

PRACTICE **MOCK****July 2022 - Week 4**

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Contents

NATIONAL AFFAIRS	2
STATES AFFAIRS	10
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	14
REPORTS & INDICES	16
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES	21
BUSINESS & ECONOMY	23
BANKING & FINANCE	27
RBI IN NEWS	30
AWARDS & RECOGNITION	32
BOOKS & AUTHORS	35
PERSON IN NEWS	36
OBITUARIES	37
SPORTS	38
IMPORTANT DAYS	42

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has become the first 100 percent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model. The port is presently handling 9000 TEUs capacity vessels and with the up-gradation, it can handle 12200 TEUs capacity vessels.

- Under the Landlord port model, the port authority acts as regulatory body and as landlord, whereas the port operations are carried out by private companies.

2. Droupadi Murmu has been elected as the **15th President of India** in the 16th Presidential Election of 2022. She is the **first tribal woman** and **second Indian woman** to be elected President of India. During the election, she has defeated former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha.

Profile of Droupadi Murmu (15th President of India):

- She was born on 20th June 1958 in **Mayurbhanj, Odisha**.
- She belongs to the **Santhal tribe** in Odisha.
- She served as the former **Governor of Jharkhand** between 2015 and 2021.
- She is the first President of India who hails from Odisha.

- She was awarded the prestigious '**Nilakantha Award for Best MLA**' in 2007 by the legislative assembly.

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Santhal Tribe:

Santhal is the third largest scheduled tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhil. The word 'Santhal' is derived from two words; 'santha' meaning calm and peaceful and 'ala' meaning man. Their population is concentrated in West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The Santhals speak Santali, the most widely spoken of the Munda languages. Santhals are a Munda ethnic group native to South Asia.

3. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a face authentication feature through a new mobile app called "**AadhaarFaceRd**". It will enable citizen to use face authentication for several other apps, including Jeevan Pramaan, Ration Distribution (PDS), Co-Win Vaccination App, Scholarship schemes, and Farmer welfare schemes like PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi).
4. The **17th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership** has been held in New Delhi in hybrid format. The conclave has emphasized upon the need for a trade and investment agreement between India and Africa. It has been organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, and **Ministry of External Affairs**.
 - The CII EBC on India-Africa Growth Partnership was launched in 2005.
 - **Note:** India has extended concessional loans of over USD 12.3 billion to Africa. In addition, India has granted USD 700 million of grant assistance.
5. India's '**first-of-its-kind**' **Brain Health Clinic (BHC)** has been unveiled at Jayanagar General Hospital, **Bengaluru** in **Karnataka**. It has been set up under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (**KaBHI**) in association with National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).
 - The mental treatment will be available at all **243 'Namma' clinics** that will become functional soon.
 - It will serve as nodal centres to diagnose, treat, refer and follow-up patients with common neurological disorders and ensure that they receive multi-disciplinary care, including counselling, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and disability benefits.

- Two more BHCs will be inaugurated soon in **Kolar and Chikkaballapura** districts of Karnataka.

Other launches:

- Cricketer **Robin Uthappa**, brand ambassador for Ka-BHI, has launched brain health activities, including a cricket match titled “Reflections with Robin: Morning Cricket”.
- A ‘**Know Your PHC**’ campaign has been launched, where trained Primary Health Centre (PHC) doctors will share information about brain health using various digital and in-person platforms.

KaBHI:

It is the first of its kind initiative in India with the objective to promote brain health in the community from PHCs to secondary level district hospitals and NIMHANS at the tertiary level. It was launched in January 2022 by the Karnataka government in association with NIMHANS and NITI Aayog.

6. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has launched the ‘**Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat**’ to promote Indian language technology with the intention to create a societal impact. This centre has been inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani. It is being supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani with a grant of Rs 36 crore through Nilekani Philanthropies.

AI4Bharat:

It is an initiative by IIT Madras. It has been started to build open-source language AI for Indian Languages. It has been aligned with objectives of Digital India Bhashini Mission.

7. **SAP Labs India** has partnered with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** to establish the **SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG)** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. The aim is to enhance digital government capabilities in India. The centre will cater to three broad pillars of activities: innovations in technology application for government service delivery, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, and thought leadership.

- National e-Governance Division (NeGD) was set up in 2009 as an independent business division under the Digital India Corporation by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- President & CEO:** Abhishek Singh

8. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the **Flag Code of India 2002** to allow the tricolor to be displayed in open and on individual houses or buildings throughout the **day and night**. Earlier, the tricolour could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset.

- In an earlier amendment dated 30th December 2021, the government had allowed the use of machine-made and polyester flags. Previously, such flags were not allowed to be used.

Flag Code of India:

It came into effect on **26th January 2002**. It states that a member of the public, private organisation, or educational institute is allowed to hoist the national flag on all days and occasions, ceremonial or otherwise, consistent with the dignity and honour of the flag. The code has been divided into three parts.

- **First part:** General description of the national flag.
- **Second part:** Display of the flag by members of the public, private organisations, and other institutions.
- **Third part:** Display of the national flag by central and state governments, and their organisations/agencies.

Before the 2002 code was introduced, the display of the national flag was governed by provisions of The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

9. Prasara Bharati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Kanpur** to develop Next Generation Broadcast Solution and Roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast.

- Presently, Doordarshan has 23 Digital Terrestrial Transmitters which are operational at 19 locations across India.
- All India Radio (AIR) has 123 MW transmitters in its network, out of which there are 38 digital MW transmitters.

Prasara Bharati is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio. It is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **CEO:** Mayank Kumar Agrawal

10. The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at **IIT Kanpur** has launched the **NIRMAN Accelerator Program**, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The program will focus on the manufacturing startups engaged in healthcare and agriculture domains to help them overcome the challenges from their prototype-to-market journey.

- Under this program, **15 start-ups** will be selected and given the opportunity to accelerate their product journey from 'lab to market'.

- The best-performing startups will receive a cash award of up to **Rs.1 million**.
- The 6-month-long programme will be devised into four segments, namely Principles of Product Growth; Engineering Acceleration; Navigating the Compliance Puzzle; and Leading to Next-Stage Growth.

11. The Government of India (GoI) has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to **15 percent** in **2030** from 6.3 percent currently. To achieve the target, various initiatives have been taken which include the following:

- Expansion of National Gas Grid to about 33,500 Km from current 21,715 km.
- Expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.
- Setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals.
- Allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) / Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) in no cut category.
- Allowing marketing and pricing freedom to gas produced from high pressure/high temperature areas, deep water & ultra-deep water and from coal seams.
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives to promote Bio-CNG.

12. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has launched **NDDB MRIDA Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), for manure management.

- NDDB has established NDDB MRIDA Limited, an Unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on 1st July 2022 as with the paid-up capital of **Rs. 9.50 crore**.
- **Sandeep Bharti** is the newly appointed Managing Director of NDDB MRIDA Limited.

NDDB has also registered a trademark named **"SuDhan"** to provide common identity to dung based organic fertilisers.

13. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth **Rs.28,732 crore** under Buy (Indian IDDM) and Buy (Indian) categories to boost 'Aatmanirbharta' in Defence.

DAC:

It is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.

Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.

14. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently (July 2022) approved the following proposals:

4g mobile services:

The Union Cabinet has approved project for saturation of **4G** mobile services in **24,680** uncovered villages of the country through Universal Service Obligation Fund, at an estimated cost of **Rs 26,316 crore**. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G. The project will be executed by BSNL.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Signing of Guarantees for the hosting of the 7th edition of the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022**. The tournament is scheduled to be held from 11th to 30th October 2022 across three cities: Bhubaneswar, Goa and Mumbai.

BM-SEAL 11 Project:

The Union Cabinet has approved additional investment of USD 1,600 million (about Rs. 12,000 crore) by Bharat Petro Resources Ltd. (BPRL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), for the development of **BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project in Brazil**.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL):

The Union Cabinet has approved a **Rs.1.64-lakh crore** revival package for the government-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Cabinet has also approved the merger of **Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL)** with BSNL. BBNL is a Special Purpose Vehicle and has been mandated to create the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) in India to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats.

MoU between NIRDPR & UoR:

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)** and **University of Reading (UoR)**, United Kingdom (UK) for collaboration in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries.

