



pravahini

Monthly Compendium

of Current Affairs by **SUCCESS MANTRA** (GTB Nagar)

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI – Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI July-2022 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of July. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU-LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI July-2022 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

Success Mantra (GTB Nagar, Delhi)

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Our Goal

Our goal at Success Mantra is to provide Quality education at rational price and thereby to create an environment that guides students towards the path of the success. Along with designing the curriculum and delivering the lectures, we work upon the ways the students think and approach problems asked.

B. S. Shanti



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

 National Affairs

 International Affairs

 Economic Affairs

 Appointments

 Awards & Honor

 Sports

 Dates & Days

 Report & Indexes

 Science & Technology

 Miscellaneous

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

DRAUPADI MURMU AS 15TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Draupadi Murmu was recently elected as the **15th President of India**. She is scheduled to take oath on July 25, 2022. There was a contest between Droupadi Murmu (BJP-led NDA candidate) and Yashwant Sinha (Joint Opposition Candidate), for the President's position.



Lesser-known facts about Draupadi Murmu:

Droupadi Murmu, aged 64, has become the **first tribal President and second female President of India**.

She is also the first President belonging to Odisha. She was born in Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, in the **Santhal tribal community**.

Her **political career started in 1997**, after she joined the **BJP**. In 1997, she was elected as councilor of Rairangpur district in Odisha.

In 2007, she received the '**Nilakantha Award**' for **best MLA of the year**. She became the 9th and 1st tribal governor of Jharkhand in 2015 and served till 2021.

WHAT IS NATURAL FARMING CONCLAVE?

Recently, the **Prime Minister Addressed a Natural Farming Conclave**, where he urged farmers to take up Natural Farming.

What is Natural Farming?

It is defined as a "**chemical-free farming and livestock based**". Soundly grounded in agro-ecology, it is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity.

It holds the promise of enhancing farmers' income while delivering many other benefits, such as **restoration of soil fertility and environmental health, and mitigating and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions**.

This **farming approach was introduced by Masanobu Fukuoka**, a Japanese farmer and philosopher, in his 1975 book *The One-Straw Revolution*.

Internationally, **Natural Farming is considered a form of regenerative agriculture**—a prominent strategy to save the planet.

In India, Natural farming is promoted as **Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP)** under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). BPKP is aimed at promoting traditional indigenous practices which reduce externally purchased inputs.

SECTION 69 (A) OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** issued orders under **Section 69 (A)** of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to take down certain posts from Twitter (Microblogging Site).



Twitter has moved to **Karnataka High Court**, claiming that many of the blocking orders are procedurally and substantively deficient under Section 69 (A) of the Act.

What is the Current Issue?

The **Ministry said under Section 69 (A) of the IT Act**, the company has "failed to comply with the directions on multiple occasions".

Twitter submitted a **list of over 80 accounts and tweets** that it had blocked based on a request from the government in 2021.

What is Section 69 (A) of the Information Technology Act?

About: It confers on the **Central and State governments the power to issue directions "to intercept, monitor or decrypt any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource"**.

NITI AAYOG REPORT 'HARNESSING GREEN HYDROGEN'

Government's think tank NITI Aayog published its report titled "**Harnessing Green Hydrogen- Opportunities for Deep Decarbonization in India**". This report has been prepared in collaboration with Delhi-based think tank RMI India.



In its report, **NITI Aayog has recommended to reduce or exempt the GST & Custom duties on production of**

green hydrogen, in order to boost the production in India.

It also proposed to set up green hydrogen corridors as well as offer grants to start-ups that are working on green hydrogen solutions domestically. According to it, the government should focus on bringing a cost reduction pathway for green hydrogen production in the country.

Present Green Hydrogen Policy

As per report, the **present Green Hydrogen policy** provides for adequate measures, which **focuses on inter-state transmission (ISTS)** charges waiver as well as open access for green ammonia and green hydrogen production. Its production can be further improved by reducing or exempting tax and duties.

INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT



NTPC Ltd has declared the **Commercial Operations Date (COD)** of the last part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project in Telangana.

Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project is India's largest Floating Solar Plant commissioned by NTPC. Now the total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in the Southern Region has reached 217 MW.

Prior to this, NTPC declared Commercial operation of **92 MW Floating Solar** at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).

According to the ministry, **the total installed capacity of the company is 69,134.20 MW** having 23 coal based, seven gas based, one Hydro, 19 renewable energy projects.

Under the JV, NTPC has nine coal based, four gas based, eight hydro and five renewable energy projects.

