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July 2022 - Week 1

WEEKLY
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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the 2nd phase of the **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) 2.0** program in collaboration with **Meta** (formerly known as Facebook). The second phase of the program will reach out to 10 lakh women and youth entrepreneurs and will also create a platform for more than 50,000 self-help groups and 10 lakh families associated with the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) to take their products global.

   - Under this programme, the identified GOAL participants will have access to Meta Business Coach, a WhatsApp-based learning bot, which will give the participants an opportunity to learn skills on how to build and expand their business using Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.
   - The programme will also involve Facebook Live sessions in nine languages by master trainers on topics like anti-scamming education, staying safe online, combating misinformation and being a good digital citizen.

   Note: Tribal population constitutes about 8.6% of the total population in India.

2. A centralized pay system named **'Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)'** has been launched for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). It has been inaugurated by Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence.

- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging the latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 ICG personnel.
- This module has been developed under the aegis of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) and will be operated by the Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.

3. ABHYAS, a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), has been successfully flight tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- ABHYAS has been developed by the **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE),** a Bengaluru-based facility of the DRDO.
- Abhyas: A word derived from Sanskrit. The meaning of Abhyas is "for practice or preparatory exercise".
- It has Radar Cross-Section (RCS), visual and IR (Infra-Red) augmentation systems required for weapon practice, and testing of surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.
- It can also function as a jammer platform and decoy.

4. The 28th edition of the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2022** has been held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), a US military base on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii. The theme of RIMPAC 2022 is *'capable, adaptive, partners'.*

Participants:

- **26 nations**: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- 38 surface ships, four submarines, 170 aircraft, and around 25,000 personnel have participated, including ground troops from 9 countries.
- **INS Satpura** and one **P8I** maritime patrol aircraft from the Indian Navy have participated in the exercise.

Note: India first participated in RIMPAC in 2014.

RIMPAC:

It is one of the largest biennial multilateral Naval Exercises, which is led by US. It was started in 1971 as an annual exercise by the US, Australia, and Canada. But from 1974, maritime exercise became a biennial event. It is aimed at enhancing interoperability and building trust among Navies of friendly foreign countries.

5. The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a collaborative ecosystem for imparting skill development training in the capital goods sector.
- This partnership will facilitate training in several engineering trades through **Qualification Packs (QPs)** developed by MHI related Sector Skill Councils (like Automotive, Infrastructure, Instrumentation and Capital Goods) under the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector Phase II.

6. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently approved a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (**IRENA**). The agreement was signed in January 2022.

- **Objective:** To drive ambition, leadership and knowledge on **green energy** transitions based on renewable energy in India.
- This agreement will support India in achieving its ambitious target of 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

Other Cabinet approvals:

- Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Department of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore on Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation. The MoU was signed in February 2022.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the computerization of about **63,000** functional **Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)** over a period of 5 years. The PACS constitutes the lowest of the three-tier Short-term cooperative credit (STCC) in the country comprising approximately 13 crore farmers as its members. It accounts for 41 percent of the KCC (Kisan Credit Card) loans with 95 percent of these loans to the Small and Marginal farmers.
- Cabinet has also approved deregulation of the sale of domestically produced crude oil.

7. Union Cabinet has approved the categorization of the **Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** as an international organization. It has also approved signing of the

Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

It is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN (United Nations) agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched CDRI during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit on **23rd September 2019**. Its secretariat is located in **New Delhi.**

8. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C53**, which placed **three Singaporean satellites**, *DS-EO, NeuSAR and SCOOB-1*, in an intended orbit of 570km from the second launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO.

- PSLV-C53 is a four-stage launch vehicle which is 44.4 m tall and has a lift-off mass of 228.433 tonnes.
- This is the 55th mission of the PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-core alone variant.
- It is the 16th PSLV launch from the second launch pad.
- The mission proposes to demonstrate the utilisation of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilised platform for scientific payloads subsequent to the separation of the satellites.

9. The National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI)** Aayog and the United Nations World Food Programme (**WFP**) has launched a report titled **"Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories"**. The report has been released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery.
- The report presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain by the States and UTs.

Good practices adopted by States/UTs:

- **Mo-Chhatua** Management Information System (MIS): **Odisha**
- **PuSHTI**– a Delivery Management System for THR: **Gujarat**
- **YSR Sampurna Poshana** application: **Andhra Pradesh**
- Procurement based on quality parameters: Telangana
- Procurement through e-tendering: Delhi, & Tamil Nadu
- Procurement through Non-Profit Organisation: Chandigarh

Take-Home Ration (THR):

It offers fortified rations for use at home for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and children between the ages of 6 and 36 months. The government of India provides THR under the Supplementary Nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to fill the gap in nutrition among children as well as pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

10. The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has signed an agreement with **DB India**, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG, National Railway Company of Germany, to operate and maintain the *82-km* long *Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)* corridor for **12 years.**
    - The agreement is linked to the Metro Rail Policy in 2017 issued by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to boost private sector participation in regional rail and metro rail projects.

11. **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre of the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong** in New Delhi to promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern (NE) Region. The objective of this partnership is to encourage entrepreneurship, incubation, and startups in the North Eastern Region.

12. The Government of India (GoI) has made seven key amendments to the existing Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) rules 2011, which were renamed as the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022**, with effect from 1st July 2022.
    - The new amendment allows Indians to receive **Rs.10 lakh** in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities. The earlier limit was Rs.1 lakh. If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have **90 days** to inform the government, instead of 30 days earlier.

13. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has recently approved the establishment of the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** in place of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), which was established on 1st April 2016.
    - FSIB will be the single entity for making recommendations for appointments of WTD (Whole-time Director) and NEC (Non-executive Chairman) in Public Sector Banks, India Private Limited Company and Financial Institutions.

- It will select the chiefs of public sector banks and insurance companies.
- It will have the clear mandate to issue guidelines and select general managers and directors of state-run non-life insurers, general insurers and Financial Institutions.
- It will consist of **one chairperson** and **two members.**

Chairman and Members of FSIB:

The ACC has approved the appointment of **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** as Initial chairperson of FSIB for two years. He was the former Chairman of BBB.

Three part-time members of FSIB are **Animesh Chauhan**, former chairman and managing director of Oriental Bank of Commerce; **Shailendra Bhandari**, former managing director and chief executive of ING Vysya Bank; and former Reserve Bank of India executive director **Deepak Singhal**.

14. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has organized a three-day **"Grand Hackathon"** in collaboration with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**. It has been held in hybrid mode, at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Fort, Mumbai. It has been launched by **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry.

- Grand Hackathon is subdivided into two categories viz., Agri Grant Challenge and Agri Innovation Hackathon.
- Agri Innovation Hackathon has showcased the innovation for aiding the adoption of eCommerce in the agricultural sector.

15. The **Vivek Express** covers India's longest railway route, traveling **4,273 kilometers** over rails in 80 hours and 15 minutes with roughly 55 scheduled stops. It runs from **Dibrugarh** in Assam to **Kanyakumari** in Tamil Nadu. It is currently the **24th** longest railway network in the world. The train goes through Assam, Nagaland, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nādu.

Vivek Express:

The Vivek Express is a chain of Express trains on the Indian railway network. The railway budget of **2011-12** was announced about the Vivek Express by the then Railways Minister. These Express trains started to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of *Swami Vivekananda* which was held in 2013. There are *4 pairs* of Vivek Express in India. Dibrugarh to Kanyakumari Vivek Express, Okha-Tuticorin Vivek Express, Bandra Terminus Jammu Tawi Vivek Express, and Santragachi-Mangalore Central Vivek Express.