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- 15.** Indian Navy has received India's first indigenous aircraft carrier '**INS Vikrant**'. It is designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), and the carrier has been built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.
- It is named after the warship that played a crucial role in the 1971 war and was decommissioned in 1997.
 - It is a 45,000-tonne warship, constructed at a cost of around Rs.20,000-crore.
 - It is **262-meter** long and **62-meter** wide.
 - It has an operational endurance of 7500 nautical miles, with cruising speed of **28 knots**.
 - It will have a crew of 1,700, including women.
- 16.** The **Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA)** and the **Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation between the two organisations to promote the use of palm oil. This MoU aims to help educate Indian consumers on the nutritional and health benefits of palm oil and improve their overall understanding of palm oil and its applications.
- Note:** Malaysia is the 2nd largest palm oil producer in the world.
- 17.** The Indian Navy has received the first tranche of two **MH-60 R multirole helicopters** from the **United States of America (USA)** at Cochin International Airport, Kerala.
- India and the USA signed a USD 2.6 billion contract in 2020 for 24 MH-60R Romeo helicopters which will be built by Lockheed Martin Corporation.
 - The third helicopter is scheduled to be delivered in August 2022.
 - The delivery of all 24 MH 60R helicopters will be completed by 2025.
- MH-60R helicopter manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation** is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors.
- 18.** Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman S Somnath along with other senior scientists has inaugurated the **Human Space Flight Expo** in Bengaluru, Karnataka to commemorate the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav. The three-day expo has been launched in collaboration with the planetarium and the Bangalore Association for Science Education (BASE). The expo features a number of exhibits, including scaled models of various Indian satellites and launch vehicles as well as a scaled model of the proposed India Space Station.
- 19.** The Indian Army has organised a **Motor Bike expedition** from **New Delhi** to the **Kargil War Memorial** at Dras (Ladakh) to commemorate the **23 years** of victory over Pakistan in Kargil War of 1999 and celebrate the spirit of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The 30-member rally has

been flagged off by Lt Gen B S Raju, the Vice Chief of Army Staff from the National War Memorial, New Delhi. The bike rally has passed through Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In order to cover maximum areas, the rally is split into two teams, who moved along two different axes; i.e. the Zojila Pass axis and Rohtang Pass axis, covering a distance of 1400 km and 1700 km respectively.

20. Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated **Vaccination Centre for children** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**. He has also launched the **Bal Raksha mobile app**, which is aimed at creating awareness of paediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents. The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.
21. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has made amendments to the environmental impact assessment rules for exempting highway projects related to defence and strategic importance within **100 km** of India's "**Line of Control (LoC) or border**" from the requirement of environmental clearance. Highway projects exempted from these clearances will be subject to specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- The notification also exempts from the environmental clearance for the projects related to expansion of airport terminal buildings without increasing its existing area.
22. The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has observed its **84th Raising Day** on **27 July 2022**. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.
- CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is headquartered in New Delhi. It came into existence as the 'Crown Representative's Police' on **27 July 1939**. After Independence, it became the CRPF on the enactment of the 'CRPF Act' on 28 December 1949, which constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.

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23. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has chaired a seminar on "**Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace**". The seminar has been organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- During the seminar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been between DCPC and ILO for adopting the **International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)**.
- Under this MoU, employees working in the chemical industry will receive information and training on the safe use of chemicals.

24. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the **Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22)** to collect data on a variety of parameters, including operating holdings. This is the first time that data collection for the agricultural census will be conducted on smartphones and tablets. It will commence in August 2022.

Agriculture Census:

It is organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture. It is conducted every 5 years in collaboration with the States and Union Territories as part of programme of World Census of Agriculture. The first Agriculture Census was launched in 1970-71.

25. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, has launched the Minister's **Dashboard for Animal Husbandry and Dairying** in New Delhi. This dashboard helps in monitoring, and reporting real-time scheme data, and in analysing the schemes' key performance indicators and parameters through a visual matrix.

This dashboard encapsulates the following schemes:

- Livestock Health and Disease Control Program (LHDCP)
- National Livestock Mission (NLM)
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
- National Program for Dairy Development Fund (NPDD)
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)
- Supporting Dairy Co-operatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (SDCFPO)
- Dairy processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)

STATES AFFAIRS

26. The government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched "**Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme**", a scheme to provide cashless medical facility to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners and their dependents.

- With this, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to start such scheme in the country.
- The scheme will provide insurance coverage of upto Rs.5 lakh annually to the employees.

27. Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh), popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' (Gateway of Deccan), has become the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in India under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The people from each of 254 villages in Burhanpur have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas.

- As of July 2022, all the houses in the district 1,01,905 have access to tap water in 254 villages, including in 43,701 tribal households.
- Burhanpur, in north of the Tapti River, was founded in 1399 by Naşir Khan of the Faruqi dynasty of Khandesh. It was annexed by Akbar in 1601.

28. Hyderabad-based Indus International School has introduced **India's first Teaching robot** named **"Eagle"** to teach students. It has been developed by the school to assist teachers in teaching.

- The school has deployed 21 Eagle Robots in its branches located in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Pune.
- Eagle robot is capable of teaching students of Class 5 to 11.
- They are programmed to teach all the science and humanities subjects including languages.
- They can impart education in more than 30 different languages.

29. The state government of **Tripura** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), Shillong, for 21 projects including disaster management and resource mapping.

- The Indian Space Resource Organization (**ISRO**) and North Eastern Council (**NEC**) will fund to implement all the 21 projects within the next three years.
- An amount of **Rs.4.30 crore** has been sanctioned for disaster management as resource mapping.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced to set up a grand statue of **Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad** in **Bhopal**. At the base of the statue, soil brought from Bhabra, the birthplace of Azad, will be used and the statue site will be developed as a source of inspiration for the youth.

- The announcement has been made during the inaugural session of the first state-level **Youth Mahapanchayat** organized in Bhopal on the **116th birth anniversary** of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad.

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports and Youth Affairs **Anurag Thakur** has also addressed the programme virtually from New Delhi.

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Chandrashekhar Azad:

He was born on 23rd July 1906 in Bhabra village near Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh. He joined a Non-Cooperation Movement in December 1921. As a result, he was arrested. He joined Hindustan Republican Association (HRA). HRA was later reorganised as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA) in 1928. He was involved in the 1925 Kakori Conspiracy. He died at Azad Park in Allahabad on 27th February 1931.

- 30.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between **Rajasthan** Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) and Stree Nidhi, a government of **Telangana** organization to establish '**Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi**' (RMN), Rajasthan's **first** and **India's third** women's financial institution. It is being set up in the state on the lines of Telangana's Stree Nidhi model. It will be established with a total grant of **Rs.50 crore** from the Rajasthan government in 2 years.
- 31.** The National Institute of Speech and Hearing (**NISH**) and the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University (**KTU**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct innovative entrepreneurial development training projects for the differently-abled youth in **Kerala**.
- This unique project has been named the "**Innovation by Youth with Disabilities**" (**I-YwD**) project.
 - Initially, about 20 people in the age group of 15-40 will be given training and each participant will be given support for three years.
 - The representatives of 15 engineering colleges, affiliated with the KTU, will implement this project.
- 32. Haryana** Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, has launched an app-based '**Smart E-Beat**' **system** for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel in **Gurugram**.
- The app-based system has been introduced under the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI).

- The system will cover the area of all the **33 police stations** located in the urban area of Gurugram.
- As many as 119 motorcycle riders will be deployed, and 714 policemen will give duty on the rider in three shifts a day.

33. Bonalu Festival is a traditional folk festival of **Telangana**. It is observed annually in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and some other parts of Telangana state. This annual month-long festival is usually observed during the **Ashada Masam** which falls in July or August. The festival involves the worship of **Goddess Mahakali** in various forms. The festival involves devotees offering the traditional 'bonam' (derived from Bhojanam, meaning meals) to the goddess Mahakali at 25 temples.

- In 2022, the Bonalu festival is observed in the month of July.

34. Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a semiconductor policy "**Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-2027**" with an aim to support the semiconductor and display manufacturing sector and to generate more than 2 lakh new employment opportunities during a period of 5 years.

- This policy is in line with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which has an outlay of Rs.76,000 crore.
- The eligible projects will get **75 percent** subsidy on first 200 acres land purchase and **50 percent** on additional land required for fab projects or upstream/downstream and other projects approved under ISM.
- Gujarat government has also proposed to set up a '**Semicon City**' on 5,000-10,000 acres at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) where land, power and water will be provided at subsidised rates.

35. The state government of **Punjab** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to become a member of the global network called '**Under2 Coalition**' to address the issues of climate change. With this MoU, Punjab has become a member of largest network of 221 states or provincial governments of 43 countries committed to reduce CO2 and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, adopted at a UN climate change summit in Paris in 2015.

36. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has unveiled the '**Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath**' with the aim of making the women of the state aware of their constitutional rights and laws.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

37. National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) has selected **SpaceX** to launch the upcoming **Nancy Grace Roman Space telescope**, a next-generation space telescope scheduled to launch in 2026.