RAJASTHAN GOVT. ANNOUNCED RIGHT TO HEALTH BILL

The **Rajasthan government** is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the **Right to Health Bill**, "the first of its kind in India", which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.

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

Important points of the bill:

The **right to health bill** is part of the Rajasthan government's bid to expand and strengthen medical services in the state.



Recently, the **chief minister approved Rs 117 crore** towards expansion of the facilities in **Mahila Chikitsalaya (women's hospital) at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur**. The state has also ensured health security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

AMIT SHAH UNVEILED 'STATUE OF PEACE'

Union home minister, Amit Shah virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region.

Saint Ramanujacharya, also known as Ramanuja, is considered to be a great thinker, philosopher and social reformer, a south Indian Brahmin born in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur.

About the Ramanuja:

Ramanuja is known to have revolted against the discrimination of untouchability and played a role in bringing a big change in society. He is a follower of Vaishnavism and taught people the principles of salvation.

He wrote many books, including **Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha and Bhagavad Gita Bhasya**, based on his belief that is different from the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya.

The saint is known for **judging people not by their caste at birth**, but by their character. He is believed to be the first Hindu acharya to **initiate women into 'sanyasa' (renunciation of the world)**.

He is also known for **blending Vedanta methodology with 'bhakti'**. After Ramanuja's demise, the female community of 'sanyasini' faded away.

WHAT IS PM SVANIDHI SCHEME?

On the occasion of second anniversary of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the Housing and Urban affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'SVANidhi Mahotsav,' which will be celebrated from 9th to 31st of July.



The festival will be organized in 75 cities across all states and Union Territories, and showcase various cultural activities, digital training activities and loan melas. It will also have functions for felicitation of distinguished Street vendors.

The festival aims to celebrate 75 years of independence with the nano-entrepreneurs and it is the first of its kind for the financial inclusion of street vendors.

The PM SVANidhi programme was launched by the Modi government in July 2020 to provide financial assistance through loans to street vendors who were reeling under the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

ONLY INDIAN STATE TO HAVE 13 EXPRESSWAYS



Uttar Pradesh's largest expressway network now has a foundation thanks to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The state will soon have better highway connectivity from many other nations throughout the world.

The state now boasts 13 expressways, making it the first state in the nation to do so. Six of the 13 expressways totaling 3200 km are in use while the other seven are under construction.

On July 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially open the 296 kilometre long Bundelkhand Expressway, which will link Bundelkhand and Delhi. In the last five years, CM Yogi has drastically altered the state's infrastructure.

A network of roadways linking other states and other nations has been established, starting from the hamlet and continuing through the streets to block and district offices. In 70 years, just 1.5 expressways were constructed.

The NCR and western UP population's long-standing request has been met by the double engine government. Taking the Delhi-Meerut Expressway as an illustration.

Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the cornerstone for the 594 kilometre long Ganga Expressway.

NEW DELHI LAUNCHED SCHEME 'SAH BHAGITA'

On July 11, 2022 "New Delhi SAH-BHAGITA" scheme was launched by the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. New Delhi SAH-BHAGITA Scheme was launched to make Resident Welfare Associations

(RWAs) partners in the tax collection and waste management ecosystem in Delhi.

It is aimed at improving efficiency and compliance in tax collection by encouraging RWAs. As per scheme, if one RWA is able to achieve 90 percent tax collection, from the overall number of properties in societies or colonies, it would be able to recommend development work across their areas equal to 10 percent of the tax collection.

This tax collection is subject to a ceiling of Rs one lakh. Furthermore, if the colony is able to achieve 100 per cent waste segregation at source, compositing of wet waste as well as recycling of dry waste, then the government would provide an additional incentive of 5 percent of tax paid.

TARANGA HILL-AMBAJI-ABU ROAD RAIL LINE

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of the 116.65-km long Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road rail line.



Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road Rail Line will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 2,798.16 crore. Project is expected to be completed by 2026-27.

It will help in strengthening the connectivity and boosting socio-economic progress.

This project was approved in line with long-standing demand by people, for improving access to Ambaji.

It will link two states and three religious places. It will pass through Sirohi district in Rajasthan and Sabarkantha, Mahesana & Banaskantha, districts in Gujarat.

The Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road Rail Line will be constructed by the Ministry of Railways.

GOVT. OF INDIA UNVEILED 'JUTE MARK INDIA' LOGO

The government of India introduced the certification of authenticity for jute products manufactured in India.



The Union Textile Secretary unveiled the logo "Jute Mark India". This project is an initiative to protect and promote Indian jute products.

