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**BREAKING  
NEWS**

August 2022 - Week 2

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **18th edition** of the India-US joint military exercise "**Yudh Abhyas**" will held in **Auli, Uttarakhand** from 14 to 31 October 2022. The mega military exercise aims to enhance understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the armies of India and the USA.
  - It is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and the US.
  - The exercise was started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program.
  - The exercise is hosted alternately between both countries.
  - The last edition was held in Alaska, the United States in October 2021.

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- Union External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** has recently visited **Cambodia** and has attended the **ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AIFMM) 2022** in Phnom Penh. The meeting has been co-chaired by the H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of Singapore. The meeting

has emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the South-China sea region.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has also visited the 12th-century **Angkor Wat temples**, whose restoration work is being done by the Archaeological Survey of India, and **Ta Prohm Temple** in Cambodia.

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):**

It is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation. It was founded in **August 1967** with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Its chairmanship rotates annually.

It is a group of **ten** Southeast Asian states: *Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam*. It is India's **4th largest** trading partner with about USD 86.9 billion in trade. ASEAN Secretariat is based in **Indonesia, Jakarta**.

- **Cambodia** is the chair of ASEAN for 2022.
- **ASEAN 2022 chairmanship theme:** 'ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together'

3. The Indian Army has conducted a Pan-India exercise called "**Skylight**" to test and evaluate its entire **satellite-based communication network** to ensure operational readiness in the wake of a future conflict.
  - The exercise covered India's eastern, northern, and island territories.
  - The types of satellite communication terminals tested during the exercise included static terminals, transportable vehicle-mounted terminals, man-portable and small form factor man-pack terminals,
  - The exercise has also been attended by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
4. The Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Sudhanshu Pandey has launched a '**Common Registration Facility**' (My Ration-My Right) on a pilot basis in **11 States/UTs** i.e. Assam, Goa, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.
  - This Web-based facility will enable these 11 States/UTs to collect data of persons desirous of registering for inclusion under NFSA, including migrants residing in other states.
  - The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides maximum coverage for about **81.35 crore** persons. At present, around 79.77 crore persons are given highly

subsidized food grains under the Act. As a result, 1.58 crore more beneficiaries can be enrolled.

5. The Review Planning & Monitoring (RPM) meeting with States and State Power Utilities has been held in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R. K. Singh in presence of the Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries Krishan Pal Gurjar.

During the meeting, Union Minister RK Singh has launched the (a) 10th Integrated Rating of Power Distribution Utilities, (b) First Consumer Service Rating of DISCOMs and (c) Bharat eSmart Mobile Application (BeSMA).

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### **10th Integrated Rating of Power Distribution Utilities:**

It is being carried out annually since 2012 with the aim of evaluating the performance of utilities on a range of parameters covering financial sustainability, performance excellence, and external environment and their ability to sustain improvements year over year. The rating now lays a higher emphasis on financial performance, while also assessing operational efficiencies and the external ecosystem of DISCOMs.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Consumer Service Rating of DISCOMs (CSR):**

It has been launched for the FY 2020-21. The report captures the current status of consumer services across various DISCOMs. It delves into key parameters of consumer services such as operational reliability, connection services, metering, billing and collection services, fault rectification and grievance redressal.

### **Bharat eSmart Mobile Application (BeSMA):**

It is a smart prepaid metering mobile app. This mobile App would build up on the data of the Smart meters and would provide essential information to consumers in regard to their usage and balance electricity remaining, both in terms of Units and Monetary terms. This App would be available to all the Distribution Utilities free of charge and is amendable to customization as per specific Utility needs for 10 years which is free for the DISCOMs.



- 6. Ministry of Communication** has recently hosted the **International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region** in New Delhi.
- RSF has been inaugurated by **Devusinh Chauhan**, Minister of State for Communications.
  - The theme of the Forum is *"Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications/ICTs"*.
  - The forum is a platform for constructive exchange of ideas, discussing standardization topics including inter alia India's experience in various sectors of technology like Sustainable Digital Transformation and the Role of ITU Standards, Harnessing Technologies for Digital and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets, evolving Data Value Chain and Digital Health.
- 7. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - Developmental Flight 1 (SSLV-D1)** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The rocket is 34-metre tall and weighs 120 tonnes.
  - It is carrying **AzaadiSAT & EOS-02 satellites** to be placed into low earth orbits.
  - The SSLV can put payloads (mini, micro or nanosatellites) weighing up to 500 kg into the 500 km planar orbit.
  - Although the mission named **"SSLV-D1/EOS-02"** has failed to reach the intended orbit after facing loss of data in the termination phase of the flight.
- AzaadiSAT:**
- It is an 8-kg Cubesat named 'AzaadiSAT'. It is built by 750 girl students from 75 government schools across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The payloads are integrated by the student team of 'Space Kidz India'.
- 8. The Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M Scindia**, along with Minister of State (MoS) General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) has virtually flagged off the first commercial flight of **Akasa Air** between **Mumbai & Ahmedabad**. It has an initial network in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Kochi.
- In the inaugural phase, Akasa Air, whose airline code is **QP**, will offer 28 weekly flights.
  - After 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the airline will start operating an additional 28 weekly flights between Bengaluru and Kochi; Bengaluru-Mumbai from 19<sup>th</sup> August; and Chennai-Mumbai from 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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9. The Ministry of Defence has announced that the **12th edition** of the **Defence Expo 2022**, India's flagship exhibition on Land, Nava, and Homeland Security systems, will be held in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat.
- It will be held between October 18 and 22, 2022.
  - The theme for this edition is '**Path to Pride**'.
  - It will be held in a three-venue format across, Helipad Exhibition Centre; inaugural event and seminars at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre and Live demo at Sabarmati River Front.
  - This is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defence and achieve export of **USD 5 billion** by **2025**.
10. The **13<sup>th</sup> edition** of the **India-United States** Joint Special Forces exercises '**Ex Vajra Prahar 2022**' has been commenced at the Special Forces Training School in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**. This joint annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the US.
- **Participants:** The US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of the US Special Forces while the Indian Army contingent is formed by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS.
  - **Objective:** To strengthen the traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both nations as well as improve bilateral defence cooperation between India and the US.
- Note:** The 12th edition of VAJRA PRAHAR was held in 2021 at Washington DC, USA.
11. Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has recently e-launched the **onboarding of cooperatives on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal** in New Delhi. The program has been organized by the Ministry of Cooperation, the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and GeM.
- A total of 589 cooperatives have been selected as being eligible for onboarding on GeM.
- Government e Marketplace (GeM):**
- It was launched on **9<sup>th</sup> August 2016** by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
  - It is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
12. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the test-firing of the **Low Altitude Escape Motor (LEM)** of Crew Escape System (CES) of the **Gaganyaan** project from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- The LEM is a distinctive special purpose solid rocket motor with four reverse flow nozzles and generates a maximum sea level thrust of 842 kN (nominal) with a burn time of 5.98 seconds (nominal).
- Gaganyaan, India's first manned space flight, will be launched in 2023.

**13.** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of an **Audio-Visual Co-production Treaty** between **India and Australia** with the view to promote the co-production of films.

- As per the co-production treaty, the respective contributions of the producers of the two countries may vary from 20% to 80% of the final cost of co-production work.
- Such agreements are umbrella agreements under which private, quasi-government, or governmental agencies enter contracts to produce films together.
- India has, so far, signed 15 audio-visual co-production treaties with foreign countries.
- Australia has emerged as a preferred destination for the shooting of Indian films.

**Other cabinet approval:**

Cabinet has also approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** as contained in the Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution signed during the 27th Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) from 9-27 August 2021.

The approval enables the Department of Posts to have the "Instrument of Ratification" signed by the President of India and have the same deposited with the Director General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union. This will fulfil the obligations arising from **Article 25 and 30** of the UPU Constitution which provides for ratification of the amendments to the Constitution adopted by a Congress as soon as possible by the member countries.

**14.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled the '**SPARK: The Space Tech Park**', **India's first virtual space technology museum**, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations commemorating India's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence.