World's longest train route:

*The longest train route in the world is in **Russia**. The train journey takes six days and crosses multiple time zones. It runs between Moscow to Vladivostok. It covers a distance of 9,250 kilometers.*

16. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a digital portal named **'Pariksha Sangam'** to streamline board examination results, sample papers, and other details in one single window.

- Pariksha Sangam is another portal where students will be able to check Class 10th and Class 12th board results easily.
- The portal has been divided into three main sections: Schools (Ganga), Regional offices (Yamuna), and Head office (Saraswati).
- It is a one stop portal for all CBSE board exam activities.
- This portal will integrate all its other portals like e-message, IPS payment system, OASIS, board circulars, etc.

17. Bangalore-based **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** researchers have developed a design framework to build next-generation analog computing chipsets. Using this design framework, they have built a prototype of an analog chipset called **ARYABHAT-1.**

- 'ARYABHAT-1' stand for **Analog Reconfigurable technologY And Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks.**
- It has been designed by Pratik Kumar, who is a Ph.D. student at IISc.
- It is capable to be configured with several machine learning architectures.
- It will be faster and require less power than the digital chips found in most electronic devices.
- It will be helpful for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based applications like object or speech recognition e.g., Alexa or Siri.

18. National Commission for Women (NCW) has organized a one-day **'Capacity Building Training Programme'** for Women Traders of Manipur in collaboration with the State Commission for Women for holistic development of women traders and to create more entrepreneurial opportunities for them. This programme has been conducted for women traders of three Ima Keithels to improve their livelihood, social security, and overall quality of life.

Ima Keithel:

It is the largest all-**women market** in Asia with a large number of women manning the stalls in these markets. It is situated in Manipur.

19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 8th edition of the **"Digital India Week 2022"** and a Digital Expo at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It has been organized from **4th July to 9th July 2022** under the theme 'Catalyzing New India's Techade'. The aim is to

transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The event marks the seventh anniversary of the launch of the "Digital India" campaign, a flagship programme of the Central government.

Initiatives launched during the event:

- PM Narendra Modi has launched **'Digital India Bhashini'** to enable Indians an easy access to the internet and digital services in vernacular languages.
- He has also launched **'Digital India GENESIS'** - Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups- a national deep-tech startup platform.
- He has launched **'India Stack: indiastack.global'**. 'Indiastack. global' is a global repository of key projects implemented under India Stack like Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker, Cowin Vaccination Platform, Government e Marketplace (GeM), DIKSHA Platform and Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission.
- He has launched **'Meri Pehchaan'**- National Single Sign On for One Citizen Login. National Single Sign-On (NSSO) is a user authentication service in which a single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services.
- He has also dedicated **'MyScheme'**, which will provide access to government schemes at a single place.
- The total budget of **Rs.750 crore** has been envisaged for these schemes.
- He has also unveiled an eBook *'Catalyzing New India's Techade'.*
- The first cohort of 30 institutions supported under the **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme** have also been announced.

A three-day long orientation program **'India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Service'** has also been organized from 7-9 July 2022.

Note: Digital India Programme was launched on 1st July 2015.

20. Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first Autonomous Navigation facility **'TiHAN'** at the IIT Hyderabad campus. The TiHAN-IITH testbed on Autonomous Navigations (Aerial & Terrestrial) will allow to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.

- TiHAN stand for **'Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation'**.
- It has been developed at a budget of **Rs.130 crores** by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.

Note: 25 technology innovation hubs have been set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) across the country under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

21. Indian Navy has commissioned the first Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 324 named **"KESTRELS"** on the Eastern Seaboard operating the **Advanced Light Helicopter MK III** in **Vishakhapatnam** to boost its maritime surveillance.

- These helicopters are indigenously designed and built by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Kestrels are birds of prey and have good sensory capabilities. The name symbolizes the envisaged role of the aircraft and the Air Squadron of the Navy.
- The INAS 324 Squadron is being commanded by Commander SS Dash, who is a highly experienced ALH Qualified Flying Instructor.

22. Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, L Murugan, has laid the foundation stone of **2 MW** solar power plant at the **Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF),** popularly known as Milma's Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala to power its units under the Ernakulam Union, mainly in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Idukki.

- The **Ernakulam Dairy** will become India's first fully solar-powered plant with an outlay of **Rs 11.5 crore** provided through the National Dairy Development Board.
- It will be executed by the Agency of New and Renewable Energy Research & Technology (ANERT).
- The solar power project will help save Ernakulam Dairy 90% of its power consumption, and make it the first dairy to be run entirely on solar power.

23. The **47th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting** has been held in **Chandigarh** under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and has made several recommendations to implement changes to the GST regime. These changes will be made effective from **18th July 2022.**

Key recommendations of 47th GST Council Meeting:

- GST on ink, lights, LED lamps and metal printed circuit board has been increased to **18%** from earlier 12%.
- GST rate on solar water heaters and systems has been increased to **12%** from 5%.
- Rate on job work associated with manufacturing of leather goods and footwear has been increased to **12%**.
- Rate on works contract for roads, railways, metro, bridges, crematorium effluent treatment plant is increased to **18%.**
- Rate on petroleum and coal bed methane is increased to **12%** from 5%.
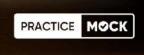- GST rate on E-waste has been hiked to **18%** from 5%.

- GST Council has proposed to levy 28% GST on casinos, horse racing, online gaming, and lottery was deferred.

Note: The 48th GST Council meeting is expected to be held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu during the first week of August 2022.

24. The **Ministry of Steel** has joined the **PM Gati Shakti Portal** and uploaded the geo locations of key projects with an aim of identifying and bridging missing infrastructure connectivity gaps. The ministry has on-boarded itself on the National Master Plan portal with the assistance of Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (**BiSAG-N**).

- The Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Infrastructure development was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2021 with the objective of bringing different ministries together for integrated planning of infrastructure connectivity projects.

25. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out the maiden flight of the **Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator** from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

- The unmanned aerial vehicle is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.
- It is a powered by a small turbofan engine.

26. Union Minister for Minority Affairs, **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**, has inaugurated the **fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC)** at Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It has been organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in association with the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The theme of the conclave is *'Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism'*. This conclave provides a unique platform for Film Commissions, Tourism Boards and Production Houses to promote their locations, incentives and services to the vibrant Indian film industry.

STATES AFFAIRS

27. **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first state in India to connect **One District One Product (ODOP) mart** with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. The pilot phase

of integration of ODOP Mart on ONDC has been inaugurated by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), **Dr. Navneet Sehgal**.

- The ONDC is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce & Trade (MoCI).
- ONDC collaborates with UP's Handicrafts Development & Marketing Corporation, to promote the spirit of One District One Product.

28. The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as **'Sambhajinagar'** after Sambhaji Maharaj, and Osmanabad city, which is named after the last ruler of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, as **'Dharashiv'**.

Historical Background:

Aurangabad was founded in 1610 by **Malik Ambar**, the Siddi general of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. The city was named Khirki or Khadki at the time, and its name was changed to Fatehpur by Malik Ambar's son Fateh Khan following Malik Ambar's death in 1626. In 1653, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb invaded the Deccan and set up his capital in the city, which he renamed Aurangabad. Chhattrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son and successor of Chhattrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was tortured and killed in brutal fashion on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689.

29. NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Rajasthan** for the development of **10 Gigawatt (GW)** Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park in Rajasthan. The aim is to achieve the target of 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.

30. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Singapore-based **IGSS Ventures** to build a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park and a semiconductor fab unit in the state. The company will invest Rs.25,600 crore in the project in the next five years, generating direct employment for 1,500 people.

- IGSS Ventures has also planned to establish semiconductor fabrication unit under the 'India Semiconductor Mission' and Project Surya, both of which aim to lessen air pollution and global warming.

31. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has inked a pact with the **West Bengal** government for the design and construction of an environment-friendly Next-Generation Electric Ferry.

- Under the green initiative and sustainable development of West Bengal, the zero-emission full-electric ferry is about **24 meter-long** and is powered by **210 kilowatt per hour (kwh)** liquid-cooled energy storage solution and ergonomically designed to carry 150 passengers with provision of air conditioning sitting arrangements.

- The operating speed of the vessel will be **8 knots** with a maximum speed of **10 knots.**
- This will transform the inland water transport system in National Waterway- 1(NW-1) which is being developed from Haldia to Varanasi under the Ministry of Shipping.

32. **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has signed an Operation & Management (O&M) agreement for the operationalization and maintenance of **five airports** owned by the Government of **Uttar Pradesh** for **30 years**. These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Muirpur and Shravasti.
   - This is the first time AAI is entering into an O&M Agreement with the State Government for Operationalization of State Government owned airports. As per the agreement, AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services.

33. The Bengaluru Electricity Company (BESCOM) has developed the **'EV Mitra'** mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in **Bangalore**, Karnataka. The user-friendly app can be used by electric vehicle users to book in advance a slot in the station. The information on charges in each station for the electric vehicles to recharge is also mentioned in the App.

   - BESCOM has started 136 charging stations in Bengaluru and another 152 such stations will be started soon.
   - Under the Public-Private Partnership model, tenders have been invited to establish 1000 charging stations across the state.

Earlier, BESCOM introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal as a joint initiative of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom. The web portal gives state-specific information on the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support mechanisms, and initiatives of the state government regarding electric mobility.

34. **Rahul Narwekar**, a first-time MLA, has been elected as the **16ᵗʰ Speaker** of the **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly** by defeating Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi. He has also become the youngest Speaker in India.
   - **Note: Article 178** of the Indian Constitution provides for a Speaker to preside over the sessions of the Legislative Assembly of an Indian state. Similarly, **Article 93** deals with the Speaker in the Lok Sabha.

35. The state government of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched the '**Naari Ko Naman'** scheme to provide 50% concession on fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women commuters within the state boundaries. The scheme has been launched at the Government College Auditorium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

- The government will also sanction 25 new posts of women drivers in the 'Ride With Pride' government taxi service, an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens.

36. Shiv Sena leader **Eknath Shinde** has become the **20th Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra**. He has replaced Uddhav Thackeray, who resigned from the CM post after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to Uddhav Thackeray led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to take a floor test in the Assembly. While BJP **Devendra Fadnavis** has become the new Deputy CM of Maharashtra.
    - Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has administered the oath of office to CM and Deputy CM at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
    - **Note:** The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has 288 seats.

37. The Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrashekar Rao has inaugurated **'T-Hub 2.0'**, the world's largest innovation campus in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. The facility will support over 2,000 startups under one roof, with a total built-up area of 5,82,689 square feet, making it the world's largest innovation campus.

    - Phase 1 of 'T-Hub' was launched in 2015 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.
    - In 2021, the startup ecosystem of Telangana was valued at USD 4.8 billion.

38. **India's largest floating solar plant** has become fully operational at **Ramagundam** in **Peddapalli** district of **Telangana**. It has been commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited.

    - It is a **100 MW** floating solar plant spread over 500 acres of the NTPC's reservoir at Ramagundam.
    - It has been built at a cost of **Rs.423 crore** through Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited on an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contract.

Note: NTPC has set a target of producing 60GW capacity through renewable energy sources, constituting nearly 45 percent of its overall power generation capacity, by 2032.

39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a **30-feet** tall bronze statue of revolutionary freedom fighter **Alluri Sitarama Raju** in the Bhimavaram region of Andhra Pradesh. It has been unveiled to celebrate the **125th** birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Alluri Sitarama Raju:

- He was born on 4th July 1897.
- He is remembered for his fight against the Britishers to safeguard the interests of local tribal communities.

- He is also referred to as *'Manyam Veerudu'* (Hero of the Jungles) by the local people.
- He had led the **Rampa rebellion**, which was launched in 1922. It was fought against British as a protest to the 1882 Madras Forest Act in Visakhapatnam. As per the Act, tribal people were restricted on the free movement in the forest areas and prevented them from engaging in their traditional Podu (shifting) cultivation and use of the forest firewood and toddy.

Other approvals by Central Government:

- The birthplace of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Pandrangi in Vizianagaram district and Chintapalli Police Station will be restored.
- The government has also approved the construction of Alluri Dhyana Mandir at Mogallu with a statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju in Dhyana Mudra, depicting the life story of the freedom fighter through mural paintings and AI-enabled interactive system.

40. The government of **Rajasthan will** introduce India's first **'Right to Health Bill 2022'** in the Rajasthan assembly. This will make Rajasthan the first state in India to propose a guaranteed right to healthcare to its residents. The objective is to provide quality and affordable healthcare services through government and private healthcare providers.

- In January 2022, the state government prepared a draft bill that defines the rights of patients, their attendants, and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing the grievances of the stakeholders.

41. Women and Child welfare representatives from **six Indian States** (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana) have signed a first-of-its-kind **Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat human trafficking**. It has been signed during the two-day Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking, which was hosted by Telangana government in collaboration with non-profits Prajwala and Shakti Vahini.

Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking:

The consultation included 36 senior officials from the Department of Women and Child Welfare/Social Welfare, the Home Department, the State Women's Commission, the State Children's Commission, and the State Legal Services Authority. It has been attended by State Ministers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

42. The **United States** and its allies, **Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom**, have launched a new initiative called **'Partners in the Blue Pacific'** for effective and efficient cooperation with the region's small island nations.

- It is a five-nation "informal mechanism" to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, and economic ties in the region.
- PBP aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of Climate crisis, Connectivity and transportation, Maritime Security and

Protection, Health, Prosperity, and Education.
- The initiative will be led by the USA.

43. The government of **Poland** has honoured the maharajas of **Jamnaga**r and **Kolhapur** and others who sheltered Polish refugees fleeing the Soviet Union invasion of Poland during World War II. The Indian government had sent a delegation of former royals and other representatives from Kolhapur and Jamnagar to attend the event. Indian Council for Cultural Relations President Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, led the delegation, which included Yuvraj Sambhaji Raje and Sanyogeetaraje Chhatrapati from Kolhapur and some representatives from Jamnagar.

44. The National Institute of Urban Affairs (**NIUA**) Climate Centre for Cities (**NIUA C-Cube**), World Resources Institute India (**WRI India**), and their partners have launched India's first **National Coalition platform for Urban nature-based solutions (NbS)** at the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF) held in **Poland.**

The India Forum for NbS aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organizations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions through:

- Defining a shared language and communicating benefits that inform actions at the local level including scaling up of existing NbS interventions.
- Driving investment and strengthening delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Mainstreaming urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions in India through informing policy, plans and project interventions.

'India Forum for NbS' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI Indija) under the Cities4Forests initiative. It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of the United Kingdom, and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Nature-based Solutions (NbS):

They are defined by IUCN as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits".