The Jute Mark India (JMI) will be a hallmark of the jute products manufactured in India.

This certification is expected to increase the domestic market and export of Jute products made in India to other countries. The **Jute Mark India** will contain a **unique QR code** and when the customers scan the code, they'll get to know about the product.

Jute Mark India (JMI) was implemented during an ongoing scheme for the development and promotion of Jute between FY'22 and FY'26. The **total investment of the central government in this project was Rs. 485.58 crore.**

SECOND PROJECT 17A STEALTH FRIGATE 'DUNAGIRI'



On July 15, 2022 **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second Project 17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri'.**

The **Dunagiri frigate** was launched into the **Hooghly River in Kolkata.** It will be a very big asset for India as it has the potential to conclude its work in any situation.

The ship has been **named after a mountain range "Dunagiri" in Uttarakhand.** This mountain range was brought to Sri Lanka by Lord Hanuman to bring 'sanjeevani booti' for Lord Laxman. It is the fourth ship of P17A Frigates.

It is the **improved version of P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class),** with some improvements in stealth features, platform management systems, advanced weapons and sensors.

'HAR GHAR TIRANGA' NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN



The Central Government is all set to launch a nationwide campaign "Har Ghar Tiranga", marking the **75th Independence Day.**

Under this campaign, citizens will be encouraged to raise the national flag at their residences. This initiative was launched as a part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, by the nodal Ministry of Culture.**

About Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

The **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign** was launched to encourage Indians worldwide to fly the National flag.

This campaign will serve as a symbol of citizen's dedication to nation-building and personal connection to the **flag, in light of the 75th year of Independence.**

Its main goal is to inculcate a sense of patriotism in the hearts of citizens and raise awareness of the national flag.

VARANASI AS 1ST CULTURE & TOURISM CAPITAL OF SCO

The **holy city of Varanasi** showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages will be declared the **first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.**



Varanasi will become the **"Cultural and Tourism Capital"** of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative by the eight-member organisation to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.

Each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation will get the title to highlight its prominence.

The **organisation's new initiatives ahead of this year's Heads of the State summit of the SCO** scheduled to be held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16 this year.

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

The **Beijing-headquartered Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is an eight-member economic and security alliance comprising **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.**

The **SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five,** a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

BUNDELKHAND EXPRESSWAY INAUGURATED IN UP

Bundelkhand Expressway was recently inaugurated in **Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bundelkhand Expressway is a 296 km long expressway. It will pass through 7 districts and **lastly connect with Agra- Lucknow expressway.**

The expressway will provide a seamless connectivity and boost economic progress in this region, by bringing in an industrial boom.

Which places will be covered under expressway?

The **Bundelkhand expressway starts at Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district**. It connects with the Agra-Lucknow expressway at Kudrail village in Etawah district.

FIRST STATE TO HAVE ITS OWN INTERNET SERVICES



Kerala is now the **first and only state in the country to have its own internet service**, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who made the announcement.

The announcement followed the **Dept. of Telecommunications'** granting of an **Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence to the IT infrastructure project of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon)**, which aims to provide everyone in the state access to the internet.

The **principle behind the establishment of K-Fon** is "non -discriminatory" treatment, which means that no service provider or business segment receives preferential treatment, as recommended by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.

What is K-FON?

K-Fon or Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd is a state government initiative that aims to eliminate the digital gap. As per the government, the infrastructure created by this project is **expected to complement the state's current telecom ecosystem**.

SANJAY AGRAWAL COMMITTEE ON MSP



The **Union Government has constituted "Sanjay Agarwal Committee on Minimum Support Price (MSP)"**, to make it more effective and transparent.

Committee was created around eight months later and the three farm Acts were repealed.

Other members of the committee include:

Member of NITI Aayog, **Ramesh Chand**
 Professor of IIM Ahmedabad, **Sukhpal Singh**
 Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, **Dilip Sanghani**
 Secretary of Department of Agriculture
 Secretary of **Department of Indian Council of Agricultural Research**
 Representatives from state governments of **Karnataka, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha**.

Background

A **Sanjay Agarwal Committee** has been created, keeping the promise made to farmers when they were protesting against the controversial farm acts. Government had assured to form a committee to consider their **demand for legalising MSP**.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

The Union Government had launched the **"Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I (PMGSY-I)"**, to provide rural connectivity. As of July 13, 2022, road length of 6,45,566 km has been sanctioned and 6,17,013 km has been completed.



PMGSY phase I

PMGSY phase I was launched as a one-time special intervention to impart rural connectivity, by providing a single all-weather road.