- SPARK is the first 3D (three-dimension) virtual space tech park ever created by ISRO.
- It includes a museum, a theatre, an observatory, a garden with life-sized rockets, a lakeside cafe area and a children's play area along with several other interactions.
- The platform's beta version offers a virtual tour of SPARK and visitors can virtually board the Space on Wheels bus to take the tour.
- This platform will be upgraded to include more "non-sensitive" digital content for use by various stakeholders.

**15.** The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the indigenous vaccine **Lumpi-ProVacInd** to protect livestock from Lumpy Skin disease. The vaccine has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Equine Research Centre, Hisar (Haryana) in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar (Bareilly, UP).

### **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD):**

- It is caused by a virus called the **Capri poxvirus** and is an emerging threat to livestock worldwide.
- It is genetically related to the **goatpox and sheeppox** virus family.
- It affects both **cows and buffaloes** mainly through vectors such as blood-feeding insects.
- It is **not** a zoonotic disease, meaning it does not spread from animals to humans, and humans cannot get infected with it.
- It was first discovered in **1929** in Africa, and parts of West Asia.
- It was first reported in Asia and the Pacific region in **2019** in North West China, Bangladesh and India.
- Signs of infection include the appearance of circular, firm nodes on the animal's hide or skin that look similar to lumps.

**16.** The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has launched '**Automated Online Data Transfer**' for capturing critical data related to Domestic Value Addition (DVA) from the approved applicants of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile and auto component makers.

Under this system, the critical data will be transferred from the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to PLI auto portal of the ministry.

### **PLI-Auto:**

In September 2021, the Government has approved the PLI scheme for automobile and auto component industry for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities for advanced automotive products (AAT) with a budgetary outlay of Rs.25,938 crore. The scheme has attracted proposed investment of Rs.67,690 crore against the target estimate of investment Rs.42,500 crore for a five-year.

**17.** The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the Government of **Japan**, and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have launched a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 states and Union Territories across India.



- This initiative will support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.
- Japan has extended **USD 5.16 million** in climate grant to UNDP India for the project.
- The project will be rolled out in the states and Union Territories of Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh between 2022-23.
- This initiative will be implemented in coordination with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

**18.** Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar has recently launched **"SMILE-75 Initiative"** at a Shelter Home (Rain Basera) near Nizammudin Metro Station in New Delhi.

- SMILE stands for **'Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise'**.
- **Objective:** To make our cities or town and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.
- Under the SMILE-75 initiative, **75 Municipal Corporations** in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.
- The total budget of the SMILE scheme for the coming years till **2025-26** is **Rs 100 crore**.
- It also includes the sub-scheme of Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- Earlier, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'SMILE' on **12<sup>th</sup> February 2022**, which includes two sub-schemes: *'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons'* and *'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'*.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

**19.** The **Andhra Pradesh** cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has approved the renaming of Konaseema as **Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema** district that was carved out of the East Godavari district in April 2022.

- Konaseema district is spread over 2,081 sq km with a population of nearly 17 lakh.

- It has two revenue divisions (Amalapuram and Ramachandrapuram) and 22 mandals.
- The district has three municipalities Ramachandrapuram, Amalapuram and Mandapet.

20. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has laid the foundation stone of the **Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Vegetables** in **Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh** via video conferencing. This centre will be crucial to the growth of the Chandauli district and the Purvanchal region.

- The technology for the Centre is provided by Israeli experts under the **India-Israel Action Plan (IIAP)** with funds for building infrastructure for demonstration purposes from the *Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)*.
- The CoEs are being set up in the States based on Israeli technologies.
- These CoE act as demonstration and training centres for the latest technologies in the field of Horticulture. They also serve as a source of planting material for fruits and vegetables in protected cultivation.

21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **2nd generation (2G) Ethanol Plant** in Panipat Refinery, **Panipat, Haryana**. The plant has been developed by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (**IOCL**), at an estimated cost of over **Rs.900 crore** to boost the production and usage of biofuels in the country.

- This project will utilise about 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually to generate around 3 crore litres of Ethanol annually.
- The project will have zero liquid discharge.
- The project will contribute to a reduction of Greenhouse Gases equivalent to about 3 lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions per annum, which can be understood as equivalent to replacing nearly 63,000 cars annually.

22. Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has inaugurated "**UMEED Market Place**" under AVSAR Scheme of Airport Authority of India at Srinagar International airport.

- A similar Marketplace has also been opened at Jammu Airport and both the outlets will exhibit products of all 20 districts.
- He has also unveiled a 20X20 ft LED Video wall at Srinagar Airport.

**"AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region):**

It is an initiative of Airport Authority of India (AAI), to allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region. It was conceptualized in 2022.

23. The **Kerala** government has decided to launch its own e-taxi service named '**Kerala Savari**'. This online taxi hiring service is being rolled out by the state Labour Department linking the existing auto-taxi networks in the state with an aim to ensure safe and dispute-free travel for the public at affordable rates prevailing in the state.
- Kerala Savari will charge only **8 percent** service charge apart from the fixed rate.
  - It will be implemented by the Motor Workers Welfare Board with the cooperation of Planning Board, Legal Metrology, Transport, IT and Police Departments.
24. Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has launched the "**One Road, One Week**" initiative of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NMDC) from Tilak Marg and Bhagwan Das road. Under this initiative, the NMDC will undertake repair and maintenance work along footpaths, pavements, and central verges.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

25. **Russia** will withdraw from the International Space Station (ISS) after **2024** and focus on building its own orbiting outpost amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. NASA and other international partners will keep the space station running until **2030**.

### **International Space Station (ISS):**

It is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite, in low Earth orbit. Its first component launched into orbit in 1998. It is a joint project between five participating space agencies **NASA** (United States), **Roscosmos** (Russia), **JAXA** (Japan), **ESA** (Europe), and **CSA** (Canada). It is operated by more than 15 partner countries.

26. **American Express** has introduced a cross-border payments platform called "**Global Pay**" for small to medium-sized businesses. This will act as a digital solution that will let U.S. businesses make secure domestic and international B2B payments. It is now open to eligible American Express Small Business Card Members in the U.S.
27. **Russia** has launched Soyuz-2.1b rocket carrying **Iran's** high resolution, remote sensing **Khayyam satellite** from the Russia-controlled Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The satellite is named after Omar Khayyam, a Persian scientist who lived in the 11th and 12th centuries. The satellite is fitted with a high-resolution camera that will be used for environmental monitoring and will remain fully under control.

- 28. Gustavo Petro** has been sworn in as the first leftist president of **Colombia**. He is a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group as well as a former senator and mayor of Bogota. He has succeeded Ivan Duque.
- 29. James Marape**, leader of the Pangu party, has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Papua New Guinea** for a second term. He is serving as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea since May 2019.
- 30.** The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in partnership with the **Republic of Cuba** has recently floated a tender for setting up a **1150 MW** solar project in Cuba.
- NTPC is the project management consultant for ISA for setting up the project.
  - The project is part of Cuba's plan to implement 2100 MW of solar projects, reducing the reliance on expensive and polluting diesel generators and increasing its green energy portfolio.
  - It also includes building of 150 MW/150 MWh of storage to support grid reliability.
- 31. Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ríos** of **Argentina** has been appointed as the Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (**UNMOGIP**). He has succeeded Major General José Eladio Alcaín of Uruguay.

**UNMOGIP:**

It was established in January 1949 in India and Pakistan at Islamabad and Srinagar to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

- 32. China** has launched **16 new satellites** into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi province, China for commercial remote sensing and atmospheric imaging.
- These satellites include: **Jilin 1 Gaofen 03D09** satellite and **Yunhao 1 04-08** and have been launched by a Long March 6 carrier rocket.
  - The launch is marked as the 432<sup>nd</sup> mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

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## REPORTS & INDICES

- 33.** Worldline has published the report titled '**India Digital Payments Report' Q1 2022**. As per the report, India has witnessed 9.36 billion transactions amounting to Rs.10.25 trillion in Q1 2022.



