posts:**

- Volume of cheque-based payments to be less than 0.25% of the total retail payments;
- More than 3 times increase in number of digital payment transactions;
- UPI to register average annualised growth of 50% and IMPS / NEFT at 20%;
- Increase of payment transaction turnover vis-à-vis GDP to **8%**;
- Increase in debit card transactions at PoS by 20%;
- Reduction in Cash in Circulation (CIC) as a percentage of GDP; among others.



91. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the extension of the tenure of Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) **P.N. Vasudevan** for one year with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

92. American-Canadian writer **Ruth Ozeki** has won the prestigious **2022 Women's Prize for Fiction** for the novel *The Book of Form and Emptiness*". The book tells the story of a thirteen-year-old boy who, after the tragic death of his father, starts to hear the voices of objects speaking to him. She has been announced as the winner of the £30,000 prize at a ceremony in London, UK.

- **Other books by her:** 'A Tale for the Time Being', 'My Year of Meats and All Over Creation', etc.

93. The Ministry of AYUSH has announced the '**Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga**' for 2021 to two individuals and two organisations in recognition of their contributions in the space. The winners have received a cash prize of Rs.25 lakh, a trophy, and a certificate.

### List of Winners:

- **Bhikkhu Sanghasena** from **Ladakh**. He is the founder of the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre in Leh.
- **Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues** from Sao Paulo, Brazil
- **"The Divine Life Society"** from Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- **"The British Wheel of Yoga"** from United Kingdom

The award was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh in 2016.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

94. A new book titled **"Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India"** has been authored by journalist-author **RN Bhaskar**. The book is the biography of billionaire industrialist, Gautam Adani, The book will be released in October 2022 and will be published by Penguin Random House (PRHI).

95. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the book '**Bharatiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani**' by senior journalist **Ram Bahadur Rai**. The book will be in the tradition of New India's efforts to remember the forgotten thoughts to ensure that in the India of the future, the consciousness of the past remains strong.

## PERSON IN NEWS

96. President of **Somalia** Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has appointed a former chairman of the Jubbaland state election commission **Hamza Abdi Barre** as the country's new Prime Minister. He has replaced Mohamed Hussein Roble.
97. **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**, a former judge of the Supreme Court, has been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairperson. The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd.) completed his term in November 2021. She recently headed the Delimitation Commission on J&K which was set up to redraw the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.
- With this, she has become the first women chairperson of PCI.
98. **Gustavo Petro** has been elected as the new President of Colombia. He has become the first leftist President of Colombia. He will assume office in August 2022. He will succeed Iván Duque Márquez.
- Francia Marquez will be the country's first Afro-Colombian woman Vice-President.
99. **Sowmyanarayan Sampath**, an Indian American, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Verizon Business** with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. He is currently serving as the Chief Revenue Officer of Verizon Business.
100. **Pramod K Mittal**, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for 2022-23. He will replace Ajai Puri.
101. P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer of Vodafone Idea (VIL), has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of COAI for 2022-23.
102. The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new Chief Justices for six High Courts in exercise of the power conferred under clause (1) of **Article 217** of the Indian Constitution, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana.
- **Justice Vipin Sanghi** from the Delhi High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Uttarakhand High Court**.
  - **Justice Amjad A Sayed** from the Bombay High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**.
  - **Justice S S Shinde** from the Bombay High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Rajasthan High Court**.

- **Justice Rashmin M Chhaya** from the Gujarat High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Guwahati High Court**.
- **Justice Ujjal Bhuyan**, a judge from the Telangana High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Telangana High Court**.
- **Justice Satish Chandra Sharma**, the chief justice of the Telangana High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Delhi High Court**.

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## OBITUARIES

**103.** Eminent Urdu scholar, linguist, literary critic, and former Chairperson of Sahitya Akademi, **Gopi Chand Narang** has recently passed away in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. He was born on 11th February 1931 in Dukki village near Baluchistan, Pakistan. He was known as the **Ambassador of Urdu language**.