PMGSY Phase II

PMGSY Phase II was launched in 2013, in a bid to consolidate the **existing Rural Road Network**, for improving efficiency as transportation services providers as well as a vehicle of socio-economic development.

Under phase two, **Selected Through Routes and Major Rural Links (MRLs)** were upgraded. Target was set to upgrade 50,000 Km across the states and Union Territories.

PMGSY Phase III

PMGSY Phase III was approved by the central government in 2019. It mainly focuses on consolidating 125000 Km existing through routes and Major Rural Links which connect habitations to **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Hospitals and Higher Secondary Schools**.

INDIA'S 1ST PASSENGER DRONE 'VARUNA'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled Varuna, India's first passenger drone. PM Modi is seen watching the demonstration of the drone.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the current government has ensured last-mile delivery of services with the help of technology, including drones.

The Prime Minister was there to address the **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)**

seminar 'Swavlamban' which took place at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

'Varuna' drone: The makers of this indigenous pilot-less 'Varuna' drone startup Sagar Defence Engineering demonstrated this in his presence.

This 'Varuna' drone has been designed and **developed by a startup and has the capacity to carry one person inside.**

WHAT IS JAYANT KUMAR BANTHIA COMMISSION?



On July 20, 2022, The **Supreme Court of India** accepted the report of **Jayant Kumar Bantia Commission**. Court also gave direction to Maharashtra State Election Commission to hold elections in accordance with the report.

Highlights of the Jayant Kumar Bantia Commission report include:

This report has paved the way for candidates who belong to Other Backward Classes in Local Bodies' Elections in Maharashtra.

The Commission has recommended 27 reservations in local bodies.

This recommendation has been accepted by the Supreme Court. Thus, **OBCs will get 27% political reservation** in local self-government elections to be held in the state.

As per report, reservation should be provided to **OBCs in proportion to their population in each local body**. However, this reservation should not affect the statutory reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

It is subject to a reservation limit of 50%. As per commission, the **backward class of citizens (including OBCs)** accounts for 37% of the total population. But it is different in each of the local bodies.

Jayant Kumar Bantia Commission is a six-member commission, set up by Maharashtra government in March 2022, to look into the matter of **reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in local bodies. It submitted its report on July 7, 2022.

INDIA'S 1ST 100% LANDLORD MAJOR PORT: JLN PORT

Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the **first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India** having all berths being operated on the PPP model.

The PPP model of investment in Indian ports has made remarkable progress in the last 25 years, **beginning from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port**, resulting in capacity addition and productivity improvement.



JNP is one of the leading container ports in the country and is ranked 26th among the top 100 global ports (as per Lloyd's List Top 100 Ports 2021 Report).

About the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal:

The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT)** has 2 berths with a total length of 680m and a 15m draft which will be handed over under this PPP contract along with the backup area of 54.74 hectares for 30 years.

JNPCT is **presently handling 9000 TEUs capacity vessels and with the upgrade it can handle 12200 TEUs capacity vessels**. It is also proposed to increase the RMQC rail span from 20 meters to 30.5 meters at the port.

CENTRE MODIFIED FLAG CODE OF INDIA

If the **national flag is flown in the open and is raised by a member of the public**, it may now fly through the night.



The **Flag Code of India 2002 was revised by the Ministry of Home Affairs** to permit the flying of the national flag even at night as the federal government begins its Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The flag could previously only be flown between sunrise and dusk.

The ministry **stated that clause XI of paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code** has been substituted by the following phrase: "where the flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night."

The flag code has already been altered by the government to **permit the use of polyester and machine-made flags**. The government amended paragraph 1.2 of Part I of the flag code in a notification last year.

ANTI-MARITIME PRIVACY BILL 2019

The **Union government brought the "Anti-Maritime Privacy Bill 2019"**, in line with India's commitment with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.



India had ratified the **UNCLOS in 1995**. Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill 2019 was introduced in the aftermath of kidnapping of 18 Indians aboard a **crude oil carrier**, off the coast of Nigeria

Key Features of the Bill include:

The Bill enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy in the high seas. It will be applicable to **all parts of the sea adjacent to and beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone of India**.

Under it; the **act of piracy will be a punishable offence**. It provides for life imprisonment or death, if the piracy comprises of attempted murder, or results into death.

In cases of **attempting to commit piracy, or directing others to participate in it**, there will be punishment of up to 14 years along with a fine.

It empowers the authorities to seize a ship or aircraft under the **control of pirates and property on board**.