**Key Highlights:**

- India's domestic United Payments Interface (UPI) has remained the most preferred mode of payment in Q1 of 2022. UPI's payment to merchant (P2M) transactions has accounted for 64 percent in volume and 50 percent in terms of value.
- **Top 5 remitter banks:** State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank and Paytm Payments Bank.
- **Top 5 beneficiary banks:** Paytm Payments Bank, State Bank of India, Yes Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank.
- **Top 5 UPI Apps in terms of volume:** *PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm Payments Bank App, Amazon Pay, Axis banks App.* Among the top UPI Apps, Phone Pe, Google Pay and Paytm accounted for 94.8 percent of UPI transactions volume and 93 percent of UPI transactions value as of March 2022.
- **Top 5 Payment Service Provider (PSP) UPI Players:** Yes Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Paytm Payments Bank.
- **Top 10 states:** Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal.
- **Top-10 cities:** Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara.

**34.** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has estimated that **7.3 percent** of the Indian population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking **seventh** in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population.

- **Ukraine** has topped the list with 12.7 percent, followed by Russia (11.9 percent), Venezuela (10.3 percent), Singapore (9.4 per cent), Kenya (8.5 percent) and the US (8.3 percent).
- Global use of crypto currencies has increased exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in developing countries.

**35.** The **University of Hyderabad (UoH)** has been ranked **first** among Indian Universities and **16th** among all institutions in the academic sector in the **Nature Index 2022**. The UoH has received a count of 72 and a share of 19.46 under the academic sector, which includes subject's chemistry, life sciences, earth & environment sciences and physical sciences.

**Top 3 among the list are:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), and IIT Bombay.

The Nature Index is an indicator of high quality research in natural and physical sciences (includes chemistry, life sciences, earth & environmental sciences, and physical sciences). The rankings are based on the Nature Index data from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

**36.** According to economists at **Morgan Stanley**, a global leader in financial services, *India is likely to be the fastest-growing Asian economy in 2022-23*. It expect India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to average 7 percent during this period and to contribute 28 percent and 22 percent to Asian and global growth, respectively.

**37.** According to the latest data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's retail inflation based on the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** has eased to **6.71%** in July 2022 compared with 7.01% in June 2022. Inflation eased mainly due to easing prices in the food & beverages section. Food inflation in July 2022 moderated to 6.75 percent as against 7.75 percent in June 2022.

As per the government data, India's factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), has eased to **12.3%** in June 2022, compared with 19.6% reported in May 2022. The manufacturing sector's output has increased to **12.5%** in June 2022. The mining output has increased **7.5%**, and power generation has increased **16.4%** in June 2022.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

**38. Google** has launched an online project named "**India Ki Udaan**", featuring the milestones India has achieved in its journey of 75 years since Independence. The project has been launched at an event held at the Sunder Nursery in Delhi in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy.

- The project is executed by **Google Arts & Culture**.
- It is themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years.

Google has also collaborated with the **Ministry of Culture** focussing on reaching informative online content that showcases the contributions of Indians and the evolution of India since 1947 to support the Government's year-long 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme.

**39.** The Government of **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched an innovative Market Linkage scheme '**PARVAZ**' to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir through Air Cargo.

- Under the scheme, **25 percent** subsidy on freight charges is given for carrying perishable fruits through Air Cargo. The subsidy is provided to farmers through DBT mode.

- Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (**JKHPMC**) is the implementing agency of the scheme.

**40.** The **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** scheme has successfully completed three years on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022. It was initiated as a pilot project on **9<sup>th</sup> August 2019** in four states.

- This scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**.
- It allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through an existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner.
- The scheme has now been successfully implemented in all **36 states and Union Territories** with Assam being the latest state to join the initiative in June 2022.
- Since inception, about 77.88 crore portable transactions have taken place under the ONORC.
- Around 3 crore portability transactions per month are being recorded under the scheme.

Under the NFSA, the Central government is providing **5 kilograms** of food grains per person every month to nearly 80 crore eligible beneficiaries at a highly subsidized rate of **Rs 2-3 per kilogram**.

**41.** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)** up to **31<sup>st</sup> December 2024** wherein financial assistance is to be provided for the completion of already sanctioned 122.69 lakh houses till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**PMAY-U: Housing for All:**

- It is one of the major flagship programmes being implemented by Government of India to provide all weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States/UTs/Central Nodal Agencies.
- It was launched in **2015** with an aim to achieve **Housing for All** by **2022**.
- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The scheme covers the entire urban area of the country, i.e., all statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently, including Notified Planning/Development Areas.

- The scheme is being implemented through four verticals: Beneficiary Led Construction/ Enhancement (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
- The Govt. of India provides financial assistance, State Govt. /UTs implement the scheme including selection of beneficiaries.

**42.** The state government of **Haryana** has recently introduced the “**Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)**” scheme to provide free education to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) students of government schools in private schools. Under the scheme, government school students whose parent's annual income is less than Rs 1.8 lakh can enrol in private schools from Class II to XII.

The government will provide monthly support of Rs 700 per student from Classes II to V; Rs 900 per student from Classes VI to VIII, and Rs 1,100 per student from Classes IX to XII.

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## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

**43.** **LinkedIn**, the world's largest professional network, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)** and the **ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK)** as part of the Connect Career to Campus (CCC) campaign under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) initiative.

This agreement aims to boost the employability skill among the youth of Kerala and aggravate relevant jobs for them using LinkedIn talent insights and learning tools.

**44.** **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has signed an agreement with the business incubator of **IIM, Kozhikode (IIM-K)**, Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE), in order to boost start-ups in the maritime sector.

- **Objective:** To develop an ecosystem in India for start-ups in the maritime sector from the technical, regulatory, financial and marketing points of view.
- Under this, start-ups can get up to Rs.50 lakh as seed grant, and Rs.1 crore as prototyping grant and equity funding at the scale-up stage.

**45.** The Investment Board Nepal has approved India's state-owned **NHPC Limited** to study and develop two hydropower projects totaling 1,200 MW in western **Nepal**.



- The projects include **750MW West Seti Hydropower Project** and **450MW Seti River (SR-6)**, a joint storage project.
- The new project sites are located at elevations ranging from 550 to 920 metres and are spread across six districts.
- The estimated cost of the project is **USD 2.4 billion**.
- The proposed dam site is located 82 kilometres upstream of the confluence of the Seti and Karnali rivers, forming part of the Ganges basin.

**46.** Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd (**APDCL**) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tamil Nadu-based Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (**NLCIL**) to set up **1000 MW** of solar power projects in **Assam**. It will be a joint venture project on 49:51 ratio between APDCL and NLCIL to support the increasing power requirement of the state.

**47.** The Governments of **Assam and Mizoram** have signed a joint statement after a ministerial-level discussion held in Aizawal, Mizoram to resolve the boundary dispute between both the states. As per the statement, both states have agreed to promote and maintain peace to prevent any untoward incident along the borders. Also, the Deputy Commissioners of the bordering districts of both states shall meet at least once in two months.

The next meeting between High-Level delegations of two states will take place at Guwahati in October 2022 where issues and claims will be deliberated in detail.

**Note:** Assam shares a **164.6 km** long boundary with Mizoram.

**Additional Information:** In March 2022, Assam and Meghalaya governments had signed a historic agreement in Delhi to resolve their border disputes in six of the 12 "areas of difference" along the 884-km boundary. According to the proposed recommendations for the 36.79 square km of land, Assam will keep 18.51 square km and give the remaining 18.28 square km to Meghalaya.

**48. Microsoft** has become the first big tech company to partner with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a pioneering initiative to democratize India's e-commerce ecosystem, with the intention of introducing social e-commerce to the Indian market. Microsoft will also launch a shopping app in India that would be accessible via the ONDC network.

**49. Microsoft** has joined hands with the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, and the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants of the Government of India.

- The objective is to help civil servants in helping the underprivileged and to develop citizen-friendly, and business-friendly policies.