- He was conferred the title of **Padma Bhushan (2004)** and **Padma Shri (1990)** in India.
- He was conferred with Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 2012 in Pakistan and he received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995.
- He is the only **Urdu writer** honoured by the Presidents of both India and Pakistan.
- He was also a scholar of Hindi and English language.
- He served as Professor Emeritus at the University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia.

**Books written by him:** Ghalib, Kaghaz-e Atish Zadah, Urdu Zaban aur Lisaniyat, Hindustan ki Tehreek-e-Azadi aur Urdu Shairi, Puraanon ki Kahaaniyan, etc.

**104.** Veteran photojournalist **R. Raveendran** has recently passed away in New Delhi. He is known for his iconic photo of Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal agitation in New Delhi. He has worked in AFP and ANI.

## SPORTS

**105.** The 2022 Indonesia Masters, a badminton tournament, has been held at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Category	Winners of 2022 Indonesia Masters
<b>Men's singles</b>	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
<b>Women's singles</b>	Chen Yufei (China)

<b>Men's doubles</b>	Fajar Alfian & Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia)
<b>Women's doubles</b>	Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)
<b>Mixed doubles</b>	Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)

- 106.** The **23rd FIFA World Cup 2026** will be hosted by **USA, Canada and Mexico**. FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) has selected 16 cities from these countries through a bid.
- **Los Angeles** (USA), **Toronto** (Canada), and **Mexico City** (Mexico) are among the host cities for the tournament.
  - The tournament will be the first to feature 48 teams, after FIFA approved expansion from 32 teams.
  - Canada and Mexico will host 10 matches each, while the United States will host the other 60, including all matches from the quarterfinals onward.
  - **Note:** FIFA World Cup 2022 will be hosted by Qatar from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December.
- 107.** Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** will lead a 37-member Indian athletics team in the **2022 Commonwealth Games**, which will be held in Birmingham, England from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He will be the flag bearer in the games.
- 108.** Former world billiards champion **Sourav Kothari** (India) has won the **2022 Lance Pannell-Pacific International Snooker Championship title**. He has won the title by defeating Australian cueist Johl Younger in the final match held in Melbourne, Australia. He has also won the **Pacific International Billiards Championship title**.
- 109.** Indian men's football team captain **Sunil Chhetri** has become the joint **fifth highest goalscorer** in international football history. He achieved this feat during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers clash against Hong Kong, where he scored his 84th goal. He has equalled the record of Real Madrid and Hungarian player Ferenc Puskas. He is now the third highest goal scorer in international football, after Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi.
- 110.** Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) has won his **6<sup>th</sup> Formula One (F1) Canadian Grand Prix 2022** held at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Canada. He has won the four of

the previous five Grand Prix this season. Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz (Spain) has finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (UK) has finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the event.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 111. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)** is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness about abuse and neglect of older persons and raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.
- This year, WEAAD coincides with two important events. The first is the start of the **United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030)** and the second is the 20th milestone of the **Second World Assembly on Ageing** and the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).
  - **Theme 2022:** "Combatting Elder Abuse"
- 112.** The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) initiated and designated the 15<sup>th</sup> June as WEAAD in June 2006. The day was first observed in 2012.
- 113. Global Wind Day** is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> June** to acknowledge the potential of wind power. The day was first observed in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- 114. International Day of Family Remittances** is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> June** to recognise the importance of over 200 million migrant workers who send money home to over 800 million family members. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and proclaimed the 16<sup>th</sup> June of every year as the International Day of Family Remittances.
- **Theme 2022:** "Recovery and Resilience through Digital and Financial Inclusion"
- 115. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed annually on **17<sup>th</sup> June** to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day was first observed in 1995.
- **Spain** has hosted the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2022.
  - **Theme 2022:** "Rising up from drought together"
- 116. World Sea Turtle Day** is observed annually on **17<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness about sea turtles and their conservation. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Dr. Archie Carr** who is widely known as "*the father of sea turtle biology.*" The day highlights the impacts of climate change on sea turtles and how sea turtles hear and the importance of their hearing.