45. A **Virgin Orbit's** fully mobile LauncherOne system has conducted its first ever evening flight from a bare concrete pad and a runway at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California which carried **7 United States (US) Defence Department Satellites**. This launch has been named **"Straight Up"**, inspired by American singer Paula Abdul's debut studio album "Forever Your Girl," which was released through Virgin Records in 1988.

46. Spain has hosted the three-day **NATO Summit 2022** in Madrid. This is the 32nd edition of the summit, since the first summit meeting was held in Paris in 1957. The Summit has been chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Key highlights:

- During the Summit, 22 NATO members agreed to launch the **NATO Innovation Fund**. It is a multi-sovereign venture capital fund that will invest 1 billion euros ($1.05 billion) in startups and other venture capital funds that develop emerging technologies for both civilian and military use.
- NATO members have signed the Accession Protocols for **Finland & Sweden**.
- NATO leaders have agreed to strengthen the alliance's forward defences, enhance the bloc's battlegroups on its eastern flank and increase the number of high readiness forces to more than 300,000.

47. The **8th session** of **India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC)** has been held in Yerevan, Armenia. The Indian delegation has been led by Sanjay Verma, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs whereas the Armenian delegation has been led by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ararat Mirzoyan.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Armenia and the Government of India on High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in Armenia which will be financially and technically funded by India.
- **Note:** The 7th IGC was held in 2016 in New Delhi.

48. The 2nd edition of the **United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) 2022** has been co-hosted by **Kenya** and **Portugal** in Lisbon under the theme "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of **SDG Goal 14**: stocktaking, partnerships, and solutions."

- **Minister of Earth Sciences** led the Indian delegation at UNOC 2022.
- During the conference, **Lisbon Declaration** titled **'Our Ocean, Our Future: call for action'** on ocean conservation has been adopted by all the 198 members of United Nations.

Lisbon Declaration:

- To protect at least **30%** of national maritime zones by **2030**.
- To achieve carbon neutrality by **2040.**
- To allocate funds to research on ocean acidification, climate resilience and surveillance.
- To scale-up Science-based and innovative actions to address ocean emergency.
- To support implementation of SDG14 by empowering women and girls- recognising their participation is crucial to building a sustainable ocean-based economy.
- To protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which lie outside the 200-mile (322-kilometre) exclusive economic zones of countries.

Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water:

It was adopted in 2015 as an integral aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of 17 transformative goals, Goal 14 stresses the need to conserve and sustainably use the world's oceans, seas and marine resources.

Note: The first UNOC was held in 2017 in New York.

REPORTS & INDICES

49. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has released the **'World Cities Report' 2022**. As per the report, India's urban population is estimated to rise to around **675 million** in **2035** and will become the 2nd highest country following China's 1 billion.

- India's urban population is projected to be 675,456,000 in 2035, growing from 483,099,000 in 2020 to 542,743,000 in 2025 and 607,342,000 in 2030.
- By 2035, the percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2%.
- The global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050.
- China's urban population in 2035 is projected at 1.05 billion while the urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035.
- The urban population is forecast to grow from 56 percent of the global total in 2021 to 68 percent by 2050.

50. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released the 3rd edition of **"States' Start-up Ranking 2021".**

The main objective is to facilitate the ease of building a start-up and doing business across the country.

- The States and UTs were evaluated across 7 broad Reform Areas consisting of 26 Action Points including: Institutional Support, Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Access to Market, Incubation support, Funding Support, Mentorship Support to Capacity Building of Enablers.

For the Ranking; States and Union Territories are classified into **5 categories**:

Best Performers (Percentile: 100):

- o **Gujarat and Karnataka** have emerged as the Best Performers in the States category.
- o Meghalaya has topped among UTs and North-eastern States category.

Top Performers (Percentile: 60-99):

- Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa and Telangana have won the Top Performers award among states category.
- Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the Top Performer among UTs and N-E states category.

Leaders (Percentile: 30-59):

- Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the winners in the Leaders states category.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa have emerged as the winners among UTs and N-E states.

Aspiring Leaders (Percentile: 11-29):

- Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were declared Aspiring Leaders among the States.

Emerging Start-up Ecosystem (Percentile: Up to 10):

- Andhra Pradesh and Bihar from the States category and Mizoram and Ladakh from the UTs/NE States have topped under the Emerging Start-up Ecosystem.

This year's rankings were given based on the period from 1 October 2019- 31 July 2021.

51. Israel-based organization Startup-Blink has released the **Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) 2022**. The company ranks the startup ecosystems of top 1000 cities and 100 countries

of the globe which works on a methodology by taking into account majorly three parameters-quality of startups, quantity of startups and business environment.

India's performance:

- India has been ranked **19th** in the country-wise rankings 2022.
- India has been ranked **4th** in the Asia-Pacific region, after Singapore, Australia, and China.
- **Bangalore** has been ranked first among Indian cities in the 2022 rankings. It is ranked first in Asia.
- Bangalore has ranked 8th globally with strongest start-up ecosystem in India.
- **Other Indian cities**: New Delhi at 13th, Mumbai at 17th, Pune at 90th, Hyderabad at 97th, Chennai at 102nd, Jaipur at 212 and Ahmedabad at 223rd.

52. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has recorded all-time high exports worth **USD 7.76 billion** with the volume of 13,69,264 MT of **seafood** in FY22, despite heavy odds. During FY22, the export improved in rupee term by 31.71%, in USD terms by 30.26% and in quantity terms by 19.12%. In FY21, India had exported 11,49,510 MT of seafood worth Rs 43,720.98 crore (USD 5,956.93 million).

- **Frozen shrimp** remained the major export item in terms of quantity and value. Its shipment stood at USD 5,828.59 million.
- **USA** continued to be the major importer of Indian seafood in value and volume term both with an import worth USD 3371.66 million, followed by China.

53. The **Asia Pacific Sustainable Index 2021** has been released by London-based global consultants Knight Frank. Four Indian cities have made it to the top 20 of the Asia Pacific (APAC) Sustainably Led Cities Index Ranking.

- In the index, the top five cities are Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne.
- **Bangalore** has been ranked 14th in the APAC region in the Gold standard category. It topped among the Indian cities.
- **Three other Indian cities**: Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai have been ranked 17, 18 and 20, respectively.

The APAC Sustainability Index 2021 has ranked 36 cities based on parameters like urbanisation pressure, climate risk, carbon emissions and government initiatives.

As per the Knight Frank's report, **India's Green Bonds** issuance had increased from **USD 1.1 billion** in 2020 to USD 6.8 billion in 2021.

54. NITI Aayog and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) have released a report titled **'Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India'.**

Key highlights:

- The report has predicted **eight scenarios** for analysing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country. These are *Challenged Diffusion, Performance Driven, Low Battery Cost, Technology Driven, Incentive Driven, Battery Cost Challenged, Same Performance and Optimistic.*
- In an optimistic scenario, the report has predicted **100%** penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by **2027.**
- In another scenario, which is technology driven and where current incentives are withdrawn by 2024, the report predicts **72%** penetration by **2031.**
- **Four broad constraint levels** have also been identified for the eight scenarios, in terms of installed vehicle manufacturing capacity and available charging infrastructure: (i) Full constraint (where both vehicle production and charging infrastructure are constraints) (ii) Production constraint (where only vehicle production is a constraint) (iii) Charge constraint (where only the charging infrastructure is a constraint) (iv) No constraint.

55. The **QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023** has been released by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). It ranks 140 cities around the world.