- Under the project, the training will include job roles such as section officers, assistant section officers, clerks, upper division clerks, lower division clerks, under-secretaries, deputy secretaries, and equivalent officers at senior, junior and supporting levels in the central government entities.

**50. Flipkart**, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **District Administration of Varanasi**, Government of Uttar Pradesh, under the Samarth program to enable national market access for artisans, weavers, people with disabilities.

Under this partnership, iconic goods such as Banaras Sarees, Handmade Carpets, Zardoji Craft, Metal Crafts, and Handmade Dari from the state will now be available to 400 million customers on the Flipkart platform.

**Samarth:** Flipkart Samarth was launched in 2019. It is a nationwide initiative that aims to introduce lakhs of MSMEs, artisans and underserved communities from across the country to growth opportunities through e-commerce. The programme's primary objective is to provide underserved domestic communities and companies with a sustainable and inclusive platform and better livelihood chances.

**51. NBCC Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** for the redevelopment of the MEA Housing Complex (Old) at Kasturba Gandhi Marg in New Delhi for **Rs.175 crore**.

**Other MoUs signed:**

- NBCC has signed an MoU with Aligarh Smart City Ltd for providing PMC (Project Management and Consultancy) services for the project 'Development & Modernisation of Infrastructure at **Naurangilal College**, SH: Sports facilities'. The estimated cost is around Rs 50 crore.
- NBCC has also signed an MoU with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for 'Demolition and construction of **NCCE Hostel building** at NCUI complex'. The estimated cost for this project is Rs 33 crore.

**52. The Drone Federation of India (DFI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)** to develop high-impact drones for Indian soldiers.

- Under this collaboration, DFI and ADB will be launching an event titled '**Indian Army's Him-Drone-a-thon**', under which proposals will be invited for the development of drone-based solutions for supporting Indian Army operations in the harsh Himalayan terrains.

- Both the entities will collaborate on roadmap planning, research, testing, manufacturing and adoption of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies that are to be utilised by the Indian Army in its operations.
- 53.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the **University of Calicut** and the **Dr. Gafoor Memorial MES Mampad College** to exchange scientific and academic knowledge with students and researchers for the promotion of zoological researches through advanced pedagogical techniques.
- 54.** Satellite operator **Eutelsat Communications** and London-based **OneWeb** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of creating a leading global player in connectivity through the combination of both companies in an all-share transaction.
- Under this MoU, Eutelsat will combine its 36-strong fleet of GEO satellites with OneWeb's constellation of 648 low Earth orbit satellites, of which 428 are currently in orbit.
  - Post-closing of the deal, Bharti Group will become the single largest shareholder of Eutelsat.
- 55.** The **Indian Army** in collaboration with the **Drone Federation of India** has launched the '**Him Drone-a-thon**' programme. This initiative is in line with Atma-nirbharta in defence manufacturing. It is aimed to catalyse and provide focused opportunities to the Indian drone ecosystem to develop path-breaking drone capabilities for meeting requirements of frontline troops.
- 56.** The Government of **Odisha** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** for protection of its coasts. Under this MoU, NIOT will provide technical guidance, design, and drawing of climate resilient coastal protection measures. The inhabitants of six coastal districts of the state such as Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam will be benefitted.
- 57.** **Airtel Africa** has signed a credit bond with **Citi** for **USD 125 million** revolving facility. The facility involves borrowing both in local currencies and US dollars. The facility has a tenor up to **September 2024** and will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries.

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## BANKING & FINANCE

- 58. Unity Small Finance Bank Limited** has appointed **Inderjit Camotra** as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO). His appointment is approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Unity Bank's Board.
- 59. Dhanlaxmi Bank** has signed an agreement with **New Street Technologies** Private Limited to facilitate micro-lending, operations management, and technology services under Priority Sector Lending (PSL). New Street Technologies is the first fintech partner of the bank.
- 60.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a **15-member** expert group of **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** to increase foreign investments and simplify the investment process in the capital markets.
- **Chairman: K. V. Subramanian**, Former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India
  - **Other members:** Harun R Khan, R. Subramanian, Madhav Kalyan, Hitendra Dave, Martin Graham, Bobby Parikh, Rushabh Maniar, Nigam S. Nugehalli, Rajesh Gandhi, Shashwat Alok, Ashishkumar Chauhan, Padmaja Chunduru, Nehal Vora, and Vikram Kothari.
  - The committee will review investment avenues available for FPIs and to advice on the feasibility of new investment avenues.
  - It will also suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.
- 61.** The Government of **Telangana** has launched the "**Nethanna Bima**" scheme, which offers insurance coverage to handloom & powerloom weavers in the state. This scheme will provide Rs.5 lakh insurance cover to the weavers' families in case of the unfortunate demise of an eligible beneficiary.
- For this scheme, the Telangana government has partnered with the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India. The annual premium of the beneficiaries will be paid by the government on their behalf to the LIC.
- 62.** Transform Rural India Foundation (**TRIF**) and **Intellectap** have launched a **national carbon finance platform** that will help Indian smallholder farmers leverage climate/carbon finance for sustainable agro-forestry, climate-smart agriculture, and other activities that can result in carbon sequestration and mitigation.



More than 1 million smallholder farmers will be included in the platform. This platform will enable income generation, livelihood enhancement, and climate-resilient development by leveraging carbon credits through high-quality sequestration projects in India.

**63. Indian Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SRM University** in Andhra Pradesh to lend up to **Rs 50 crore** for start-ups incubated at SRM Hatchlab for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment.

Indian Bank has also collaborated with Hatchlab Research Centre, TBI of SRM University to launch 'IND Spring Board', an initiative for financing start-ups and MSMEs.

**64. The Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched **"RACE"** as the goal for 2022. This goal is in line with the effort of the UBI bank to be among the top three largest PSB in the next couple of years.

- RACE stands for *"grow RAM (retail, agriculture and MSME) loans, improve Asset quality, increase CASA (current account, savings account deposits) and increase Earnings."*

**65. Axis Bank** has become the first Indian bank to launch **Axis Receivables Suite (ARS)**, an innovative Cash Management proposition that simplifies Receivables reconciliation, accelerates cash flow, enhances the client experience and reduces the cost of doing business.

- ARS is an end-to-end proposition, along with a mobile app to automate the reconciliation of receivables against sales invoices raised by clients.

**66. LetsVenture**, India's leading early-stage platform for investors and founders, has collaborated with **IDFC First Bank** to explore synergies and support the startup ecosystem by offering curated products and solutions to startups.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work on areas of mutual interest has been signed between both the parties at LetsVenture's flagship event, **'LetsIgnite'**, for startups and founders in Bengaluru.
- Under this collaboration, IDFC First Bank will become a preferred bank for all startups on **LetsVenture's Scalix**, a newly launched platform that supports the startup ecosystem through fundraising solutions, knowledge series, and investor connect.

**67. The State Bank of India (SBI)** has become the first Indian lender to frame a policy to fund makers of **lab-grown (man-made) diamonds** which are replicas of natural diamond stones.

- Recently, factories are being established in Surat, Gujarat to produce lab-grown diamonds and many diamond houses are being relocated from Mumbai, Maharashtra to southern Gujarat.
- The policy will be largely term loans for machinery import and a part will be disbursed as working capital.

**68. HDFC Bank** has collaborated with **M1xchange** promoted by Mynd Solutions Pvt Ltd to make a debut in the **Trade receivables Discounting System (TReDs)** platform. The aim is to provide more liquidity to small business at competitive interest rates.

TReDS system is regulated by the Reserve of India (RBI). It enables Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to auction their trade receivables online and borrow funds from the financial institution which offers loan at the lowest rate of interest.

**69.** In August 2022, **ONDC** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** for coordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. It aims to change the landscape of MSMEs by bringing them into the ONDC network and accelerating their participation in e-commerce. The collaboration between ONDC and SIDBI will establish a programmatic approach for MSMEs.

**70. Paytm** has tied up with **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance** to offer merchant loans to small cities and towns across India. Under this collaboration, Paytm merchant partners will be able to avail credit worth up to **Rs.10 lakh**, with terms ranging from 6-24 months.