- The total cost for NASA to launch the Roman Telescope is approx. USD 255 million.
- The contract specifies that the Roman telescope will launch in **October 2026** from launch pad 39A at **Kennedy Space Center** atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.
- The telescope has a primary mirror that is **2.4 meters** (7.9 feet) in diameter.
- NASA Grace Roman was the first Chief of Astronomy at NASA's Office of Space Science and the first woman to hold an executive position in NASA.

38. China has successfully launched six new satellites into space with its new first and largest solid-propellant rocket '**ZK 1A**' from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China. The satellites included a new space technology test satellite and a test satellite for probing atmospheric density.

ZK 1A:

It has a length of 30 metres, a diameter of 2.65 metres and a lift-off weight of 135 metric tons. It is capable of sending satellites with a combined weight of 1.5 tons to a typical sun-synchronous orbit about 500 kms above the Earth. It has replaced the Long March 11 rocket which is 20.8 metres tall, with a diameter of 2 metres and a lift-off weight of 58 tons.

39. Bangladesh has signed an agreement with **India** to effectively implement the Comprehensive Border Management Plan (CBMP) to control border crimes including smuggling of drugs and narcotics, arms and ammunition, fake currency and gold among other things.

- The decision has been taken during the **52nd DG Level Border Conference** between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) which concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is a 5-day conference.
- The Indian delegation has been headed by BSF Director General **Pankaj Kumar Singh**, and the Bangladesh delegation has been headed by DG BGB Major General **Shakil Ahmed**.

40. European Commission has approved the **IMVANEX** vaccine to be marketed as protection against Monkeypox. Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries. This vaccine is developed by Danish biotechnology company Bavarian Nordic. It

can be used as active immunisation against smallpox, Monkeypox and disease caused by the vaccinia virus in adults.

Monkeypox:

It is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity. The infection was first discovered in 1958. This disease is caused by monkeypox virus. It involves fever for few days and lymph node swelling and a rash that can leave scars. It is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact. Human-to-human transmission can occur through direct contact with infectious skin or lesions, including face-to-face, skin-to-skin, and respiratory droplets.

Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

41. India and the **United Kingdom** have inked a pact for mutual recognition of **educational degrees** of students of bachelor, masters and doctoral courses.

- Under this pact, UK degrees will be recognised as equivalent to Indian degrees.
- Indian senior secondary school or pre-university certificates will also be considered for entry into UK's higher education institutions, enabling mobility of students.

42. The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), the global ports' forum for industry collaboration and excellence, has appointed **Ennarasu Karunesan** as its official representative in India. He currently serves as an advisor to Indian Ports.

IAPH	
Headquarters	Tokyo, Japan
Chairman	Patrick Verhoeven

43. India has contributed **USD 2.5 million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** in support of United Nations (UNs) programmes including education, health care, relief, and social services for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

India has been a dedicated contributor to UNRWA by donating around **USD 20 million** in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.

44. A **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** has been conducted between **Japan** Maritime Self-Defence Force and the **Indian Navy** in the **Andaman Sea**. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

Participants:

- **INS Sukanya**, an offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy.
- **JS Samidare**, a Murasame class destroyer of Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

Other Maritime Exercises between India & Japan:

- Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)
- Malabar Exercise (India – US – Japan - Australia)

45. **China** has recently launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station 'Tiangong' that will be completed by the end of 2022. The module has been named '**Wentian**'. The giant Long March-5B Y3 carrier rocket, carrying Wentian, has blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, China.

- The Wentian module consists of a work cabin, an airlock cabin and a resource cabin.
- It features cutting-edge technologies, strong capabilities, and sophisticated design and represents a new milestone in China's space industry.

46. The **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** has launched **gold coin** named "**Mosi-oa-Tunya**" to be sold to the public in order to tackle inflation, and to boost confidence in the local currency.
- The "Mosi-oa-tunya" coin, named after Victoria Falls, can be converted into cash and be traded locally and internationally.
 - The coins, each weighing one troy ounce have a purity of 22 carats.
 - People holding the coins will only be able to trade them for cash after 180 days from the date of buying.
 - Foreigners can only buy the coins in foreign currency.

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REPORTS & INDICES

47. Airports Council International (ACI) has published its annual **World Airport Traffic Dataset 2021**, revealing the magnitude of the aviation industry's recovery and confirming global air traffic rankings for the full year 2021.
- **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)** has topped the 2021 Ranking with 75.7 million passengers in terms of passenger footfall in the year 2021. It is followed by Dallas Fort Worth (62.5 million passengers) and Denver (58.8 million passengers).
 - From India, the **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi** has been ranked among the top 20, as the **13th** busiest airport. IGI has witnessed 37.1 million passenger footfall in 2021, which is 30.3% more than 2.8 crore in 2020 when IGI was ranked 16th.
 - The list of top 20 busiest airports represents 19% of global traffic (863 million passengers).
48. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the '**Youth in India 2022**' Report, which states that the population share of the youth has started declining whereas the share of the elderly is expected to increase during **2021-36 period**.

Key Highlights:

- The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of **2011-2036** period. The total youth population increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036.
 - The proportion of youth to the total population had increased from **26.6%** in 1991 to **27.9%** in 2016 and then projected to start a downward trend and to reach **22.7 %** by year 2036.
 - The proportion of elderly population to the total population has increased from **6.8%** in 1991 to **9.2%** in 2016 and is projected to reach **14.9%** in 2036.
 - The states such as **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh** are projected to see a higher elderly population than the youth by 2036.
 - **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** experienced a rise in proportion of youth population to total population till 2021 and then it is expected to start declining. These two states, along with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, are projected to have over half (52%) of the country's youth.
49. According to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint report 2022 (10th edition), **Parle Products Limited** has topped the ranking of the most chosen brand among Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) in India in 2021. Parle has topped the list for the 10th year in a row with a Consumer Reach Points (CRP) score of 6531 million.
- Parle is followed by **Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products**.

- Haldiram's has joined the billion CRP club and entered the top 25 ranking at number 24. Anmol (biscuits and cake brand) has also joined the CRP club.
- The number of brands reporting growth in CRP has improved in 2021 over 2020.
- The overall CRPs have increased from 89 billion to 98 billion, with the growth rate increasing from 3% in 2020 to 9% in 2021.

50. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited (ABHICL), in collaboration with **Policybazaar.com**, has launched 'OPD Add-on' for customers to address their health & wellness needs. This product provides unlimited medical consultation at an affordable price.

Types of OPD Add-on Cover:

- **Option (1):** Rs. 599 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

- **Option (2):** Rs. 799 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

- **Option (3):** Rs. 999 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

51. NTPC Limited has been recognized as one of the **"Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022"** in the premier edition of "Most Preferred Workplaces 2022" organized by Team Marksmen in association with India Today.

52. Saugata Gupta, MD and CEO of India's Consumer Good company, Marico Limited, has emerged as the **highest-paid Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) CEO** as his total pay in FY22 jumped by 157% from Rs.14.03 crore in FY21 to Rs.36.1 crore in FY22. She is followed by Sanjiv Mehta (Hindustan Unilever Limited), Suresh Narayanan (Nestle), Mohit Malhotra (Dabur India), and Sanjiv Puri (ITC).

53. According to Times of India report, **HDFC Bank** will be among the world's top 10 most valuable banks after its merger with the parent, mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), at the current valuations and will also be the first Indian bank to make it to the Top 10 club.

- HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has a market capitalisation of about **USD 108 billion** and recently edged past Citigroup (over USD 100.5 billion), which was at the 17th position.
- The combined market cap of HDFC Bank and HDFC would be around **USD 160 billion**.

- In April 2022, RBI approved HDFC Bank's proposed merger with parent and mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd (HDFC).

54. The **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, in its July 2022 update of the **Electricity Market Report**, has increased India's annual electricity demand from 6 percent to **7 percent** in **2022** due to exceptionally high summer temperatures, leading to a significant surge in consumption. Additionally, a 5% growth rate is forecasted for 2023.

Key Highlights:

- In Asia-Pacific, the growth in electricity demand is expected to be 3.4% in 2022, and is expected to reach 4% in 2023.
- In China, a 3% growth in demand is seen in 2022, while a 4% growth is expected in 2023.
- The growth in Europe is predicted to be less than 1% for 2022 with an uncertain forecast for 2023, growth in the Americas is expected to be 2% in 2022, and to drop below 1% in 2023.
- Demand in the Middle East is expected to rise up 2% in both 2022 and 2023, while demand in Africa is expected to rise up 4% in 2022 and 3% in 2023.

55. India has designated five new Ramsar sites, wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as The Convention on Wetlands. The new Ramsar sites in India include three wetlands in Tamil Nadu, one in Mizoram and one in Madhya Pradesh. The Ramsar sites have been increased from 49 to **54 Ramsar sites**.