- **Sea Turtle Week** has been observed from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**117. International Day for Countering Hate Speech** is observed annually on **18<sup>th</sup> June** to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech. The year 2022 marks the celebration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech.

- On the first observance of International Day for Countering Hate Speech, **Morocco** and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention has organised a high-level event with the theme: "Role of education to address the root causes of hate speech and advance inclusion, non-discrimination, and peace".

**118. Sustainable Gastronomy Day** is observed annually on **18<sup>th</sup> June** to recognize the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat. The day was recognised on 21 December 2016 after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/71/246, and declared 18 June as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.

- Gastronomy refers to local food and cuisine.

**119. International Picnic Day** is observed annually on **18<sup>th</sup> June**. On this day, people spend time with their loved ones and go for picnics to get a break from their monotonous everyday routine. The word "picnic" gets its origins from the French language, specifically from the word "pique-nique".

**120. National Reading Day** is observed annually on **19 June** to encourage the habit and culture of reading and to promote literacy. The day also marks the death anniversary of **Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker**, who is considered as the Father of Kerala's Library and Literacy Movement.

- The year 2022 marks the observance of the **27<sup>th</sup> National Reading Day**.
- National Reading or Digital Reading Month has been observed across India from **19<sup>th</sup> June to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.

#### **PN Panicker:**

He was born in a Nair family on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1909 at Neelampeeror, Kerala. He started the '**Granthashala Sangam**' in 1945 to promote literacy movement and libraries in the state. He was famous for the message of - "Vayichu Valaruka" which means "Read and Grow". He made the literacy movement into a popular socio-cultural movement. He founded the Kerala Association for Non-Formal Education and Development (KANFED) in 1977. Granthasala Sangam won the 'Krupsakaya Award' from UNESCO in 1975.

- 121. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict** is observed annually on **19<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness about conflict-related sexual violence. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **8<sup>th</sup>** International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Prevention as Protection: Enhancing structural and operational prevention of conflict-related sexual violence'
- 122. World Sickle Cell Day** is observed annually on **19<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness of sickle cell disease and the challenges experienced by people with sickle cell diseases. A sickle cell is a red blood cell that has contorted into a sickle shape.
- '*Shine the Light on Sickle Cell*' is a national awareness campaign to celebrate this day.
- 123. World Refugee Day** is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> June** to commemorate the obstacles faced by refugees all over the world. The day was first observed in 2001 by the United Nations on the 50th anniversary of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention regarding the status of refugees. The day was previously known as 'Africa Refugee Day', but in 2000, UN officially designated the day as 'World Refugee Day'.
- **Theme 2022:** 'The Right to Seek Safety'
  - The day focuses on 'Whoever, Whatever, Whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety'
- 124.** The year 2022 marks the observance of the **8<sup>th</sup>** International Day of Yoga. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India.
- The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27th September 2014.
  - The day was first observed in 2015.
  - **Theme 2022:** 'Yoga for Humanity'
- 125. International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> June** to spread awareness about solstices and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures. The Summer Solstice is the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It occurs on June 21st this year.

**126. World Music Day** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> June** to encourage young and amateur musicians to perform. The day was first observed in 1982 on the Summer Solstice in France, when the former French minister of art and culture, Jack Lange, along with Maurice Fleuret started the Fête de la Musique in Paris. The year 2022 marks the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the celebration of 'World Music Day'.

- **Theme 2022:** "Music on the intersections"

**127. World Hydrography Day** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> June** to spread awareness about Hydrography and its importance in improving knowledge of the seas and oceans. The day was first observed in 2005.

- **Theme 2022:** "Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade".

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