- Piramal Capital & Housing Finance is a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited.

**71. Yes Bank** has collaborated with **IBSFIntech**, a treasury-tech solution provider, to empower the corporate treasury ecosystem with a robust decision-making tool and automated workflows backed by seamless bank connectivity. They will also provide connectivity between a corporate's ERP and a bank's solutions.

**72. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited** has launched '**Kotak Crème**', a **lifestyle-focussed** corporate salary account that offers an upgraded banking experience to new-age professionals working with eminent corporates.

- Kotak Crème is launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka for it is one of the corporate hubs.
- The account will offer premium rewards and banking experiences to each employee of the partner corporate that includes MNCs, consulting firms, law firms, non-retail FIs and unicorn companies.
- Each account comes with preferential banking services, including a complimentary Zen Credit Card.

**73.** The **Navi Mutual Fund** has launched its sixth fund for the year 2022, the **Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund** which is *India's first open-ended manufacturing index fund*. This fund will seek to replicate the Nifty India Manufacturing Index, which tracks the performance of manufacturers among the top 300 companies in India.

- The fund proposes to have a total expense ratio (TER) of **0.15%** and **1%** for the direct plan and regular plan, respectively.
- The weight of each stock in the index is based on its free float market capitalisation and is reconstituted and rebalanced semi-annually along with Nifty Broad-based indices.
- The index has a minimum weight of **20%** for certain manufacturing sectors.
- The largest sectors in this index currently are automobile & auto components, capital goods, healthcare, and metals & mining.
- The top 10 stocks including Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki India, Mahindra & Mahindra and JSW Steel constitute about 37 percent of the index.

**74.** **HDFC Bank** has raised up to **USD 300 million** in Non-Resident External (**NRE**) deposits, offering up to 50 basis points more than the prevailing rates. The Middle East led the list of new NRI depositors while Asia & Europe have also contributed.

On 6th July 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to garner Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account (FCNR) (B) and NRE deposits from the Indian diaspora without any interest rate cap. These relaxations are available until October 31 and November 4, respectively.

**75.** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has decided to discontinue the facility to pay subscriptions/contributions in the **Tier-II** account of the **National Pension System (NPS)** using credit cards as a mode of payment. As a result, all Points of Presence (PoPs) have been directed to discontinue accepting credit cards as a mode of payment for the Tier-II account of NPS with immediate effect.

**Note:** A Tier-II account acts as a voluntary savings account and only a Tier-I NPS account holder is eligible for opening a Tier-II NPS account.

**76.** The **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has sold **2 percent** of its shareholding in automaker **Mahindra & Mahindra** for about Rs 2,222.49 crore. After the sale, the LIC holding in the passenger cars and utility vehicles company has decreased from 8.430 percent to 6.421 percent.

## RBI IN NEWS

77. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to pay bills on behalf of their families in India through **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**. With this, NRIs will be able to make direct payments of various utilities such as water bills, electricity bills or telecom for their respective families in India via the BBPS platform.

### **BBPS:**

It is a one-stop financial framework for payment of bills that is interoperable and accessible at any point in time and from anywhere. It is a payments system conceptualized by RBI and run by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

78. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed guidelines for **small finance banks (SFBs)** to become **Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-I** in forex business.

### **Key guidelines:**

- As per the new guidelines, SFBs which have completed **two years** of operations in **AD Category II** and have a minimum net worth of **Rs.500 crore** can deal in foreign exchange.
- As a Category-I authorised dealer, the SFBs will have the permission to deal in all other transactions in foreign exchange including bill of exchange, cheques, letters of credit, deposits, etc. On the other hand, as a Category-II Authorised dealer, the bank will be allowed to offer only money-changing facilities.
- The capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (**CRAR**) should not be less than **15 percent**.
- The net non-performing assets (**NPAs**) of the bank should not exceed **6%**, during previous four quarters.
- It should not have defaulted in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) / Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) during previous two years.
- It should have sound internal control systems.

79. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prohibited the use of **Letters of Comfort (LoC)**, which may impact loans worth **Rs 35,000 crore**. Around 60% of these belong to power, healthcare, engineering & construction, and road sectors.

### **Letters of Comfort (LoC):**

LoC is a letter issued by a **parent company** which tells a bank that they know the loan is availed by one of their subsidiaries. The letter states that the parent company supports the subsidiary in the process, and they will lend their hand wherever required. It is generally issued by foreign companies that have their branches and subsidiaries in India.



**80.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a regulatory framework to make **digital lending** safe for members of the public; curb malpractices; and to mitigate the concerns arising from credit delivery through digital lending methods. This framework is focused on the digital lending ecosystem of RBI's Regulated Entities (REs) and the Lending Service Providers (LSPs) engaged by them to extend various permissible credit facilitation services.

The central bank has divided the digital lenders into three categories:

- **First Category:** Entities regulated by the RBI and permitted to carry out lending business;
- **Second Category:** Entities authorised to carry out lending according to other statutory/ regulatory provisions but not regulated by the RBI,
- **Third Category:** Entities lending outside the purview of any statutory/ regulatory provision.

*These guidelines are for the **first category**, or entities regulated by the RBI.*

#### **Key guidelines:**

- All loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank account of the borrower and the RE, without any pass-through/ pool account of the LSP or any third party.
- Fees for LSPs are paid directly by REs and are not charged by LSP to the borrower.
- The all-inclusive cost of digital loans in the form of annual percentage rate (APR) is required to be disclosed to the borrower by REs.
- Automatic increase in credit limit without explicit consent of borrower is prohibited.
- Data collected by digital lending apps should be need-based.
- Any lending sourced through digital lending apps has to be reported to Credit Information Companies (CICs).
- Restrictions on first loss default guarantee under examination.

**81.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.2.33 crore** on Hyderabad-based **Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd** for its failure to adhere to pricing of credit guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company - Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs). The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

**82.** The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.32 lakh** on **Indian Bank**, for non-compliance with certain provisions of Reserve Bank of India (Fraud classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) Directions 2016.

83. The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of **Rupee Cooperative Bank, Pune** thereby prohibiting the bank from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022**.

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## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

84. **Sangeetha Abhayan**, a Kerala-based entrepreneur, has won the **World Women Entrepreneurs' Award 2022** instituted by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK) at a virtual event held at Hong Kong. She has been awarded for her handloom and handicrafts startup's performance in tune with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

85. Indian men's football team captain **Sunil Chhetri** has been named the 2021-22 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's Footballer of the Year Award for the seventh time. In the women's category, **Manisha Kalyan** has been named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year Award.

### Other AIFF Awards 2021-2022:

- AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year: Martina Thokchom
- AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year: Vikram Pratap Singh
- AIFF Best Referee of the Year: Crystal John
- AIFF Best Assistant Referee of the Year: Ujjal Halder

86. Congress Member of Parliament (MP) **Shashi Tharoor** will receive the France's highest civilian award, the **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (the Legion of Honor)**, for his writings and speeches. The award will be conferred on him by the French government during the next visit of any minister of the French Government to India.

The National Order of the Legion of Honour, formerly the Royal Order of the Legion of Honour, is the highest **French order of merit**, both military and civil. It was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

### Books written by Shashi Tharoor:

Bookless in Baghdad (2005); India Shastra: Reflections on the Nation in our Time (2015); An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India (2016); Why I am a Hindu (2018); The Paradoxical Prime Minister (2018); The Hindu Way: An Introduction to Hinduism (2019), etc.

87. Karnataka Chief Minister, Basavaraj Bommai, has announced that Kannada film star **Puneeth Rajkumar**, who died last year, will be conferred with the '**Karnataka Ratna**' award posthumously. The award will be conferred on 1<sup>st</sup> November, which happens to be Kannada Rajyotsava, the state's formation day. He will be the **10th** recipient of the state's highest civilian honour.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

88. A new book titled "**How China Sees India and the World**" has been authored by former diplomat **Shyam Saran**. The book is published by Juggernaut Books, New Delhi. The book depicts the India-China relationship, their similarities, and differences, and how their perceptions of each other changed through the centuries. The book also specifies the maritime links with SouthEast Asia.