Four New Ramsar sites:

- **Karikili Bird Sanctuary:** It is a 61.21-hectare protected area located in the Kancheepuram District of **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest:** It is a freshwater marsh located in Chennai, **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pichavaram Mangrove:** It is located in a village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District of **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pala wetland:** It is the largest natural wetland in **Mizoram**.
- **Sakhya Sagar:** It is an integral part of the Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district of **Madhya Pradesh**.

The Convention on Wetlands is also known as the Ramsar Convention. It is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in **1971** by UNESCO and came into force in 1975. The convention got its name from Ramsar city in Iran on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed. It provides for international cooperation and national action regarding conservation of wetlands and sustainable use of their resources.

56. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, India lost **329 tigers** in past 3 years. Poaching and other natural or unnatural causes are responsible for the loss.

Data on Tigers:

- In 2019, India lost 96 tigers; in 2020, India lost 106 tigers while **127 tigers** were lost in **2021**.
- Out of 329 deaths, 68 tiger died due to natural causes, 5 due to unnatural causes, 29 due to poaching and 30 due to seizure.
- Currently, 197 tigers have been put to scrutiny.
- Number of poaching cases has decreased from 17 in 2019 to 4 in 2021.
- 125 people got killed in tiger attacks in last three years. 61 deaths occurred in Maharashtra and 25 in Uttar Pradesh.

Data on Elephants:

- India lost **307 elephants** in the same period due to poaching, poisoning, train accidents and electrocution.
- 222 elephants lost their life to electrocution in past three years.
- 41 cases were reported in Odisha, 34 in Tamil Nadu and 33 in Assam.
- 45 elephants have died in train accidents.
- 12 train fatalities were reported in Odisha while 11 in West Bengal.
- 29 elephants lost life to poaching. Out of this number; 12 deaths occurred in Meghalaya and 7 in Odisha.
- 11 elephants died due to poisoning, of which 9 deaths occurred in Assam.

57. The 3rd edition of the **Kotak Private Banking Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women List 2021** has been released by Hurun Report in partnership with Kotak Private Banking.

- As per the list, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has emerged as India's richest woman with a total net-worth of Rs.84,330 crore.
- Roshni Nadar is followed by Falguni Nayar of Nykaa with a total net-worth of Rs.57,520 crore, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon with a total net-worth of Rs.29, 030 crore.
- As per the list, **Falguni Nayar** is the richest self-made women in India.
- **Kanika Tekriwal** of Jetsetgo has become the youngest self-made woman on the list.

58. As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has received the highest annual FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflows of almost **USD 84.835 billion** in FY 21-22, which exceeded the previous fiscal year by USD 2.87 billion.

- **Singapore** has the highest FDI inflow in India in FY22 with a contribution of 27.01 percent, followed by the USA (17.94%), Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%), and Switzerland (7.31%).
- The top five states receiving the highest FDI equity inflows during FY22 are **Karnataka (37.55%)**, Maharashtra (26.26%), Delhi (13.93%), Tamil Nadu (5.10%) and Haryana (4.76%).
- **Computer Software & Hardware sector** has bagged the highest FDI inflow in FY22 at 24.60 percent, followed by the Service sector at 12.13 percent and the automobile industry at 11.89 percent.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

- 59.** Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched three schemes to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the pharmaceutical sector. The schemes call for the establishment of clusters of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Common Research Centres, and Technology Upgradation for pharma MSMEs.
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** will be the project management consultant for implementing the scheme.

Three schemes:

- **Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS):** It will facilitate pharmaceutical MSMEs with proven track record to upgrade their technology. The scheme has provisions for a capital subsidy of 10 percent on loans up to a maximum limit of Rs 10 crore with a minimum repayment period of three years or interest subvention of up to 5 percent (6 per cent in case of units owned by SC/ST) on reducing balance basis. Allocated amount: **Rs.300 crore.**
- **Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF):** It will strengthen the existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity for sustained growth. It provides for an assistance of up to 70 percent of the approved project cost or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less. In case of Himalayan and north-east region, the grant-in-aid would be Rs 20 crore per cluster or 90 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less. Allocated amount: **Rs.178 crore.**
- **Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS):** It will involve preparation of study reports on topics of importance for the Indian pharma and medical device industry. Allocated amount: **Rs.21.5 crore.**

- 60.** The **NITI Aayog** has unveiled two important initiatives: the **e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation)** mobile application to spread awareness on electric mobility and the **Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and**

Recycling Market in India. These initiatives have been implemented during the visit of COP 26 President Alok Sharma to India in July 2022.

Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India:

- India is among 42 leaders to back and sign up for the UK`s Glasgow Breakthroughs, launched at the COP26 climate summit.
- India is also a co-convener of the Glasgow Breakthrough on Road Transport, together with the UK and the US.
- The Breakthrough on Road Transport aims to make Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) - including 2&3-wheelers, cars, vans and Heavy-Duty Vehicles the new normal by making them affordable, accessible and sustainable in all regions by 2030.
- India is the **fifth largest** and fastest growing vehicle market in the world, providing massive potential for electric vehicle uptake.

e-AMRIT:

The e-AMRIT app offers users key information like engagement tools that enable them to assess the benefits of electric vehicles, determine savings and get all the information on developments in the Indian electric vehicle market and industry at their fingertips.

61. Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)** as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India.

Key features of SD2.0:

- Development of benchmark and standards for generic and theme-specific (Culture and Heritage, Adventure tourism etc.) developments of tourism.
- Adoption of principles of sustainable tourism.
- Developing Tier-II & III destinations to promote domestic tourism.
- State Government to designate Implementing Agency (IA) for projects under SD 2.0 and inform MOT.
- SD 2.0 is 100% centrally funded and funds will be sanctioned and released to IA as per guidelines of scheme.

Note: Tourism sector in 2020 contributed USD 121.9 billion to India's GDP and accounted for 39 million jobs.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

It was introduced in **2014** by the Ministry of Tourism. It is a **Central Sector scheme** for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits (Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit etc.).

Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.

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PRACTICE MOCK

62. Department of Posts has launched a philately scholarship scheme **Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana** (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) for generating interest regarding Philately amongst students.

- **Aim:** To create interest among children related to stamp collection.
- Students of **class VI to IX** having good academic record and pursuing philately as a hobby will be awarded scholarship on the basis of Philately Quiz & Philately Project to be conducted by circle offices.
- It will provide an annual scholarship of **Rs. 6,000**.
- Around **920 scholarships** will be awarded to students in India.
- Each postal circle will award a maximum of **40 scholarships** to 10 students from Class VI to IX.
- There will be 5% relaxation for SC/ST students.

Note: Philately is the hobby of collecting and learning about postage stamps.

63. The Seekho Aur Kamao scheme has continued to surpass its target of earmarking **33%** of the total trained beneficiaries for female beneficiaries with **58.96%** female trainees in 2020-21.

Seekho Aur Kamao scheme:

- It is a skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group.
- It aims at upgrading the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.
- It ensures 75% placement, out of which 50% should be in organized sector.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** since 2013-14.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

64. Bajaj Healthcare Limited has become the first private player in India to be awarded a government contract for the highly-regulated opium processing sector. Now, the company

can use opium to extract Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used in medicines such as painkillers, cough syrups, and even cancer drugs.

- The company has been awarded two tenders for the supply of “opium-derived alkaloids & APIs” to the central government under long-term contracts and expects successive orders under similar tenders, to scale up to processing of 6,000 MT (metric tonnes) of poppy straw & opium gum in the next **5 years**.
- The company will execute both tenders at their API manufacturing unit in **Savli**, Gujarat.

65. BF Infrastructure, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge, has collaborated with **Talgo India Pvt Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spanish manufacturer Patentes Talgo SL, to set up a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing high speed passenger trains in India.

66. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract worth over **USD 100 million** with **Honeywell Aerospace** for the supply and manufacture of 88 TPE331-12B engines/kits along with the maintenance and support services to power the Hindustan Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40), which will be used to train Army, Navy, and Indian Air Force pilots.

67. Microsoft has launched ‘**Viva Engage**’, a new app in Teams that helps build community and connection, along with providing tools for personal expression. It is built on the foundation of Yammer. It is designed to give employees across multiple roles and functions what they need to feel connected.

- In June 2022, Microsoft introduced the first of a new dimension of Viva named ‘Microsoft Viva Sales’.

68. Wipro Ltd has signed a five-year contract with Finnish telecom equipment maker **Nokia** for digital transformation. The goal is to enable Nokia to win in the 5G world and beyond. Wipro will deliver global business services in support of Nokia’s renewed operating model, focusing on process optimisation, touchless processing and enhanced user and customer experience across order management supply chain, finance, and accounting operations.