- **London (UK)** has topped the list, followed by Seoul (South Korea), Munich (Germany), and Zurich (Switzerland).
- India's highest-ranked student city is **Mumbai** at 103 spot which scored for affordability but struggles with student mix and desirability. It is followed by **Bangalore** at 114 ranks, **Chennai** at 125 ranks, and **New Delhi** at 129 ranks.
- The best student city in the Arab Region is **Dubai**, which ranks 51st globally.

56. According to Mercer's 2022 Cost of Living survey, **Mumbai (127)** is the most expensive city in India in terms of both living expenses and accommodation costs. This is followed by New Delhi (155), Chennai (177), Bengaluru (178), and Hyderabad (192), while Pune (201) and Kolkata (203) are the least expensive Indian cities in the ranking.

- Mumbai, the financial hub of India, is a popular place for multinational corporations to establish operations.
- Mumbai has some of the most costly rentals, followed by New Delhi and Bangalore.
- Mumbai has the highest ticket prices for movies, while Hyderabad has the lowest.

57. Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has released the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2020** report. The aim is to boost investor confidence, foster a business-friendly climate and augment the Ease of Doing Business through a system of assessing states/UTs based on their performance in the implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan.

- The BRAP report includes 301 reform points that cover 15 business regulatory areas.
- **Sectoral reforms** were introduced for the first time in BRAP 2020 wherein 72 reforms were identified across nine sectors, namely, trade licence, healthcare, legal metrology, cinema halls, hospitality, fire NOC, telecom, movie shooting and tourism.
- States/UTs have been placed under the four categories viz. Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers and Emerging Business Ecosystems.

Top achievers (7 states): Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Achievers (6 states): Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

Aspirers (7 states): Goa, Assam, Kerala, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Emerging Business Ecosystems (6 states/UTs): Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

58. Rating agency CRISIL has lowered India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to **7.3%** from 7.8% for **FY23** due to the slowing of export demand and high inflation.

- According to the agency, inflation, which is pegged to average at 6.8% in FY23 as against 5.5% in FY22, reduces purchasing power and would weigh on the revival of consumption, which is the largest component of GDP.
- The global crude oil to average between USD 105-110 per barrel in FY23.
- Agency has estimated the current account deficit to widen to 3 percent of GDP in FY23 from 1.2 percent in FY22.

59. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, has released the first edition of **'State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA)' 2022** during the Conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India', which was hosted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- The State Ranking Index for NFSA highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and create a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all states and union territories.

- The Index is built on three key pillars: Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act; Delivery platform; and Nutrition initiatives.

- **General Category States:**

Odisha has topped the index with a score of 0.836. It is followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at 3rd spot.

- **Special Category states/UTs:**

Tripura has topped the category. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, respectively.

- **UTs Operating in DBT (Cash Transfer) Mode:**

Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has topped the category. It is followed by Puducherry and Chandigarh, respectively.

- **Overall performance**:

Odisha has topped the index, followed by UP and Andhra Pradesh. While **Goa** has performed worst in the index, followed by Chhattisgarh, and Delhi.

Note: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) came into existence on 5th July 2013.

60. According to the **Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022** released by Hurun Research Institute, India will have **122 new unicorns** in the next two to four years. Startups like Shiprocket, Zepto, Turtlemint are at the top of the list of probable unicorns.

   - **Bangalore** continues to be the start-up capital of India. The city is home to 46 probable Unicorns, followed by Delhi NCR (25) and Mumbai (16).
   - E-commerce, FinTech, and SaaS comprise 43 percent of the Future Unicorn Index 2022.

The index has classified companies as **Unicorns** (those founded after 2000 and valued at least $1 billion), **Gazelles** (those most likely to become unicorns in the following two years and these are projected to be worth between $500 million and $1 billion), and Cheetahs (start-ups that could go unicorn in the next four years).

   - **Gazelles**: It is topped by Shiprocket, a five-year-old LogisticsTech startup, followed by Zepto, Turtlemint, Ather Energy and Vivriti Capital.
   - **Cheetahs**: It is topped by Pepperfry, followed by Bengaluru-based Juspay and FinTech firm Mswipe Technologies.

61. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has released **'Mitigation and Management of COVID-19: Compendium of Ayush-Based Practices from Indian States and Union Territories'** which details information about various Ayush-based initiatives and practices adopted by the States and UTs in India for containing and managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

- The compendium has been released by Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, Minister of State for Ayush and Women and Child Development (WCD).
- The practices in the compendium have been disaggregated under 5 sections: (i) Overview and objectives of practices adopted by the States/UTs (ii) Ayush Human Resource and infrastructure (iii) Interventions and Initiatives (iv) Digital Platform and Tele-medicine (v) Issues occurred or addressed.
- The compendium has also included a summary of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India guidelines, and initiatives.
- The report indicates that traditional healthcare systems in the country to be strengthened further.
- The integration of evidence-based Ayush services with the modern system has the potential to significantly strengthen India's healthcare system.

62. **Jayshree V Ullal**, the president and CEO of Arista Networks, has been listed on the Forbes list of America's richest self-made women. She has a net worth of USD 1.9 billion. The other Indian-American women in the list are Neerja Sethi (Syntel co-founder), Neha Narkhede (Confluent co-founder), Indra Nooyi (former CEO of PepsiCo), and Reshma Shetty (cofounder of Gingko Bioworks). **Diane Hendricks**, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, has topped the list for the fifth year.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

63. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved a total of **314 applications** with proposed investments of **Rs 86,824 crore** under a **Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS)** till 31st May 2022.

- Among the approved proposals in May 2022, there is an investment of Rs.596 crore from Bosch Automotive Electronics Private Limited.
- As on May 31, 2022, incentives of Rs 1,774.47 crore have been disbursed to 114 applicants.

M-SIPS:

- It was introduced in **2012.**
- It envisages attracting investments in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Industries.
- It has been amended twice in August, 2015 and in January, 2017, and mainly provides a capex subsidy of **20-25 percent** for setting up electronic manufacturing units.
- **IFCI Limited** is a Verification Agency for verification of claim seeking incentives under the M-SIPS.

64. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the **'Udyami Bharat'** programme organized at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi. He has launched various key initiatives to develop the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. The initiatives are:

'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme:

- It is a World Bank assisted central government programme, with an outlay of **Rs.6062.45 crore** for MSMEs.
- The five-year RAMP scheme will commence in the current fiscal year **2022-23.**
- **Objective:** To improve the implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs in the states, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.

'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme:

- **Objective:** To encourage MSMEs to offer products and services of international standards for the global market.

New features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP):

- An increase in the maximum project cost to **Rs 50 lakhs** (from Rs 25 lakhs) for the manufacturing sector and **Rs 20 lakhs** (from Rs 10 lakhs) in the service sector.
- Inclusion of applicants from Aspirational districts & Transgender in the Special Category applicants for availing higher subsidies.
- The new features of the program will also offer handholding support to the applicants/entrepreneurs through the engagement of banking, technical & marketing experts.

65. The **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME)** Scheme, launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, has completed 2 years (2020-2022).

- It was launched on **29th June 2020.**
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).**
- It aims to empower the unorganized Micro Enterprises to fulfil the aim of formalizing the food processing sector in India.
- **Time Period**: Five years starting from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of **Rs. 10,000 crore.**

Achievements:

- It is currently being implemented in **35 States and Union Territories (UTs).**
- Under the scheme, the digital GIS **One District One Product (ODOP)** map of India has also been developed to provide details of ODOPs of all States and UTs.

- Over **1 lakh** SHG members identified and seed capital amount of Rs.203 crore has been released so far.
- **75 Incubation Centres** have been approved.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

66. Bangalore-based **Pyse Fintech Pvt. Limited (PYSE)**, an investment platform, has launched India's first and largest fractionally-owned solar power plant in **Karnataka**. The platform helps retail investors to invest in sustainable projects that create social and environmental impacts from a ticket size as low as Rs 5,000.