89. A new book titled "**Reimagining South Asia: Multilateralism in the Contemporary Times**" has been authored by Professor **Nagalaxmi M. Raman**, Head of the Amity Institute of International Studies, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It has been released during the India-ASEAN Trade Summit 2022.

The foreword of the book is written by Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, IFS (Indian Foreign Service). The book is published by Pentagon Press.

### **India-ASEAN Trade Summit 2022:**

The summit has been organized by Reva University in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It has been attended by envoys from Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

90. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched a 100-page poetry book titled "**Rusty Skies and Golden Winds**", written by 11 year old **Sannidhya Sharma** in Jammu of Jammu & Kashmir. The book is published by Blue-rose publishers. It is an anthology of 40 poems that defines the nature of the world.

91. A new book titled "**Bravo Yadav-Journey of Honorary Captain Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav India's Youngest Param Vir Chakra Recipient**" has been authored by the famous content creator **Deepak Singh**. The book narrates Yogendra Singh Yadav's courage as a patriot and warrior, surviving the battle of Tiger Hill and being a key stake towards India's victory against Pakistan. The book is published by Har-Anand Publications Limited.

92. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published a new book titled '**Field Guide, Birds of India**'. The book deals with all 1331 species of birds found within the country, their present status, and distribution details. ZSI has also released a book titled "**Fauna of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary**" and a report on the 'Threatened animals of Kerala' as part of efforts to promote sustainable management and conservation of various animal species in the state.
93. Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs & Culture Menakshi Lekhi has unveiled two books '**Heartfelt-The Legacy Of Faith**', and '**Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery**' at "Vishwa Sadbhavna" event organized by the National Institute of Design (NID) Foundation at Melbourne in Australia.
- The book 'Heartfelt-The Legacy of Faith', brought out by **NID Foundation**, documents PM Narendra Modi's belief in the Sikh Gurus and their teachings.
  - The book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' by famed Oncologist in America **Dr Bharat Barai**, is a compilation of chapters exploring the fundamental transformation of Gujarat and India over the last 20 years.

## PERSON IN NEWS

94. **Ravinder Takkar**, MD & CEO of telecom operator Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), has been named the new Chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He will replace Himanshu Kapania.
95. **Ranjit Rath** has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL). He has replaced **Sushil Chandra Mishra** who retired on 30 June 2022.
96. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension in service of **Rajiv Gauba** as **Cabinet Secretary** for a further period of one-year i.e. **30<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. In 2019, he had taken over as the new Cabinet Secretary in the Government of India after the superannuation of PK Sinha.
97. National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has recently become the **14th Vice President of India** after securing 528 votes against the opposition candidate Margaret Alva's 182. He is the second leader from Rajasthan to become Vice President. He has succeeded Venkaiah Naidu.

### Profile of VP Jagdeep Dhankar:

He was born on 18th May 1951 in Kithana village in **Jhunjhunu** district of **Rajasthan**. He completed his schooling at Sainik School, Chittorgarh. He pursued his law degree from the



University of Rajasthan. He became a member of parliament from Jhunjhunu Lok Sabha constituency under the aegis of Janata Dal in 1989-91. He served as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990-1991 under PM Chandra Shekhar's minority Government. He served as the **Governor of West Bengal (2019-2022)**.

**98.** Senior electrochemical scientist **Dr Nallathamby Kalaiselvi**, known for her work on lithium-ion batteries, has been appointed as the first woman Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). She has been appointed for a period of two years. She has replaced Shekhar Mande. She will also hold the charge as secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

She also served as the first woman scientist to head the CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) in 2019. She made key contributions to the National Mission for Electric Mobility.

**99.** Tibetan spiritual leader **Tenzin Gyatso, 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama**, has been honoured with the '**dPal rNgam Duston' Award 2022** for his immense contribution to humanity, especially towards the union territory of Ladakh. This award is the highest civilian honour of **Ladakh**.

The sixth award has been conferred by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh which celebrated the 'dPal rNgam Duston' with great fervour on the occasion of its foundation day at Sindhu Ghat.

**100.** **Aarya Walvekar**, an Indian American teenager from Virginia, has been crowned **Miss India USA 2022** at the annual beauty pageant held in New Jersey. She has represented USA's capital Washington DC at the contest which saw 74 contestants representing 30 states for three different pageants: Miss India USA, Mrs India USA and Miss Teen India USA.

- **First runner-up:** Saumya Sharma
- **Second runner-up:** Sanjana Chekuru

The year 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of Miss India USA – the longest-running Indian Pageant outside of India. It was started by New York-based Indian-Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under the banner of Worldwide Pageants.

**Other winners:**

**Mrs India USA 2022:** Akshi Jain

**Miss Teen India USA 2022:** Tanvi Grover

**101.** Amrut Mody School of Management of Ahmedabad University Professor **Ramadhar Singh** has become the first Indian social psychologist to be inducted to the "Heritage Wall of Fame" of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in the United States (US).

**Other awardees:**

- **IIT Kanpur:** Prabha & Ramadhar Singh Distinguished Lecture in Psychology (2022)
- **IIM Indore:** Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Research (2021)
- **National University of Singapore (NUS):** Inspiring Mentor Award (2009)

**102.** Janata Dal leader **Nitish Kumar** has recently taken oath as the **Chief Minister of Bihar** for the **8th** consecutive time, a day after he resigned from the post of the CM of the NDA alliance government. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader **Tejashwi Yadav** has taken oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. They have been administered the oath of office & secrecy by Governor Phagu Chauhan.

**103.** The Central Government has recently re-appointed Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, and Sachin Chaturvedi as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- **Revathy Iyer** and **Sachin Chaturvedi** have been re-appointed for a period of four years after completion of their present tenure on September 18, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. They have also been re-appointed as a Member of the **Northern Local Board** and on the **Eastern Local Board** of RBI for a further period of four years after completion of their present tenure.
- **Swaminathan Gurumurthy and Satish K Marathe** have been re-appointed for a further period of four years with effect from August 11, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**Note:** The Non-official directors are appointed for a period of **four years** and are eligible for re-appointment.

**104.** Indian wicketkeeper-batter **Rishabh Pant** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Uttarakhand**. The state government is working towards providing a better sports environment to the youth.

## OBITUARIES

**105.** Noted American author & historian **David McCullough** has recently passed away in Hingham, Massachusetts, USA. He was born on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1933 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. He won the **Pulitzer Prize** twice for "**Truman**" in 1993 and for "**John Adams**" in 2002. He also won the National Book Award twice for "*The Path Between the Seas*" in 1978 and for "*Mornings on Horseback*" in 1982.

His other acclaimed books include: *The Johnstown Flood*, *The Great Bridge*, *Brave Companions*, *1776*, *The Greater Journey*, *The American Spirit*, *The Wright Brothers*, and *The Pioneers*.

**106.** Former Member of Parliament (MP) and senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) politician **Karuppu Maya Thevar** has recently passed away in Chinnalapatti, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1934 in T. Uchapatti, Usilampatti, Madurai district, Madras Presidency, British India. He was the first MP of the AIADMK. He was credited with selecting the 'two leaves' symbol for the AIADMK in 1973.

**107.** Ace investor **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala**, known as the 'Big Bull' of Dalal Street, has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1960 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- He was both a trader and a chartered accountant, and one of the richest man in the country.
- He served as the Chairman of Hungama Media and Aptech, as well as a Director of Viceroy Hotels, Concord Biotech, Provogue India, and Geojit Financial Services.
- In 2022, he founded **Akasa Air**, low-cost airline in India.
- He is also known as **India's Warren Buffet**.

**108. Rudi Koertzen**, the former **international cricket umpire**, has passed away in a car crash in South Africa. He was born on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1949 in Knysna, Cape Province, South Africa. He started umpiring in the year 1981 and stood in his first international match back in 1992 between India and South Africa at Port Elizabeth.