69. Google Maps has launched **Street View** in India in collaboration with **Tech Mahindra** and Mumbai-based **Genesis International** to show a 360-degree view of streets & landmarks.

- Initially, it will cover over 150,000 km across **ten cities**: Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.
- It has been planned to expand the service to more than 50 cities of India by the end of 2022.
- Google Street View is powered by images from third parties as per the National Geospatial Policy, 2021.

The 360-degree interactive panorama feature of Google Maps has been available in cities spread over 100 countries since 2007.

70. The **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)** has launched a new scheme to insure up to **90 percent** of the credit risk in export finance, supporting small exporters by encouraging banks to provide more credit for export amid global economic uncertainty.

- Under the scheme, manufacturer-exporters will be able to secure fund-based export credit working capital limit up to **Rs 20 crore** excluding gems, jewellery and diamond sector and merchant exporters or traders.
- The risk cover is provided under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB- WTPC & PS).

71. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report has lowered India's growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) by **0.8%** to **7.4 percent** from 8.2 percent estimated earlier. It has projected India's economy to grow by 6.1% in FY23-24.

- IMF has also lowered growth forecast for global economy in 2022 to **3.2%**.

72. National Small Industries Corporation (**NSIC**) has signed an agreement with **LG Electronics** India Pvt Ltd and the Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (**ESSCI**) to set up a "Centre of Excellence" for MSME at NSIC – Technical Services Centre. The aim is to train underprivileged youth in the fields of consumer electronics and appliances. 600 youths will be served each year in the first year.

73. **Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Greenko ZeroC** (Greenko) to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, **Green Hydrogen**, Green Ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen.

- This MoU will be valid for 2 years.
- This MoU is in line with the National Hydrogen Mission, which was launched in 2021 to make India a global green hydrogen hub.
- The activities envisaged under this MoU will contribute towards India's target of producing of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen per annum by 2030.

74. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)**', at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Gandhinagar, Gujarat. IIBX is India's first international bullion exchange.

- IIBX was announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the **2020-21** Union Budget and regulations for the same were notified in December 2020.

IIBX:

- It is the third exchange of its kind in the globe and will facilitate the transition of the Indian bullion market towards a more organised structure by granting qualified jewellers direct access to import gold directly through the exchange mechanism.
- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** is the regulator of IIBX.
- It is promoted by five market institutional investors i.e., CDSL, India INX, NSDL, NSE and MCX.
- NRIs and institutes will also be eligible to participate in the exchange after registering with IFSCA.
- Initially, Gold 1 kg with 995 purity and Gold 100 grams with 999 purity will be traded with a settlement period of T+0. Further, the exchange is expected to extend the settlement period to T+2 days.
- **Ashok Gautam** will head IIBX as MD and CEO.

Other initiatives launched in GIFT City:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the **Headquarters Building** of the International Financial Services Centres Authority in Gandhinagar.
- He has also launched the **NSE IFSC-SGX Connect platform**. Connect is a framework between NSE's subsidiary in GIFT IFSC and Singapore Exchange. Under this platform, clients, investors and trading members of SGX who used to trade in NSE listed Indian securities through SGX would now trade in these securities through NSE IFSC.

75. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **USD 96.3 million** (about Rs.770 crore) loan to fund safe drinking water and sanitation project in **Himachal Pradesh**. The loan has been provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project.

- The project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 370,000 residents across 10 districts.
- The project will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.

76. The **World Bank** has appointed **Indermit Gill** as the chief economist and senior vice president for development economics. His appointment will be effective from 1st September 2022.

- He will be the **second Indian**, after Kaushik Basu, to become the chief economist of the World Bank that grants loan to middle and lower-income countries.

77. NTPC Limited has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with **NITI Aayog** to develop the Net Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions Roadmap for NTPC. This supports India's

'Panchamrit' goals that was undertaken during COP 26 for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

- NTPC will help in reducing the carbon footprint for achieving the targets for emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modelling including development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047 and 2070.

78. Bharti Airtel has allotted **71,176,839 equity shares** of the face value of Rs 5 each fully paid up, on preferential basis to Google International LLC (**Google**) at an issue price of Rs 734 per equity share. The allotment is part of Google's commitment to invest USD 1 billion with Airtel, which included equity investment in the company worth USD 700 million, about Rs.5,224 crore. Google made the investment as part of its USD 10-billion India Digitization Fund.

BANKING & FINANCE

79. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched an add-on motor insurance cover, called '**Pay As You Consume**' (**PAYC**). It has been launched under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI's) Sandbox Regulations. The PAYC add-on cover can be opted by the customer along with the basic Own Damage (OD) plan under Package Product, Bundled and Standalone OD cover.

80. Canara Bank has launched its mobile banking app namely, '**Canara ai1**', which is a one-stop solution with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers. It is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language. The app has advanced features such as an intuitive user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) with multiple themes and menus that can be personalised as per the user's choice.

81. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **Citibank**, N.A.'s (Citi) and Citicorp Finance India Limited's undertakings comprising their consumer banking activities by **Axis Bank** under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act 2002. The approval has been given for **Rs. 12,325 crore** Axis Bank-Citi deal, which is payable after the entire Citi Bank's business is transferred to Axis Bank.

- CCI has also approved the acquisition of up to **11.43% stake** in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (Greenforest).

82. The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Company (LIC) Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL) has approved the appointment of **Ravi Kishan Takkar**, former MD & CEO of UCO Bank, an additional Director (Independent) on the LIC HFL's Board. He will hold the office as Independent Director for 5 years effective from the date of appointment (25th July 2022).

- 83. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has collaborated with **Tata AIG General Insurance Company** for providing TATA Accidental Guard Policy to IPPB customers. A special drive has commenced from 15th July in all post offices in Goa for covering the citizens of the state under this policy.
- 84. HDFC Securities Limited** has tied up with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** to provide its clients with a demat account and its broking or investment services. With this partnership, Equitas Small Finance Bank will be able to offer its customers a 3-in-1 account that helps them access the services of HDFC Securities.
- 85. Bandhan Bank** has opened its first currency chest in **Deedargunj** in Patna, Bihar. This will help in cash management for bank branches and ATMs. This will particularly help public, MSMEs, and small traders with supply of currency notes to the branches and ATMs.

Currency Chest:

A currency chest is a depository of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) where the excess money meant for the banks and ATMs is stored. The currency chests are located in the premises of the selected branches of the banks and are administered by RBI.

- **Note:** As per the RBIs 2020-21 Annual Report, there are 2,878 currency chests in India.

- 86. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has reduced its shareholding in **Sun Pharmaceuticals** by selling a **2.002%** stake in the company for around Rs.3882 crore, decreasing its shareholding from 7.026% to **5.024%** of the paid-up capital. LIC's shareholding in Sun Pharma has diluted from 16,85,66,486 to 12,05,24,944 equity shares.
- 87. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has collaborated with legal education startup **LawSikho** to bring world class skill development programs resonating with the vision of NSDC. The objective is to fulfill the growing need in India for skilled manpower and narrow the existing gap between demand and supply of skills. It will benefit over 10,000 learners over a period of three years.
- 88. Union Bank of India (UBI)** has planned to develop an automated solution '**Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution**' (**SARAS**) for the early resolution of stressed assets through a bad loan management system.
- 89.** The automated solution will cover recovery actions under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI), Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

90. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued new norms on **settlement of running accounts** of clients' funds lying with stock brokers. The new guidelines will be effective from **1st October 2022**.

- Under the guidelines, the settlement of the running account of funds of the client will be done by the trading member after considering the End of the day (EOD) obligation of funds as on the date of settlement across all the exchanges on the first Friday of the quarter for all the clients.
- The running account of funds will be settled on the first Friday of October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023, and so on for all the clients.
- If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.
- For clients, who have opted for monthly settlement, running accounts will be settled on the first Friday of every month.

The process of transferring back the unused funds of the clients to their accounts by stock brokers is known as **Running Account Settlement**.

91. **Kotak General Insurance** has joined hands with **Inspektlabs** to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology to automate the vehicle inspection process. This will replace humans in repetitive work and save costs and increase customer satisfaction by reducing time in the policy renewal process.

92. Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) has signed a loan agreement with the government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of **100 billion Japanese Yen (JPY)** or **Rs.6000 crore** as the third tranche for the construction of **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project (III)**.

- **Objective:** To develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's *Shinkansen* technology (also known as the "Bullet Train").
- The loan agreement has been signed after the **JPY 250,000 million** (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package of JICA's commitment in 2017.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.