ROLLOUT OF 5G SERVICES IN INDIA

On July 26, 2022, India started its biggest-ever spectrum auction, involving telephone and internet data signals. Under the spectrum process, **72 GHz (gigahertz) of 5G airwaves** have been put on offer at the cost of Rs 4.3 lakh crore.



Significance of the 5G spectrum include:

Fifth generation or 5G spectrum offers ultra-high speeds, which is 10 times more than the speed of 4G.

It will also **provide lag-free connectivity**. It would finally enable connected devices to share data in real-time. The 5G spectrum also powers the ultra-low latency connections, allowing the download of **full-length high-quality movies or videos on a mobile device in a few seconds**.

It will also enable solutions like e-health, life-saving use cases, connected vehicles, advanced mobile cloud gaming and immersive augmented reality & metaverse experiences.

Bidding process has started in which **Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises** and Vodafone Idea are ready to bid for 5G spectrum.

FIRST CERTIFIED 'HAR GHAR JAL' DISTRICT

Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh, popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin', became the **first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in the Country**.

Only **district in the country**, people from each of **254 villages in Burhanpur** have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas.

When **Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019**, only 37,241 rural households (36.54%) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections.

Now, **within a span of 34 months**, all the **1,01,905 rural households** have access to potable drinking water through tap connections. Furthermore, all 640 schools, 547 Anganwadi centres and 440 other public institutions have tap connections.

1ST INDIAN STATE TO LAUNCH SEMICONDUCTOR POLICY

The Gujarat government has announced a dedicated '**Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27**' with a view to generating at least 2,00,000 new employment opportunities during a period of five years.



The Gujarat government has also decided to develop a "**semicon city**" which would be a part of the Dholera Special Investment Region.

The **projects approved under the Design-linked Incentive scheme** of the Government of India will not be eligible for availing of the benefits under the new policy, said the state government press release.

Under the new policy:

The **state government will provide heavy subsidies on power, land and water tariffs** for entrepreneurs interested in investing in semiconductors or display fabrication manufacturing.

The primary objective of the current government is to make Gujarat a forerunner in **developing the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem**.

The **semiconductor policy** will provide assistance to one project each, **semiconductor and display fabrication**. In case of multiple applications, the State-appointed high-powered committee will make recommendations on the basis of credentials of projects.

11TH AGRICULTURE CENSUS 2021-22



The 11th Agriculture Census 2021-22 was launched by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on July 28, 2022. It was launched to gather data on several parameters, including operational holdings. This

year, data will be collected via smartphones and tablets for the first time.

Key facts to know about Agricultural Census 2021-22:

The fieldwork for the 11th Census will start in August 2022. **Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years.**

Main focus of the census is on increasing the income of the farmers and empowering them by organizing small farmers.

Agriculture Census in India:

Agriculture Census Scheme has been undertaken by the Agriculture Ministry since 1970-71. **For this, 1970-71 was taken as a reference year.**

So far, ten Agriculture Censuses have been conducted. Last edition of the Agriculture census was conducted in 2015-16.

ALL INDIA DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY MEET

First All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet was held July 30, 2022. Its inaugural session was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was also attended by Chief Justice N V Ramana and other judges of the Supreme Court.



Highlights of the meet include;

It was held by the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**. Meeting dwelled on creation of the integrated procedure, with the objective of **bringing homogeneity and synchronisation across District Legal Services Authorities.**

NALSA was established on November 9, 1995, in accordance with the authority of Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. It was established with the objective of providing free legal services to eligible candidates as well as to organize Lok Adalats to resolve cases timely.

The Chief Justice of India acts as the patron-in-chief of NALSA. On the other hand, the second senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court of India acts as the Executive-Chairman.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

2022 NATO SUMMIT CONCLUDED IN MADRID



The **2022 NATO Madrid Summit** was held in Madrid, Spain, from June 28 to 30, 2022. This was the 32nd edition of the summit, since the first summit meeting held in Paris in 1957.

The **Summit was chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg**. The heads of state and heads of government of NATO member and partner countries participated in the three-day Summit.

NATO summit meetings are a platform for member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

Key points of the Summit: During the Summit, **22 NATO members** agreed to launch the NATO Innovation Fund. It is a multi-sovereign venture capital fund that will invest **1 billion euros (\$1.05 billion)** in startups and other venture capital funds that develop emerging technologies for both civilian and military use.

YAIR LAPID BECAME 14TH PRIME MINISTER



Leader of the Yesh Atid Party, Yair Lapid has officially **become the 14th prime minister of Israel**, after replacing Naftali Benett.

He is a **former journalist who has served as PM of Israel since 1 July 2022**. Yair Lapid's term could be the short one as he takes over the caretaker government ahead of Israel's election which was scheduled to take place on November 1.