He became the second umpire in history to officiate more than 150 ODIs after the legendary David Shepherd, and was also the second to stand in 200 Tests after Steve Bucknor. The last official match in which he served as during IPL 2011 between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings at the Chinnaswamy.

**109.** India's former International athlete **P. V. Kamaraj** has recently passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born in Pudhukottai, Tamil Nadu. He was a part of the 4x400m Indian men's relay team that won bronze at the 1979 Asian Championships in Tokyo, Japan. He also won several medals, including gold, silver and bronze in 400m hurdles in the national inter-state meets and Open nationals from 1977-80.

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## SPORTS

**110.** The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the **2022 SAFF U-20 Football Championship** has been held in the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. **India** has won the championship for the second consecutive time by defeating **Bangladesh** in the final match.

**Other awards:**

- Most Valuable Player of SAFF U-20 Championship 2022: **Gurkirat Singh**
- Best Goalkeeper SAFF U-20 Championship 2022: **Som Kumar**

**111.** Indian chess legend and five-time world champion, **Viswanathan Anand** has been elected Deputy President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE). While, **Arkady Dvorkovich** (Russia) has been re-elected for a second term as President of FIDE, with 157 votes against 16.

The elections for the posts have been held during the FIDE General Assembly in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**112. Mastercard** has replaced Paytm as the title sponsor for all international and domestic cricket matches organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). This follows Paytm's request to reassign the title sponsorship of BCCI valid till the end of 2023. Mastercard will be assigned the rights till 2023, as per the original terms of the Paytm deal and will continue to pay Rs.3.8 crore per match.

**113.** The Washington Open or Citi Open 2022 has been held at the William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Centre in Washington, D.C., USA. It is the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition for men and 10<sup>th</sup> edition for women.

- Tennis-player **Nick Kyrgios (Australia)** has won the men's singles title by defeating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka. He has won his seventh ATP title.
- **Liudmila Samsonova (Russia)** has won the women's singles title by defeating Kaia Kanepi (Estonia).

**Other winners:**

- **Men's doubles:** Nick Kyrgios (Australia) & Jack Sock (USA)
- **Women's doubles:** Jessica Pegula (USA) & Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)

**114.** India's **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** has won the gold medal in men's 67 kg category **weightlifting** at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. He is the first person from Mizoram to win a gold medal at the CWG 2022.

**115.** American Tennis legend **Serena Williams**, winner of 23 Grand Slam titles, has announced her retirement from professional **tennis**. The US Open 2022 which starts on 29<sup>th</sup> August will be



her last tournament. Her first major title was the 1999 US Open, when she was 17. She won her last Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open.

She has also 73 WTA titles overall, including all four Slams at least three times, 39 combined major titles in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, 14 major doubles titles with sister Venus, four Olympic gold medals in singles and doubles.

**116.** Former West Indies all-rounder **Kieron Pollard** has become the first cricketer to play **600 T20** matches. He has achieved this feat during his side's London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals during ongoing The Hundred tournament at Lord's. He represents Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premiere League (IPL).

Dwayne Bravo (543 matches), Shoaib Malik (472), Chris Gayle (463) and Ravi Bopara (426) are the other cricketers behind him in terms of playing T20 cricket matches.

**117.** The **44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad** has been held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Mahabalipuram near **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. This is the first time the Chess Olympiad is being hosted in India and the first in Asia after 30 years.

- **"Thambi"** (Younger Brother) is the official mascot of the 44th Chess Olympiad.
- The opening and closing ceremonies have been held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- It consisted of open and women's tournaments.

#### **Winners:**

- **Open Section:** The team **Uzbekistan** has won the gold medal in the Open section. Team Armenia has won silver while the India-B team has won the bronze medal.
- **Women's section:** Team **Ukraine** has won the gold medal. Team Georgia has won the silver, while the India-A team has won the bronze medal.
- India A team has won **Nona Gaprindashvili Cup**. It is the best federation at the Olympiad and the award is a combined rank sum of the open & women's section.

**Note:** The 45<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad 2022 will be held in Budapest, Hungary.

**118.** Chennai-based Chess prodigy **V Pranav** has become **India's 75th Grandmaster** by winning a tournament in Romania. He has won the Limpedea Open in Baia Mare, Romania to secure his third and final GM norm and attain the Grandmaster title. He is the 27th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu.

**119.** The **2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG)** has been held at Alexander Stadium in **Birmingham, England (UK)** from 28 July to 8 August 2022. All 72 Commonwealth Games Associations have participated in the games. It is the first carbon-neutral CWG. The official

mascot for the Commonwealth Games 2022 is **Perry**, a bull with multi-coloured hexagons and the motto is '**Games for Everyone**'.

### Commonwealth Games 2022 medals tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	67	57	54	178
2	England	56	65	53	175
3	Canada	26	32	34	92
<b>4</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>61</b>

### Indian medal winners at Commonwealth Games 2022

- (Total 215 member contingent from India have participated in the event)

No.	Athlete/Team	State/UT	Medal	Event	Sport
1	Sanket Sargar	Maharashtra	Silver	Men's 55kg	Weightlifting
2	Gururaja Poojary	Karnataka	Bronze	Men's 61kg	Weightlifting
3	Mirabai Chanu	Manipur	Gold	Women's 49kg	Weightlifting
4	Bindyarani Devi	Manipur	Silver	Women's 55kg	Weightlifting
5	Jeremy Lalrinnunga	Mizoram	Gold	Men's 67kg	Weightlifting
6	Achinta Sheuli	West Bengal	Gold	Men's 73kg	Weightlifting
7	Sushila Devi Likmabam	Manipur	Silver	Women's 48kg	Judo
8	<b>Vijay Kumar Yadav</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Men's 60kg</b>	<b>Judo</b>
9	Harjinder Kaur	Punjab	Bronze	Women's 71kg	Weightlifting
10	Indian women's team	-	Gold	Women's fours	Lawn bowls
11	Vikas Thakur	Punjab	Silver	Men's 96kg	Weightlifting
12	Indian men's team	-	Gold	Men's team	Table Tennis
13	Indian mixed team	-	Silver	Mixed team	Badminton
14	Lovepreet Singh	Punjab	Bronze	Men's 109kg	Weightlifting
15	Saurav Ghosal	West Bengal	Bronze	Men's singles	Squash
16	Tulika Maan	Delhi	Silver	Women's +78kg	Judo
17	Gurdeep Singh	Punjab	Bronze	Men's +109kg	Weightlifting
18	Tejaswin Shankar	Delhi	Bronze	Men's high jump	Athletics
19	Murali Sreeshankar	Kerala	Silver	Men's long jump	Athletics
20	Sudhir	Haryana	Gold	Men's heavyweight	Para Powerlifting
21	Anshu Malik	Haryana	Silver	Women's 57kg freestyle	Wrestling
22	Bajrang Punia	Haryana	Gold	Men's 65kg freestyle	Wrestling