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PRACTICE MOCK

- 93.** The **City Union bank (CUB)** has formed a bancassurance partnership with **Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, and Royal Sundaram General Insurance** to provide its customers with health, life, and general insurance options.
- In total CUB has collaborated with 8 insurers: three each in life (LIC, TATA AIA, and Bajaj Alliance) and health (Star Health, Aditya Birla, and Care Insurance) and two in general insurance (Shriram General and Royal Sundaram).
- 94.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for commencing the validation of all KYC (Know Your Customer) records by KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) by three months to **1st November 2022**.
- KYC records of all existing clients, who have used Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD), will be validated within a period of 180 days from 1st November 2022.

RBI IN NEWS

- 95.** The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments index (DPI)** has increased to **349.30** in **March 2022**, compared to 304.46 for September 2021. The index stood at 270.59 in March 2021.

Key highlights:

- Among the digital modes of payments, the number of transactions using Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) has increased by 30.5 percent during 2021-22. In terms of value, RTGS transactions registered an increase of 21.8 percent.
- Transactions through the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system has witnessed an increase of 30.6 percent and 14.3 percent in volume and value, respectively.
- Payment transactions carried out through credit cards has increased by 27 percent and 54.3 percent in terms of volume and value, respectively.
- Transactions through debit cards has decreased by 1.9 percent in terms of volume, though in terms of value, it has increased by 10.4 percent.

Digital Payments Index (DPI)

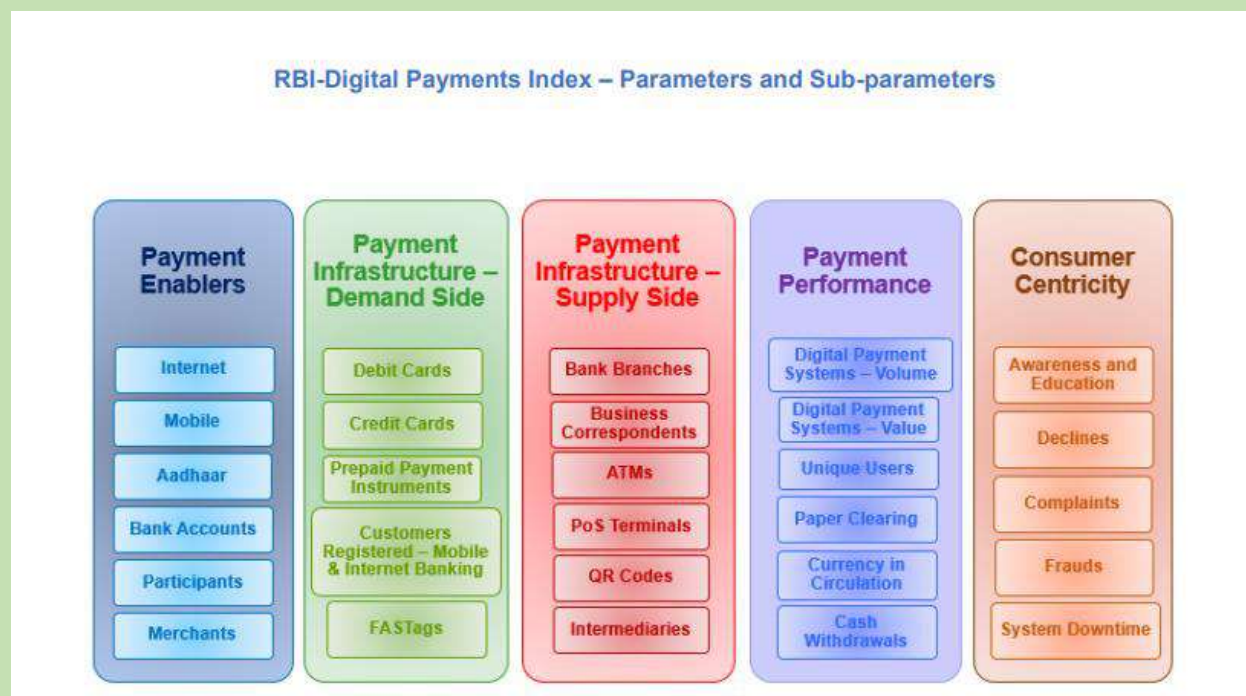
Digital payments in India have been growing rapidly. Therefore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The RBI- Digital Payments Index (DPI) comprises of **5 broad parameters** that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.

These parameters are:

1. Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
2. Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%),
3. Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%),
4. Payment Performance (45%), and
5. Consumer Centricity (5%).

Each of these parameters have sub-parameters which, in turn, consist of various measurable indicators. The major sub-parameters under each parameter are as follows:



- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with **March 2018** as the base period, i.e. DPI score for March 2018 is set at **100**.

96. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as perceived by the Union Government and Life Insurance Companies (LIC), has accepted the Government of India (GoI) request to permit non-financial institutions and unregulated entities to own more than **40 percent stake** in **IDBI Bank** and to sell between 51 and 74 percent of the lender through a strategic divestment process.

97. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has allowed Ajay Piramal-led **Piramal Enterprises Ltd (PEL)** to start a **non-banking finance company (NBFC)** without accepting public deposits. Earlier, the company had acquired Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL) for Rs 34,250 crore.
98. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given another window to **Payment Aggregators (PAs)** existing as of March 2020 to apply to the central bank for a licence. PAs could now apply for a licence by **30th September 2022**, and should have a minimum net worth of **Rs.15 crore** as on 31st March 2022.
99. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions, including on fund withdrawals, on two Uttar Pradesh-based cooperative banks in view of their deteriorating financial position. The two lenders are **Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank** and **Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Sitapur**. The restrictions will remain in force for six months. The withdrawal limit in the case of Urban Co-operative Bank is Rs.50,000 per customer and Rs.30,000 per customer of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank.
100. RBI has also imposed various restrictions on three cooperative banks including on the withdrawal of funds in view of their deteriorating financial condition. These banks are **Durga Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Vijayawada** (withdrawal limit Rs.1.50 lakh), **Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Basmatnagar** (No amounts can be withdrawn), **The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Solapur** (withdrawal limit Rs.10000). The restrictions imposed under Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 will remain in force for six months.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

101. **Viktor Orlov (Russia), Mercouri Kanatzidis (Greece) and Kaushik Rajashekara (India)** from the United States have won the Global Energy Prize 2022.
- Kaushik Rajashekara has won the award for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.
 - Victor Orlov has won the award in the "Traditional Energy" category and Mercouri Kanatzidis has won the award in the "Unconventional Energy" category.
- The prize bestowed by the Global Energy Association will be awarded during the ceremony which will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on 12-14 October 2022.

102. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has announced the winners of the **68th National Film Awards** in New Delhi. The event is organised by the

Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

68th National Film Awards 2022:

- Best Feature Film: **Soorarai Pottru**
- Best Director: **Sachidanandan KR**, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Tanhaji
- Best Actor: **Suriya** for Soorarai Pottru and **Ajay Devgn** for Tanhaji
- Best Actress: Aparna Balamurali, Soorarai Pottru
- Best Supporting Actor: Biju Menon, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Supporting Actress: Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli, Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengallum
- Best Action Direction Award: AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Choreography: Natyam (Telugu)
- Best Lyrics: Manoj Muntashir for Saina (Hindi)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Rahul Deshpande for Mi Vasant Rao and Anish Mangesh Gosavi for Taktak
- Best Female Playback Singer: Nanchamma, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Music Direction: Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, S Thaman
- Best film on Social Issues: 'Justice Delayed but Delivered & Three Sisters
- Best Choreography: Natyam
- Best Cinematography: Avijatrik
- Best Audiography: Dollu, **Mi Vasant Rao, and Malik**
- Best Costume Design: Tanhaji
- Best Production Design: Kappela
- Best Editing: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- Best Make-up: Natyam
- Best Screenplay: Soorarai Pottru, Sudha Kongara, and Mandela, Madonne Ashwin
- Best Stunt Choreography: Ayyappanum Koshiyum

Special Jury Award:

- Best Feature Film in Hindi: **Toolsidas Junior**
- Best Feature Film in Kannada: Dollu
- Best Feature Film in Malayalam: Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam
- Best Feature Film in Tamil: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- Best Feature Film in Telugu: Colour Photo
- Best Feature Film in Haryanvi: Dada Lakhmi
- Best Feature Film in Dimasa: Samkhor
- Best Feature Film in Tulu: Jeetige

Non-Feature Films:

- Best Film on Family Values: **Kumkumarchan, Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi**
- Best Direction: Oh That's Bhanu, RV Ramani
- Best Music Direction: 1232 kms – Mareng Toh Wahin Jaakar, Vishal Bhardwaj
- Best Cinematography: Sabdikunna Kalappa, Nikhil S Praveen
- Best Audiography: Pearl of the Desert, Ajit Singh Rathore
- Best Editing: Borderlands, Anadi Athaley
- Best Narration Voiceover: Rhapsody of Rains – Monsoons of Kerala, Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan
- Best On-Location Sound: Jadui Jangal, Sandeep Bhati, and Pradeep Lekhwar
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation
- Best Book on Cinema: The Longest Kiss by Kishwar Desai
- Best Book on Cinema (Special Mention): MT Anunahvangelude Pusthakam, Anoop Ramakrishnan, and Kali Paine Kalira Cinema by Surya Deo
- Best Film Critic: No winner this year.
- Most Film Friendly State: Madhya Pradesh

Feature Film Awards:

- Best Hindi Film: **Toolsidas Junior**
- Best Malayalam Film: Thinkalazcha Nishchayam
- Best Telugu Film: Colour Photo
- Best Bengali Film: Avijatrik
- Best Assamese Film: Bridge
- Best Tulu Film: Jeetige
- Best Tamil Film: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum
- Best Marathi Film: Gostha Eka Paithanichi
- Best Kannada Film: Dollu
- Best Dimasa Film: Semkhor
- Best Haryanvi Film: Dada Lakhmi

Other Awards:

- **Madhya Pradesh** (Rajat Kamal & Certificate) has won the Most Film Friendly State award while Uttarakhand (Certificate) and Uttar Pradesh (Certificate) get Special Mention.
- **'The Longest Kiss'** by Kishwar Desai wins Best Book on Cinema for the year while Malayalam book 'MT Anunahvangelude Pusthakam' and Odia book 'Kali Paine Kalira Cinema' win special mention.

The National Film Awards are the most precious and prominent film award ceremony in India which was established in 1954.

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103. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has presented Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** with the **Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award 2022**, drawing comparisons between the two leaders in times of crises. He has been honoured for standing against Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and fighting back. He has received the award in virtual mode.

Winston Churchill Leadership Award:

It was first given in 2006. It has been presented to Prince Charles, former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major in the past.

Sir Winston Churchill was a British statesman, writer and soldier. He also served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during Second World War, as well as from 1951-1955.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

104. Faisal Farooqui has released a new book on the legendary actor of Indian cinema, Yusuf Khan, better known as Dilip Kumar titled **"In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar"**. The book is a tribute to Dilip Kumar the man more than Dilip Kumar the actor.

- Faisal Farooqui is the founder and CEO of India's leading review and rating platform, Mouthshut.com.

105. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has released three books showcasing some of the rarest photographs of outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind and his predecessors. These books are as follows:

- The first book is titled **'Moods, Moments and Memories...'**. It has a collection of rarely seen images of the former presidents of India from 1950-2017.
- The second book is titled **'The First Citizen'**. It has pictorial records of President Ram Nath Kovind's term.
- The third book is titled **'Interpreting Geometries – Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan'**, documents and analyses the intricate play of geometry applied to evolve the unique flooring patterns in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 106. Rajarshi Gupta** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). He has succeeded Alok Gupta.
- 107.** One97 Communications, the parent entity of Paytm, has appointed Standard Chartered Bank executive **Nakul Jain** as CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL). He has succeeded **Praveen Sharma**, who has been promoted to oversee the organisation's commerce vertical in addition to his other duties.
1. Paytm Payments is a unit through which Paytm operates its payment gateway and payment aggregator businesses.
- 108.** Indian cricketer **Karuna Vijaykumar Jain** has announced her retirement from all forms of **cricket**. She hails from Bengaluru, Karnataka. She holds the record for the 3rd highest number of dismissals as a wicketkeeper for India in One Day Internationals (ODI), totalling 58. She featured in 5 tests, 44 ODIs, and 9 T20Is from 2005 to 2014.
- 109. Pranay Kumar Verma**, presently Ambassador of India to Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**. He is an IFS officer from the 1994 batch. Whereas, **Sandeep Arya**, an IFS officer from the 1994 batch, has also been named as India's new ambassador to the Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**. He is presently employed by the Ministry of External Affairs as an Additional Secretary.
- 110.** Infrastructure entity TATA Projects Limited has appointed **Vinayak Pai** as its Managing Director. He has succeeded Vinayak Deshpande.
- 111. Coca-Cola** has signed Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra** for Limca Sportz promotion. Neeraj Chopra has recently become the first-ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships with his best throw of 88.13 m.

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OBITUARIES

112. Sushovan Banerjee, known as '**One Rupee Doctor**', has recently passed away due to kidney-related disease in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born in Bolpur, West Bengal. He was an Indian physician, politician, & social worker. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2020** for his contribution in the field of medicine.

113. Noted British Scientist & Environmentalist **James Lovelock** has recently passed away in Abbotsbury village, Dorset in England. He was born on 26th July 1919 in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, England. He was known for proposing the **Gaia hypothesis**, which postulates that the Earth functions as a self-regulating system.

Gaia hypothesis:

It is named after the mythical Greek goddess Gaia who personifies the earth. It was first proposed by British scientist James Lovelock in his 1972 paper "*Gaia as seen through the atmosphere*". The hypothesis states that the earth is a complex living entity, with the sustenance of life dependent on the self-regulating interactions among organisms and their inorganic surroundings.

114. UK-based Punjabi singer **Balwinder Safri**, well-known as Bhangra star, has recently passed away in United Kingdom. He was known for his popular tracks like 'O chan mere makhna', 'Pao Bhangra', 'Gal Sun Kuriye', 'Nachdinu' and many more. He also had formed his band named Safri Boyz Band in 1990.

115. US actor **Paul Sorvino**, famous for his role in the gangster classic "Goodfellas" and the father of actress Mira Sorvino, has passed away at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, USA. He was born on April 13, 1939, in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, USA.

116. American Film Director, **Bob Rafelson**, a co-creator of the Monkees who became an influential figure in the New Hollywood era of the 1970s, has recently passed away in Colorado, USA. He was born on 21st February 1933 in New York, USA. He directed the 1987 film Black Widow, starring Debra Winger, and Mountains of the Moon (1990); and two more films starring Nicholson in Man Trouble (1992) and Blood and Wine (1997).

117. First Minister of Northern Ireland, **William David Trimble**, has recently passed away at the age of 77 years. He was born on 15th October 1944 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was the key architect of the **Good Friday Agreement (GFA)** in 1998 which ended the 30 years of

disputes in Northern Ireland. He was awarded the **Noble Peace Prize** in **1998** along with John Hume for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

- 118.** Noted scientist and director of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), **Dr Ajay Kumar Parida** has passed away in Guwahati, Assam. He was born on 12th December 1963 in Odisha. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** by the President of India in **2014** for his outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Engineering.

SPORTS

- 119.** Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver **Max Verstappen** has won the **2022 French Grand Prix** held at Paul Ricard racetrack in Le Castellet, France. This marks his **seventh** win of the season. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (British) has finished second and Mercedes driver George Russell (British) has finished third.

- 120.** The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India participating in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with the campaign "**Create for India.**" A 215-member Indian athlete contingent across 16 disciplines will participate in the Commonwealth Games beginning on 28th July 2022.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) was set up in 1984 to carry forward the legacy of the IXth Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982 under the Department of Sports.

- 121.** Indian Grandmaster **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open** in Spain. He scored eight points from 10 rounds along with 10 others, but finished first on tie-break rules. Grandmaster Robert Hovhannisyan (Armenia) has finished second while India's Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has finished third.

- 122.** **Adani Sportsline**, the sports arm of the Adani Group, has become an official partner with the **Indian Olympics Association (IOA)** for the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and Paris Olympic Games 2024. This is the second time that the Adani Group has come on board with IOA.

- 123.** **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has collaborated with **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to establish the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024. The aim is to boost the performances of Indian athletes, and support the national sports federations.