Who is Yair Lapid?

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and a former journalist. He also previously served as the **Alternate Prime Minister of Israel and the Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022**. Before entering politics, Yair Lapid was an author, TV presenter, and news anchor.

ADOPTION OF LISBON DECLARATION

On July 1, 2022, the **Lisbon Declaration on ocean conservation** was adopted by all the 198 members of the United Nations.

On the last day of **UN Ocean Conference 2022**, member nations committed to follow innovative and science-based actions on an urgent basis.



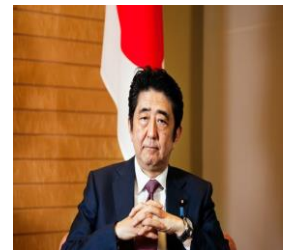
They recognised that developing countries, **specifically least developed countries and small island developing states**, need assistance with capacity building.

They also agreed to work on controlling, reducing and preventing marine pollution.

Marine pollution includes- Nutrient pollution, Solid waste discharges, Hazardous substances, untreated wastewater, Emissions from maritime sector and Anthropogenic underwater noise.

SHINZO ABE 'FORMER PM OF JAPAN' ASSASSINATED

Shinzo Abe, Former Japan's Prime Minister, who was shot during an election campaign in western Japan's Nara city, has passed away.



The **Nara fire department had earlier said that the 67-year-old**

Abe was in cardiopulmonary arrest before he was taken to the hospital. They said that he had been wounded on the right side of the neck and the left clavicle.

Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister until he resigned in 2020, was flown to hospital by helicopter after the attack.

It was the **first assassination of a sitting or former Japanese premier** since the days of prewar militarism in the 1930s.

INDIA'S HIGHEST EVER DEFENCE EXPORTS

India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at Rs 13,000 crore, the highest ever. The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in **Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa**.



The **private sector accounted for 70% of the exports**, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the **share of defence public sector units has gone up**.

While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly **becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.**

What steps have been taken recently to boost defence exports?

In January 2022, **India signed a USD 374.96-million deal with the Philippines**, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variants of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

India has imposed a phased import ban on 310 different weapons and systems during the **last two years, which helped boost export.**

These **weapons and platforms will be indigenised in phases** over the next five to six years. The increased partnership with the private sector has led to a substantial rise in defence exports.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP FOR CRITICAL MINERALS



Recently, **India and Australia decided to strengthen their partnership** in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals.

Australia confirmed that it would commit **USD 5.8 million** to the three-year India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.

What are Critical Minerals?

About: **Critical minerals are elements** that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions.

Examples: Based on their individual needs and strategic considerations, different countries create their own lists.

However, such lists mostly include graphite, lithium and cobalt, which are used for making **EV batteries; rare earth that is used for making magnets** and silicon which is a key mineral for making computer chips and solar panels.

India's Department of Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, drafted the Critical Minerals Strategy for India in 2016, with a focus on India's resource requirements till 2030.

The **Indian Critical Minerals Strategy** has identified 49 minerals that will be vital for India's future economic growth.

10TH WORLD PEACE FORUM 2022

Tenth edition of the **World Peace Forum 2022** is being organised by Tsinghua University, in Beijing.



As a part of the World Peace Forum, panel discussion on **BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges** was held.

India's Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat attended the panel discussion.

BRICS countries faces several challenges including,

Uneven economic and social development
Poverty
Lack of access to education.

Opportunities for BRICS Countries

India takes part in **other international organizations like ASEAN**. It is a founding member of ASEAN summit. It was a part of the establishment of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.

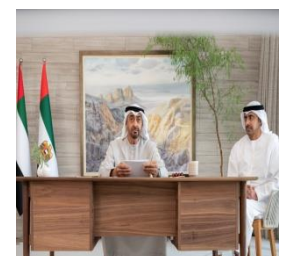
The country has also established mechanisms to slow down the process of global climate change. **BRICS grouping is a unique international organization.**

It accounts for **41% of the world's population, 25% of world's GDP and 16% of international trade.**

If BRICS countries can work to boost their GDP and provide better health care & education in line with **Sustainable Development Goals**, then BRICS countries can make a huge contribution in global prosperity and health.

FIRST I2U2 LEADERS' SUMMIT IN VIRTUAL MODE

On July 14, 2022, the **first India-Israel-UAE-USA (I2U2) Leader's Summit** was organised, in virtual mode.