23	Sakshi Malik	Haryana	Gold	Women's 62kg freestyle	Wrestling
24	Deepak Punia	Haryana	Gold	Men's 86kg freestyle	Wrestling
25	Divya Kakran	Uttar Pradesh	Bronze	Women's 68kg freestyle	Wrestling
26	Mohit Grewal	Haryana	Bronze	Men's 125kg freestyle	Wrestling
27	Priyanka Goswami	Uttar Pradesh	Silver	Women's 10000m race walk	Athletics
28	Avinash Sable	Maharashtra	Silver	Men's 3000m steeplechase	Athletics
29	Indian men's team	-	Silver	Men's fours	Lawn Bowls
30	Jaismine Lamboria	Haryana	Bronze	Women's 60kg lightweight	Boxing
31	Pooja Gehlot	Delhi	Bronze	Women's 50kg freestyle	Wrestling
32	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Haryana	Gold	Men's 57kg freestyle	Wrestling
33	Vinesh Phogat	Haryana	Gold	Women's 53kg freestyle	Wrestling
34	Naveen	Haryana	Gold	Men's 74kg freestyle	Wrestling
35	Pooja Sihag	Haryana	Bronze	Women's 76kg freestyle	Wrestling
36	Mohammad Hussamuddin	Telangana	Bronze	Men's 57kg featherweight	Boxing
37	Deepak Nehra	Haryana	Bronze	Men's 97kg freestyle	Wrestling
38	Rohit Tokas	Delhi	Bronze	Men's 67kg welterweight	Boxing
39	Sonalben Patel	Gujarat	Bronze	Women's singles Classes 3-5	Para Table Tennis
40	Bhavina Patel	Gujarat	Bronze	Women's singles classes 3-5	Para Table Tennis
41	Women's hockey team	-	Bronze	Women's hockey	Hockey
42	<b>Nitu Ghangas</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Women's 48kg minimumweight</b>	<b>Boxing</b>
43	Amit Panghal	Haryana	Gold	Men's 51kg flyweight	Boxing
44	Eldhose Paul	Kerala	Gold	Men's triple jump	Athletics
45	Abdulla Aboobacker	Kerala	Silver	Men's triple jump	Athletics
46	Sandeep Kumar	Haryana	Bronze	Men's 10000m race walk	Athletics
47	Annu Rani	Uttar Pradesh	Bronze	Women's javelin throw	Athletics

48	Nikhat Zareen	Telangana	Gold	Women's 50kg light flyweight	Boxing
49	Sharath Kamal / G Sathiyam	Tamil Nadu (Both)	Silver	Men's doubles	Table Tennis
50	Dipika Pallikal / Saurav Ghosal	Kerala/West Bengal	Bronze	Mixed doubles	Squash
51	Kidambi Srikanth	Andhra Pradesh	Bronze	Men's singles	Badminton
52	Women's cricket team	-	Silver	Women's T20	Cricket
53	Sharath Kamal / Sreeja Akula	Tamil Nadu/ Telangana	Gold	Mixed doubles	Table Tennis
54	Treesa Jolly / Gayatri Gopichand	Kerala/ Telangana	Bronze	Women's doubles	Badminton
55	Sagar Ahlawat	Haryana	Silver	Men's 92+kg super heavyweight	Boxing
56	PV Sindhu	Telangana	Gold	Women's singles	Badminton
57	Lakshya Sen	Uttarakhand	Gold	Men's singles	Badminton
58	Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Tamil Nadu	Bronze	Men's singles	Table Tennis
59	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy / Chirag Shetty	Andhra Pradesh/ Maharashtra	Gold	Men's doubles	Badminton
60	<b>Sharath Kamal</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Men's singles</b>	<b>Table Tennis</b>
61	Men's hockey team	-	Silver	Men's hockey	Hockey

### First in Commonwealth Games 2022:

- **Sanket Sargar** is the first Indian to win a medal in Birmingham, bagging a silver in the men's 55kg weightlifting event.
- **Mirabai Chanu** is the first Indian to win a gold at CWG 2022.
- **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** is the first Indian man to win a gold at CWG 2022.
- **Sudhir** has won the first medal for India, a gold, in para sports at the CWG 2022.

**Opening ceremony flag-bearer: Manpreet Singh (Hockey) and PV Sindhu (Badminton)**

**Closing ceremony flag-bearer: Nikhat Zareen (Boxer) and Achanta Sharath Kamal (Table Tennis)**

With this win, India has achieved the landmark of **200 Gold medals** in CWG history, as India's gold medal tally now stands at 203, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> best in CWG history.



- 120.** The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has announced that **Uzbekistan** will host the **2026 Chess Olympiad**. In 2024, the World Chess Olympiad will be held in Budapest (Hungary).
- 121.** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Sri Lankan spin sensation **Prabath Jayasuriya** as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2022 and England batting all-rounder **Emma Lamb** as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for July 2022.
- 122. Tamara Walcott**, a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States has broken the **powerlifting** Guinness World Record (GWR), according to sources in the investigating agency for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of **737.5 kg** across three compound lifts – the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift. She was honoured at the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia in July 2022. GWR compared the weight she lifted with a female adult giraffe that weighs about 680.3 kg.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 123.** The **80th anniversary** of the **August Kranti** or **Quit India Movement**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of India, has been observed on **8 August 2022**.

### Quit India Movement:

On **8th August 1942**, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement at the **Bombay session** of the All-India Congress Committee. He gave the call "Do or Die" in his speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan. **Aruna Asaf Ali** hosted the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during this movement. The slogan '**Quit India**' was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**.

**Causes:** The immediate cause of this movement was the failure of the **Cripps Mission**. Other reasons were involvement of India in World War II without prior consultation with the leaders, prevalence of anti-British sentiment, shortage of essential commodities, mass movement, etc.

The Quit India Movement had three phases: (i) **First Phase**, urban revolt, marked by strikes, boy-cott and picketing, which were quickly suppressed; (ii) **Second phase**, the focus shifted to the countryside, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion, marked by destruction of communication systems; (iii) **Third phase** witnessed the formation of national governments or parallel governments in sheltered areas.

**Failure:** The Quit India Movement could not get full support from Hindu Mahasabha, India's Communist Party, the Indian bureaucracy, and the Muslim League. It was supposed to be a peaceful and non-violent movement. But it witnessed violence at some places.

**124.** August 8 is observed annually as ASEAN Day. The year 2022 marks the observance of the 55<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day and the theme is "Stronger Together".

**125. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, also known as World Tribal Day, is observed annually on **9<sup>th</sup> August** to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of the indigenous communities around the globe.

- The United Nations General Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1994 decided to observe International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples annually on 9<sup>th</sup> of August. The day was first observed in 1995.
- **Theme 2022:** "The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge"

Globally, 47% of all indigenous peoples in employment have no education, compared to 17% of their non-indigenous counterparts. This gap is even wider for women.

**126. Nagasaki Day** is observed annually on **9<sup>th</sup> August**. On this day, US dropped an atomic bomb on the Nagasaki city of Japan in 1945 during World War II. The first bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima and the second was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August which killed around 74,000 people or more. Bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki was known as "**Fat Man**". The year 2022 marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this incident.

**127. World Biofuel Day** is observed annually on **10<sup>th</sup> August** to raise awareness regarding the significance of **non-fossil fuels** as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. It is organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Oil and Gas. The day was first celebrated in the year 2015.

- The day is also celebrated in honour of **Sir Rudolf Diesel**. He was the inventor of the diesel engine and was the first to predict the possibility of vegetable oil replacing fossil fuels in 1893.
- **Theme 2022:** "Biofuels towards a Carbon Neutral World"

**128. World Lion Day** is observed annually on **August 10** to create awareness regarding the conservation of lions. The day was first observed in **2013** by wildlife filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, the co-founders of National Geographic and the Big Cats initiative.

- Lion (*Panthera Leo*) have been listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and are considered as endangered species on IUCN Red List. In India, they are found in the Gir National Park (674 Asiatic lions).

**129. International Youth Day** is observed annually on **12th August** to recognise and bring attention to the problems faced by the youth in the world. This day also emphasizes the need for the youth to have opportunities for education, healthcare, jobs, and the importance of their participation in public life. The day was first celebrated in the year 2000.

- **Theme 2022:** "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages"

**130. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** or Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas is observed annually across India on **14<sup>th</sup> August** to acknowledge the pain undergone by Indians due to the partition of India in 1947. It is estimated that between one to two million people died during the partition of the country. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **first** Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

The **Haryana** government has also organized a state-level programme to observe the day in Kurukshetra.

**131. World Elephant Day** is observed annually on **12 August** to raise awareness about the issues threatening elephants. The year 2022 marks the **11th** anniversary of this day. It was first observed in the year 2012. In the IUCN Red List of threatened species, African elephants are listed as Vulnerable and Asian elephants as Endangered.

**132. World Sanskrit Day** is observed annually on the occasion of **Shraavana Poornima** to encourage and make the upcoming generation familiar with the oldest language and the mother of all languages. The day also coincides with the festival of Raksha Bandhan. In 2022, the day falls on **12th August 2022**. The day was first observed in 1969.

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