- The plant is set to be commissioned by the end of July 2022 and is designed to offset 65 lakh kgs of carbon footprint every year for the next 25 years.
- The solar power plant is a **Rs 26 crore** project with an average investor ticket size of Rs 25,000.
- The project has been strategically divided into four tranches with the first three tranches worth Rs 16 crore.

67. IIT Hyderabad has collaborated with **Greenko Group** to launch the **Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST),** India's first dedicated School for Sustainable Science and Technology. The aim is to enhance sustainable research, quality of education, and skill. GSSST will be completed by the end of year 2022.

68. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the new **'smart'** campus of **Bosch India**, a leading supplier of technology and services in Bangalore, Karnataka. This campus will take lead in developing futuristic products and solutions for India and for the world. It is noteworthy that German company Bosch is celebrating 100 years of its presence in India in 2022.

69. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has announced the completion of a strategic disinvestment transaction for **Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)** with the transfer of **93.71%** shares of the joint venture partners to the strategic buyer **Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSLP)**, a subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited (Tata Steel). TSLP has paid the Enterprise Value of Rs.12,100 Crores

Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL):

It is a Joint Venture of 4 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), namely MMTC (shareholding of 49.78%), NMDC (10.10%), BHEL (0.68%), MECON (0.68%) and 2 Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC (20.47%) and IPICOL (12.00%).

- It is based in Jajpur, Odisha
- **Chairman**: J. Ravi Shankar

70. **ReNew Power** has launched **'Project Surya'** in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) and the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (**SEWA**). The project aims to train 1000 low-income women salt pan workers to work as solar technicians.

- Under 'Project Surya' initiative, women salt-pan workers, who work in the challenging and extreme temperatures at Rann of Kutch marshes, will be trained as solar panel and solar-pump technicians at Dhokavada village in the Patan district of Gujarat.
- ReNew Power will provide financial support and familiarization with its renewable facility in the area, while SEWA is the lead implementation partner, UNEP will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project.

71. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for the introduction of the **Demat Debit and Pledging Instruction (DDPI)** system by **2 months** from 1st July 2022 to **1st September 2022**. The aim is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development and regulation of the securities market.

The guidelines are intended to prevent the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) granted by clients to stock brokers, and once implemented, PoA will be replaced with a DDPI document.

72. The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement with Indian Telephone Industries (**ITI)** Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) to fund the pilot projects under the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).**

- DoT, BSNL, and ITI Limited will fund the pilot projects of E-band, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of 4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core.
- The USOF, under its program for Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding 4 pilot projects each of around Rs.10 crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies.

73. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved two complementary loans of **USD 500 million each** to support and enhance India's health sector. Through this combined

financing of USD 1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country. The loans will prioritize seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Note: According to World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy has improved to 69.8 in 2020 from 58 in 1990 which is higher than the average for the country's income level.

74. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2022 is **Rs.144,616 crore** of which CGST is Rs.25,306 crore, SGST is Rs.32,406 crore, IGST is Rs.75887 crore and cess is Rs.11,018 crore. The revenues for the month of June 2022 are **56%** higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year of Rs.92,800 crore.
   - The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second highest collection next to the April 2022 collection of Rs.1,67,540 crore. This is the fifth time the monthly GST collection crossed Rs.1.40 lakh crore mark since inception of GST.
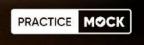
BANKING & FINANCE

75. **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has launched **'Global Health Care'**, a comprehensive health indemnity insurance product that provides cover to a policyholder for planned as well as an emergency treatment both in India and abroad.

   - It has been launched in collaboration with Allianz Partners.
   - It offers one of the widest sum insured in the Indian market, starting from Rs.37,50,000 to Rs.3,75,00,000 ($100,000 to $1,000,000).
   - The product is available in two plans - 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan'

76. **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company** have signed a corporate agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for the distribution of its health insurance products. Under this agreement, Star Health will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers using the latter's digital platform and its wide distribution network.

77. **Edelweiss General Insurance** has launched **SWITCH**, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDAI) Sandbox initiative.

   - SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy. The app detects motion and automatically activates insurance when the vehicle is driven, making it convenient and hassle-free for customers.
   - This usage-based model measures not only the quantity but also the quality of driving and calculates premium accordingly.

- The vehicle will be covered 24/7/365 against fire and theft.

78. SBI Cards and Payment Services has collaborated with **Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL)**, the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital for the launch of **'Aditya Birla SBI Card'**. The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others. It has been launched in two variants, 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', on the Visa platform.

79. SBI General Insurance, an arm of the State Bank of India (SBI), has launched the **'Cyber VaultEdge'** insurance plan. It is a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that protects against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks. It also covers consultation expenses of psychologists to individuals for trauma or stress arising due to such incidents.

80. Max Life Insurance Company has launched **'Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)'**, for the customers who buy the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan' (UIN: 104N123V01), a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan on Max Life website or Policybazaar platform.
  - This feature enables intimation to the customer regarding the commencement of the risk cover pending release of the policy contract with a hassle-free onboarding.

81. The **Paschim Banga Gramin Bank** has collaborated with **SBI Life Insurance** for a bancassurance pact. The agreement has been signed by Arun Kumar Patra, General Manager of Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, and Jayant Pandey, Regional Director of SBI Life.

Bancassurance:

It is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company, as a part of which the latter can sell its products to the lender's customers.

82. Indian Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Haryana** to distribute mobile phones to consumers through e-unified payment interface (e-

upi) system. Under this MoU, the Indian Bank in Haryana will organize the Mobile distribution melas.

83. Forest and Wildlife Department of Kerala has signed an agreement with **South Indian Bank** to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centres, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units and eco-shops across the State.

- This collaboration will commence by setting up **124 Point-of-sale (POS)** machines under 36 forest departments agencies across Kerala.
- Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available at all **124 tourist spots** that fall under the Forest Department.

84. Edelweiss General Insurance has collaborated with education sector-focussed NBFC **Avanse Financial Services** to provide travel insurance to Indian students going abroad for higher education. The plan will offer complete coverage against medical, stay, travel inconvenience-related covers, emergencies and losses.

85. Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with **Axis Bank** to digitize the **cash collection system** in small cities and semi-urban regions. Under this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank will support Axis Bank in digitisation of last mile cash collections through its digital-led neighborhood banking model.

86. Axis Bank has launched a dining experience programme for the bank's customers named **'Dining Delights'** in collaboration with **EazyDiner**, a table reservation, food discovery and restaurant payment platform. The program will offer benefits such as the option to choose from over 10,000 premium restaurants across India and Dubai, instant confirmation on table reservations, and offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app.

87. Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, has maintained the status quo and retained the **Interest rates on the Small Savings Scheme** unchanged for the **2nd Quarter** of the **Financial Year 2022-23** (July 2022 to September 2022) same as Q1 FY23.

Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q2 FY23				
Small Savings Scheme	**Maturity (Years)**	**Rate of interest**	**Compounding Frequency**	**Minimum Amount for Opening Account**

Public Provident Fund (PPF)		15	7.1%	Annually	Rs.500
Post Office Savings Accounts (SB)		-	4.0%	Annually	Rs.500
Term Deposits	1 Year	1	5.5%	Quarterly	Rs.1000
	2 Years	2	5.5%	Quarterly	Rs.1000
	3 Years	3	5.5%	Quarterly	Rs.1000
	5 Years	5	6.7%	Quarterly	Rs.1000
National Savings Recurring Deposit Account		5	5.8%	Quarterly	Rs.100/month
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS)		5	7.4%	Quarterly and Paid	Rs.1000
NSC (VIII issue)		5	6.8%	Annually	Rs.1000
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)		124 months	6.9%	Annually	Rs,1000
Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) scheme		21	7.6%	Annually	Rs.250
Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)		5	6.6%	Monthly and Paid	Rs.1000

88. **ICICI Securities (I-Sec)** has launched **'ICICIdirect iLearn'**, a learning app for investors to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics. Currently, the app has over 550 content pieces across various sections related to financial markets and the content will be updated at regular intervals.

89. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed penalties in a 2015 '**dark fibre'** case totalling Rs 11 crore on 8 entities, including **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and its former chiefs Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain.

- SEBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 7 crore** on NSE and **Rs 5 crore** on former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chitra Ramkrishna.
- It has also levied a fine of Rs 5 crore each on former Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian and current Chief Business Development Officer Ravi Varanasi.
- Internet service provider Sampark Infotainment has been asked to pay Rs 3 crore.
- Online trading firms Way2Wealth and GKN Securities, too, have been asked to pay Rs 6 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively.

90. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a minority and non-controlling stake of **1.28%** in telecom major **Bharti Airtel** by **Google International LLC**.

RBI IN NEWS

91. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the 58th round of **Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS)** of the **manufacturing sector**. The survey is for the reference period April - June 2022 (Q1:2022-23). The results of the survey will provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.
- RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008. The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on **International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS).**

92. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the latest data on **'Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - March 2022'.**
Key highlights:
- As per the report, bank deposits fell year-on-year (y-o-y) to **10 percent** in March 2022 from 11.9 percent a year ago, even as current, savings and term deposits increased by 10.9 percent, 13.3 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, during FY22.
- The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits have been increased to **44.8 percent** in March 2022 as compared to 41.7 percent three years ago.
- Low-cost deposits accounted for 60.9 percent and 55.6 percent of incremental deposits during 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.
- As of March 2022, female depositors accounted for **19.8 percent** of total deposits.
- Metropolitan branches of banks, which account for over half of total deposits, accounted for more than half of incremental deposits during 2021-22, at 51.5 percent.
- The government and financial corporations together accounted for over a fourth of the incremental deposits during 2021-22 as compared to 5.8 percent share in the previous year.
- Large-size deposits (i.e., Rs.1 crore and above) accounted for nearly **40 percent** share of the total term deposits.
- The **seven states** of Maharashtra, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Gujarat have accounted for **63.3 percent** of bank deposits in FY22.

93. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties of around **Rs.1.05 crore** on **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Rs.1 crore** on **IndusInd Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. RBI has also imposed penalties on four co-operative banks:

- Rs.2 lakh on Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank, Ulhasnagar
- Rs.1 lakh on Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Balangir, Odisha
- Rs.2 lakh on Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata
- The Palani Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Palani

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

94. Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Quality Ratna Award 2021. He has been awarded for his significant contribution in building the competitiveness of Indian industry through quality initiatives.

CII Quality Ratna Award:

The Annual CII Quality Ratna Award was instituted in 2019. The award is given in the recognition of outstanding leadership, contribution, and distinguished service to the Quality Movement in India.

95. Tanuja Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), has been honoured with the Ayurveda Ratna Award 2022 by the **UK Parliament**. She has been honoured for her contribution to furthering the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad. The award has been conferred by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg).

96. HCL Technologies has won the **2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award** for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner). The company has been honoured for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology.

97. The International Mathematical Union (IMU) has announced the winners of the **2022 Fields Medals**, widely considered equivalent to a Nobel Prize in mathematics, in Helsinki, Finland. The four awardees of the prestigious prize include:

- **Hugo Duminil-Copin (France)-** Institute des Hautes Études Scientifiques
- **June Huh (USA)** – Princeton University
- **James Maynard (Britain)** – University of Oxford
- **Maryna Viazovska (Ukraine)** – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

Note: Maryna Viazovska (Ukraine) has become the second woman to win the 2022 Fields Medal after Maryam Mirzakhani (Iran).

98. Michelle Poonawalla, well-known artist, businesswoman and philanthropist, has received the **Shiromani Award** at NRI World Summit 2022 in the United Kingdom for her contribution in the field of art. In addition to her, the Shiromani Award has also been awarded to *Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Dr. Kamel Hothi OBE and Falguni Shane Peacock.*

- Michelle Poonawalla has also unveiled her artwork **'Reserve'**, which highlights the scarcity of water as a global crisis and accentuated pollution and contamination of water reserves.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

99. A new biography of former Union Minister of India, George Fernandes, titled **"The Life and Times of George Fernandes"** has been authored by **Rahul Ramagundam**. It will be released under Penguin's 'Allen Lane' imprint on 25 July 2022.

George Fernandes:

He was born on 3rd June 1930, in Mangalore, Karnataka to a Christian family. He emerged as a key figure in the fight to restore democracy after the Emergency was imposed in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He became the Railways minister in 1989 under V P Singh's National Front coalition government. Later, he joined BJP-led NDA government under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998 and 1999, in which he was appointed the defence minister.

100. A new book titled **"Ganga: Reimagining Rejuvenating Reconnecting"** has been authored by **Puskal Upadhyay**. The book has been co-authored by **Rajiv Ranjan Mishra**, the director-general of the National Mission for Clean Ganga and head of Namami Gange. The book has been published by Rupa Publications India.

PERSON IN NEWS

101. President of India Ram Nath Kovind has re-appointed Senior Advocate **K.K. Venugopal** as the Attorney General (AG) of India for a period of 3 months (July-September) or until further orders with effect from 1st July 2022.

- He was appointed as the 15th Attorney General for India in July 2017, succeeding Mukul Rohatgi.
- His first term as AG ended in 2020, and he was reappointed for one year. In June 2021, his term was again extended by one year until 30th June 2022.

Attorney General (AG) of India:

AG is a part of the Union Executive. He is the highest law officer in the country. **Article 76** of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of AG of India. He is appointed by the President on the advice of the government. There is no specified tenure of an AG in the Indian Constitution.

102. **Asit Rath** has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Aviva Life Insurance Company India. The appointment will come into effect on 11th July 2022. He will succeed Amit Malik.

103. **Ketanji Brown Jackson** has been sworn as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman to join US Supreme Court bench.

104. PokerBaazi.com, a poker platform, has appointed Bollywood actor **Shahid Kapoor** as its Brand Ambassador. PokerBaazi aims to create a robust ecosystem for Poker in India, and Shahid Kapoor's association with the brand comes in line with its commitment to popularise and create awareness amongst the masses about Poker.

105. **Insecticides India**, a crop protection and Nutrition company, has roped in Bollywood actor **Ajay Devgn** as their brand ambassador. With this, the company intends to spread the message of judicious use of agrochemicals by communicating about their products and boosting farmer awareness in India at the grassroots level.

106. **Garmin India**, a unit of Garmin, has appointed Indian triathlete, **Kaustubh Radkar** as a brand ambassador of its fitness segment. He has also been involved with Garmin Limited as coach. He will now be the face of the fitness segment like running, cycling and swimming and devices like smartwatches, bike computers, etc.

107. **Narendra Singh**, former Bihar agriculture minister and one of the key political leaders who emerged from the 'JP movement' in the state in the 1970s, has recently passed away in Patna, Bihar. He began his political career as an MLA from Chakai in Jamui in the 1980s and represented the constituency several times.

108. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Lieutenant General **Mohan Subramanian** of India as his new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He has succeeded Lt General Shailesh

Tinaikar of India.

109. President Ram Nath Kovind has nominated 4 Rajya Sabha members. These members are:

- Music maestro **Ilaiyaraaja** (Tamil Nadu)
- Sports icon **P T Usha** (Kerala)
- Screenwriter **V Vijayendra Prasad** (Telangana)
- Philanthropist and spiritual leader **Veerendra Heggade** (Karnataka)

Ilaiyaraaja, Usha, Prasad, and V Heggade will serve until July 2028. With this, Rajya Sabha now has nine nominated members, the other five being lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani, dancer Sonal Mansingh, politician Ram Shakal, author and columnist Rakesh Sinha, and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. Three nominated positions are currently vacant.

Nominated members of Rajya Sabha:

Article 80 of the Indian Constitution states that "The Council of States shall consist of (a) 12 members to be nominated by the **President** in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and (b) not more than 238 representatives of the States and of the Union territories."

Clause (3) states that these persons should have special knowledge or practical experience in the field of *Art, Science, Literature and Social Service*. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha enjoy all the powers and privileges to which the elected MPs are entitled. They are not allowed to vote in the election of the President. However, they do have the right to vote in the election of the Vice-President.

110. Sini Sadanand Shetty (Karnataka) has won the 58th edition of **Femina Miss India 2022**. Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi from Telangana has crowned her successor Sini Shetty Miss India 2022. She will now represent India at the prestigious 71st Miss World pageant. The event has been hosted at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- **1st Runner-up**: Rubal Shekhawat (Rajasthan)
- **2nd Runner-up**: Shinata Chauhan (Uttar Pradesh)

111. Former team India coach and cricketer **Ravi Shastri** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for FanCode, a live content, sports statistics, and e-commerce marketplace. FanCode has exclusive rights to India's tour of the West Indies and England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) The Hundred.

112. Pinterest, a visual inspiration platform, has announced the appointment of **Bill Ready**, Google Executive, as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the platform. He has succeeded Ben Silbermann, who will be transitioning to the newly created role of Executive Chairman.

113. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected **Sandeep Kumar Gupta** for the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of **GAIL (India) Limited**. He will replace **Manoj Jain**, who is scheduled to retire on 31st August 2022. He is currently serving as the Director for Finance, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

114. T. Raja Kumar of **Singapore** has been appointed as the President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog. He has replaced Marcus Pleyer.

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

OBITUARIES

116. Renowned film and theatre director **Peter Brook** has recently passed away in Paris, France. He was born on 21st March 1925 in Chiswick, England.

- He was famous for his adaptation of the Sanskrit epic *"The Mahabharata"* from France to New York in 1987.
- He was awarded *Padma Shri* in 2021.

117. Renowned Bengali film director **Tarun Majumdar** has recently passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 8th January 1931 in the Bengal Presidency, British India (now in Bangladesh).

- His major works include: Balika Badhu (1976), Kuheli (1971), Shriman Prithviraj (1972), Dadar Kirti (1980), Smriti Tuku Thak (1960), Palatak (1963) and Ganadevata (1978).
- He was honoured with **Padma Shri** in **1990** and won five Filmfare awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

118. Malayalam actress and assistant director **Ambika Rao** has recently passed away in Kochi, Kerala. She began her career as an assistant director with the film *'Krishna Gopalakrishna'* helmed by Balachandra Menon. The movie released in 2002. The actress was best known for her role in the popular family drama Kumbalangi Nights.

119. Mohammad Barkindo, Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has recently passed away in Abuja, Nigeria. His second term as head of OPEC was set to end on 31ˢᵗ July 2022. He held this position for six years from 2016.

SPORTS

120. Ferrari driver **Carlos Sainz Jr. (Spain)** has won the **Formula 1 Lenovo British Grand Prix 2022** at the Silverstone circuit, in Silverstone, England. It is his first career Formula 1 race victory. Mexico's Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing team) has finished second and Britain's Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes team) has finished third in the race.

121. Former Indian football team goalkeeper and Keralite **EN Sudhir** has recently passed away in Mapusa, Goa. He made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic qualifiers in 1972. He represented India in 9 matches. He was also part of the national team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the Asian Games squad in 1974. He played for three different states in the Santosh Trophy Kerala (1969 and 1970), Goa (1971, 1972, 1973), and Maharashtra in 1975.

IMPORTANT DAYS

122. National Doctor's Day is observed annually on **1st July** to recognize the contributions of physicians to individual lives and communities. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, a renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal. He was also an educationist, social worker, and freedom fighter. He was awarded **Bharat Ratna** in **1961.**
- The first Doctor's Day was observed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in 1991.
- **Theme 2022**: 'Family Doctors on the Front Line'

123. Goods and Services Tax (GST) day is observed annually across India on 1ˢᵗ July. The day commemorates the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. The year 2022 marks the celebration of the 5ᵗʰ anniversary of the implementation of the GST system. The day was first observed in 2018.
- **Note:** Goods and Services Tax (GST) was launched on **1ˢᵗ July 2017.**

124. National Chartered Accountants Day is observed annually across India on **1st July** to commemorate the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949. The ICAI is the only licensing and regulatory body for the financial audit and accounting profession in the country.

125. International Day of Cooperatives, also known as Coops Day, is observed annually on the **first Saturday** of July to highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement. In 2022, the day falls on **2nd July**.

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution on 16 December 1992 to declare the first Saturday of July 1995 as the International Day of Cooperatives.
- **Theme 2022**: 'Cooperatives Build a Better World'

126. The **World UFO Day (WUD)** is observed annually on **2nd July** to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and encouraging people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe. The day also marks the date of the famous Roswell incident in 1947. It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO).

127. Shimla Agreement was signed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on **2nd July 1971.** It laid a comprehensive blueprint for good neighbourly relations between **India and Pakistan**. It was signed to reverse the consequences of the 1971 war.

Key features of Shimla Agreement:

- UN Charter principles and purposes to govern relations between two nations.
- Mutual commitment to the peaceful resolution of all issues through direct bilateral approaches.
- To build the foundations of a cooperative relationship with special focus on people to people contacts.
- To uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a most important Confidence Building Measures between India and Pakistan, and a key to durable peace.
- Respect for each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality.

In 2022, Shimla Agreement has completed **50 years**.

128. International Sports Journalists Day, also known as World Sports Journalists Day, is observed annually on **2ⁿᵈ July** to honour all sports journalists around the world and also brings awareness regarding the sports journalism to the common public. The day was first observed in 1994, when the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) decided to commemorate it in honour of its 70th anniversary.

129. International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed annually on **3rd July** to spread awareness around the need to bring in eco-friendly alternatives and curb plastic pollution. The year 2022 marks the 13ᵗʰ edition of the celebrations. The day was first observed in 2008, when Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated it.

130. World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on **6ᵗʰ July** to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases. The day commemorates 6ᵗʰ July 1885, when French biologist Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, a zoonotic disease.
- Zoonoses are infectious diseases that can be spread from animals to humans, and vice versa. It can spread from direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.

131. The **World Kiswahili Language Day** is observed annually on **7ᵗʰ July** to promote the use of Kiswahili language as a tool to promote peace, and enhanced multiculturalism. The year 2022 marks the 1st observance of this day. This language is widely spoken in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. It is the only African language, to become the official language of African Union.
- **Theme 2022**: 'Kiswahili for peace and prosperity'