The I2U2 grouping was first assembled in October 2021, through a foreign ministers' meeting in virtual mode. This **new Quad grouping is not gaining momentum.**

It is not an alternative to the Indo-Pacific Quad comprising **India, Japan, the United States, and**

Australia. I2U2 grouping emerged as a result of rapidly increasing cooperation among its member countries.

NEPAL'S FIRST EVER CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL



Parliament of Nepal passed the first ever "Citizenship Amendment Bill" on July 13, 2022.

The citizenship amendment bill was being discussed for over two years (from 2020), because it could not bring a consensus among political parties.

Political parties had different opinions on different provisions, including- seven-year waiting period to get "naturalised citizenship" for foreign women who are married to Nepali men.

Nepal's first Citizenship Amendment Bill 2022

Nepal's first Citizenship Amendment Bill 2022 will amend the Nepal Citizenship Act 2006. Bill will make provisions to provide citizenship in line with the Constitution.

There was a need to amend the citizenship act, because many people are deprived of citizenship certificates even though their parents are citizens of Nepal. It was further depriving them of education and other facilities provided by the government.

WHAT IS JERUSALEM JOINT DECLARATION?



US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid inked a joint strategic declaration in Jerusalem, which is officially called as "Jerusalem US-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration".

In the Jerusalem Declaration, the US pledged to use all elements under its national power, to ward off Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

However, the US President has affirmed his support of a two-state solution as well to progress toward a reality in which Israelis and Palestinians can get equal measures of security, prosperity and freedom.

The United States is set to work with Israel, Palestinian Authority, as well as regional stakeholders to achieve this objective.

The Jerusalem declaration also comprises US commitment to completely implement the terms of the USD 38 billion memorandum of understanding.

JEDDAH SUMMIT ON SECURITY & DEVELOPMENT

On July 16, 2022, the Jeddah Security and Development Summit was organised in Jeddah city of Saudi Arabia.



The summit marked the presence of leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and United States of America. During the summit, leaders highlighted the historic ties countries share.

It aimed at boosting the countries' joint cooperation across all the areas.

During the summit, gulf leaders vindicated the important role played by United States in their strategic partnerships in Middle East region.

Leaders also recapped their joint vision for a prosperous and peaceful Middle East and stressed upon the importance of taking all necessary measures in protecting the security and stability in the region.

WHAT IS CAATSA SANCTION BY US GOVT.?

The US House of Representatives passed an amendment that approves waiver to India against CAATSA Sanctions.



Amendment was passed by voice vote. It provides a waiver to India, under CAATSA sanctions, to purchase the S-400 missile defence system from Russia. The US's waiver is directed towards countering China.

Amendment was passed during floor consideration of the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA).

About CAATSA Amendment

The CAATSA amendment was prepared and introduced by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna. The amendment asks the Joe Biden administration to provide a waiver to India under CAATSA, in order to help deter aggressor countries like China.

What is CAATSA?

CAATSA stands for Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. The law authorises the US administration to put sanctions on countries which purchase major defence equipment from Russia. This act was passed in 2017, to respond against Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 as well as and **Russia's interference in the 2016 US presidential elections.**

The US government is free to take punitive actions, under CAATSA, against countries involved in transactions with Russian defence & intelligence sectors.

PETERSBURG CLIMATE DIALOGUE IN BERLIN, GERMANY



The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue began in Berlin, Germany. The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27).

The informal ministerial meeting proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving the implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27.

Ministers and delegations from several countries recalled the urgency to move to the implementation of all the previous resolutions made during the last meeting in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

About the Petersberg Climate Dialogue:

The Petersberg Climate Dialogue will pave the way for a successful global climate conference in Egypt in November. Since its inception in 2010, the Petersberg Dialogue has served as a forum for ministers to build political consensus that helps resolve differences on issues holding up progress in negotiations.

INDIA AFRICA CII EXIM BANK CONCLAVE



On July 19, 2022, Union Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal attended the "Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership".

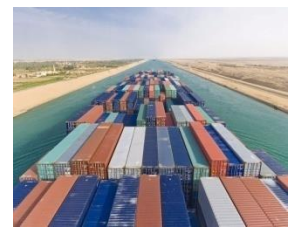
During the conclave, he called to strengthen and expand India-Africa ties. According to him, India can present emerging technologies to expand commerce, investment, trade, and opportunities for the youth of Africa.

He highlighted the immense possibilities between both the countries and asked the countries to expand the bilateral relation. The Conclave showcased how India can play a significant role in the economic development of countries in Africa.

India can help in skill development in industries, financial inclusion, employment, creation of infrastructure, providing connectivity by increasing penetration of telecom networks besides fulfilling the basic needs of people across the African continent.