Note: In the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics, India will also be hosting the 140th prestigious IOC Session in June 2023 at the state-of-the-art Jio World Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- 124.** Four-time world champion and current Aston Martin driver, **Sebastian Vettel (Germany)**, has announced his retirement from F1 at the end of the 2022 season. He made his debut in F1 in 2007 with Toro Rosso. He achieved the peak of his career with Red Bull where he won every F1 championship between 2010 and 2013. He joined Ferrari in 2015, and Aston Martin in 2021.
- 125.** The Organising Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games Paris 2024 has unveiled the new motto for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. The new motto is **"Games Wide Open"**.
- Paris will host the Summer Olympics for the third time in 2024, which also marks the centenary of the last Paris Games in 1924.
 - The Olympic Games will take place from 26th July to 11th August 2024.
 - The Paralympic Games will take place from 28th August to 8th September 2024.
- 126.** The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced that the Asia Cup 2022 has been shifted from Sri Lanka to **UAE**. However, the hosting rights of the game will still remain with Sri Lanka.
- The tournament will be held from August 27 to September 11, 2022, in the **T20 format**.
 - This is the second consecutive time that the tournament will be played in the UAE.
 - It is the **15th edition** of the Asia Cup cricket tournament.
 - The Asia Cup was last played in 2018 and India are the defending champions.
- 127.** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new **A+ category** for its **umpires** and Nitin Menon, along with ten other officials, have been grouped in the category. Umpires in A+ and A categories are paid **Rs. 40,000** a day for a first-class game while **Rs.30,000** a day are paid in the B and C category.
- The others in the A+ category include four international umpires: Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan.
 - Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.
 - Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

- 128.** The 54th edition of the **Swiss Open Tennis Tournament 2022** has been held in Gstaad, Switzerland. Norway's **Casper Ruud** has won the men's singles title after defeating Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final match.
- **Doubles title:** Tomislav Brkic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Francisco Cabral (Portugal)
- 129. Leicester Cricket Ground** in England has been named after India's legendary cricketer, **Sunil Gavaskar**. The Leicester Cricket Ground, the ownership of which lies with Bharat Sports and Cricket Club, has decided to name the ground after him to acknowledge his immense contribution to uplifting Indian Cricket to a certain height. It is a 5-acre sports field.
- Sunil Gavaskar already has stadiums named after him in Kentucky (USA), and Zanzibar (Tanzania).
 - He is the first Indian cricketer to have a ground named after him in England or anyplace else in Europe.

Sunil Gavaskar was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs and once held the record for most number (34) of centuries. He was also part of the Indian team that won the 1983 World Cup. He also became the first-ever batter in the history of test cricket to cross the tally of 10,000 runs.

- 130.** The 18th edition of the **2022 World Athletics Championships** has been held at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, United States. The highest number of medals have been won by the **United States of America (USA)** with 13 gold, 9 silver, and 11 bronze medals (total 33). It is followed by **Ethiopia and China**.

India's performance:

- India has ranked at 33rd place, and 4th best in Asia only behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
 - India has won only one medal (silver) in the championship.
 - India's **Neeraj Chopra** has won the **silver medal** in the men's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships 2022 with a best throw of 88.13m. With this, he has become the *second Indian*, and first Indian man to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships, after long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won bronze in 2003.
- Anderson Peters (Grenada)** has won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.
- 131.** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat State Government and the Gujarat Olympic Association (GOA) for the joint conduct of the **36th National Games, Gujarat 2022**.

- A logo has also been launched which depicts the Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Gir Asiatic Lion.
- The tagline of the event is **“Celebrating Unity Through Sports”**.
- The 36th National Games is scheduled between 27th September – 10th October 2022 in six cities of Gujarat.
- The six cities include Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar.

132. The **Yonex Taipei Open 2022**, a badminton tournament, has been held at Taipei Heping Basketball Gymnasium in Taipei, Taiwan. It is the 15th tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and also part of the Taipei Open championships.

Category	Winners
Men's Singles	Chou Tien-chen (Taiwan)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)
Men's Doubles	Man Wei Chong, and Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)
Women's Doubles	Ng Tsz Yau, and Tsang Hiu Yan (Hong Kong)
Mixed Doubles	Lee Chun Hei, and Ng Tsz Yau (Hong Kong)

133. The 15th edition of the **Women's FIH Hockey World Cup 2022**, the quadrennial world championship for women's national field hockey teams, has been organized at the Estadi Olímpic de Terrassa in Terrassa, Spain and at the Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen, the Netherlands. It has been organized by the International Hockey Federation.

- **Netherlands** has won the 2022 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup for the 9th time by defeating Argentina. Australia has finished third.

Other Awards:

- **Best Player:** María José Granatto (Argentina)
- **Best Young Player:** Charlotte Englebert (Belgium)
- **Best Goalkeeper:** Belén Succi (Argentina)
- **Top scorer(s):** Agustina Gorzelany (Argentina)

134. India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka have been named as the four hosts for the International Cricket Council (ICC) women's white-ball events from 2024-27.

- **India** will host the **2025** Women's ODI World Cup, for the first time since 2013.
- **Bangladesh** will host the **2024** Women's T20 World Cup, while the **2026** edition will be held in **England**.
- **Sri Lanka** has secured hosting rights for the Women's T20 Champions Trophy **2027**, provided it qualifies for the event.

The ICC has also awarded membership status to three countries during the ongoing ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham, England.

- **Cambodia** and **Uzbekistan** from Asia, and **Cote D'Ivoire** from Africa have been awarded Associate membership status, taking ICC's total members to **108 countries**, including 96 Associates.
- The two Asian teams take the total count of Asian countries to 25 while Cote D'Ivoire is the 21st country from Africa.

IMPORTANT DAYS

135. National Broadcasting Day is observed annually on **23rd July** to commemorate the first radio broadcast made on this day, in 1927, from the Bombay Station of the Indian Broadcasting Company. On this day in 1927, Indian Broadcasting Company Limited (IBC), a personal corporation, launched All India Radio's journey. On June 8, 1936, the British Raj eventually took control of the Indian Broadcasting Company Limited (IBC) and transformed it into All India Radio (AIR).

The year 2022 marks the **95th anniversary** of the establishment of the All India Radio (AIR) which was formerly known as IBC.

136. The **Earth Overshoot Day 2022** has been observed on **28th July 2022**, a day before it was celebrated last year (29th July) and a month earlier than it was celebrated in 2020 (22nd August). The day marks the date when humanity has exhausted nature's budget for the year.

- It is calculated by **Global Footprint Network**, an international research organization that provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth's ecological limits.

137. Income Tax Day or 'Aaykar Diwas' is observed annually across India on **24th July** by the Income Tax Department to commemorate the introduction of provision of income tax in the country. The year 2022 marks the **162nd Income Tax Day**.

- On 24th July 1860, Sir James Wilson introduced income tax for the first time in India. The day was celebrated for the first time in 2010, to mark 150 years of income tax in India.
- Income Tax Department is responsible for direct tax collection for the Government of India. It functions under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of finance, and is headed by an apex body called the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). It is headquartered in New Delhi.

138. World Drowning Prevention Day is observed annually on **25th July** to encourage individuals, governments, UN agencies and civil society organisations to collaborate and provide critical measures to prevent drowning deaths. The day was first observed in 2021.

- **Theme 2022:** "Do one thing-to prevent drowning"
- As per the World Health Organization (WHO), Drowning is one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people aged 1-24 years. Every year, an estimated 236,000 people drown.

139. World Mangrove Day, also known as International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, is observed annually on **26th July** to spread awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special, and vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation, and uses.

- The day was first observed in 2016.
- The day also commemorate Greenpeace activist **Hayhow Daniel Nanoto**, who passed away in 1998 during a massive protest to re-establish the mangrove wetlands in Muisne, Ecuador.

140. International Friendship Day is observed annually on **30th July** by the United Nations to honour the special relationship shared between friends. The day was first proposed in 1958 by an international civil organisation – World Friendship Crusade, which campaigns to foster a culture of peace by promoting friendship. The United Nations formally adopted the International Day of Friendship in **2011**.

- Some countries, including India celebrate Friendship Day on the first Sunday of every August. This year, the day will be celebrated on **7th August 2022**.

141. World Ranger Day is observed annually on **31st July** to commemorate Rangers that have been injured or killed in the line of duty. The day also marks the foundation of the International Ranger Federation (IRF). IRF was founded on 31st July 1992.

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142. World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on **28th July** to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that leads to severe disease and liver cancer. It is sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO). The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate scientist **Dr Baruch Blumberg**. He discovered the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). The day was first observed in 2008 and by WHO in 2011.

- **Theme 2022:** "Bringing Hepatitis Care Closer to You"

143. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on **26th July** to commemorate the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The Kargil War ended in 1999 when the Indian troops took back control over the mountain posts that were occupied by the Pakistani forces. The day marks victory in **Operation Vijay** in 1999. The year 2022 marks the **23rd anniversary** of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

144. International Tiger Day is observed annually on **July 29th** to spread awareness about dangers and problems faced by tiger population across the world. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **12th** International Tiger Day.

- The World Tiger Day was founded in 2010, during Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit 2010.
- The day was first observed in 2011.
- Tiger is classified as endangered species by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- As per World Wildlife Fund, approximately 95% of the population of tigers has declined in the last 150 years.
- India is home to more than half of world's wild tigers, with an estimated 2,226 number of Tigers.

145. The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed annually on **30th July** to raise awareness about the condition of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights. The day was first observed in 2014.

- **Theme 2022:** "Use and Abuse of Technology"
- The United Nations initiated 'The Blue Heart Campaign' to increase global awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.

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