EGYPT & INDIA AGREEMENT ON SUEZ CANAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Egypt and an Indian company have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to construct a green hydrogen factory in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, according to a cabinet announcement.



The MoU states that Indian ReNew Power Private Limited (RENE.BO) will invest \$8 billion to construct a facility that will create 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen annually.

KEY POINTS:

ReNew Power and the Egyptian government signed a preliminary deal to invest up to \$8 billion to create green hydrogen there.

ReNew is one of numerous Indian businesses exploring the potential of green hydrogen, which is thought to be essential for decarbonizing difficult-to-reduce heavy industries.

To support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a global leader in this field, public sector majors and conglomerates controlled by Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani have committed significant investments in the green hydrogen value chain.

TWITTER: TRANSPARENCY REPORT ON INDIA

According to microblogging platform Twitter, India accounts for the highest number of legal demands worldwide, to remove content posted by journalists and news outlets on the platform, in July-December 2021.



It made 114 such requests. This data was presented in the Twitter Transparency Report.

Important findings of the report include;

India is **only behind the United States in asking for Twitter account information**. India accounts for 19% of total information requests worldwide.

India is **among top five countries to give content-blocking orders to Twitter**, for all kinds of users, in July-December 2021.

After India, other countries accounting for high legal demands include- **Turkey, Russia, and Pakistan**. Turkey made 78 such demands, **Russia made 55, and Pakistan made 48 demands**.

INDIA, FRANCE & UAE FOR MARITIME SECURITY

The focal points for India, France, and the United Arab Emirates met in trilateral fashion.

Maritime Security, Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, Blue Economy, Regional Connectivity, Cooperation in Multilateral Fora, Energy and Food Security, Innovation and Startups, Supply Chain Resilience, and Cultural and **People-to-People Cooperation** were some of the potential areas of trilateral cooperation that the three sides discussed.

The next measures for **enhancing trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific area** were also discussed.

The three parties discussed potential trilateral cooperation in the areas of maritime security, **Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)**, blue economy, regional connectivity, participation in multilateral fora, cooperation on energy and food security, innovation and startups, supply chain resilience, and cross-cultural and people-to-people exchange.



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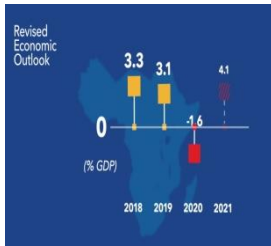
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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ADB PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH



The Asian Development Bank (ADB), has slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for FY23. Earlier this was estimated at 7.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Manila-based multilateral development

bank has revised down FY24 growth forecast to 7.8 per cent, from 8 per cent estimated earlier. It, however, raised the inflation forecast for India to 6.7% for FY23 from the 5.8 % estimated earlier.

Why does this happen?

ADB added that private investment would soften due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms as the RBI continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation.

The RBI's monetary policy committee hiked the repo rate by 90 basis points in two consecutive months, May (an off-cycle policy review) and June, raising the repo rate to 4.9%.

The rupee touched an all-time low of 80.06 against the dollar. The domestic currency has depreciated about 7.5% against the greenback in 2022 so far.

Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines.

Asian Development Bank President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

Asian Development Bank Founded: 19 December 1966.

INDIA: LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCES

India recently became the largest recipient of remittances worldwide. As per World Bank, it received USD 87 billion in 2021, accounting for a growth of 4.6%. India is followed by China and Mexico, each accounting for USD 53 billion remittances.

If we were to talk about current trends in India's inward remittances

In India, the overall inward remittances remained adaptable during the pandemic situation.

However, there can be a big shift now. As per a central bank survey, the share of remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) inward remittances in India has decreased from over 50% in 2016-17 to 30 per cent in 2020-21.

Remittances from Gulf countries to India declined due to migration from India to the GCC region, strict labour laws, high work permit renewal fees, slow-moving oil prices, and taxes.

Share of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has been reduced to half in 2020-2021. Earlier, these states were dominating the GCC region and were big contributors in terms of remittance. These states now account for 25% of total remittances since 2016-17.

Maharashtra has become the largest recipient state, leaving behind Kerala. Advanced economies have emerged as big sources of remittances to India, in the midst of steady migration of skilled workers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA BIOECONOMY REPORT 2022

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) recently released its "India Bioeconomy Report 2022". Report has been prepared on the basis of data on the contribution of the biotech sector to the economy.

Key findings of the report include:

As per report, India's bioeconomy is expected to reach USD 150 billion by 2025 and more than USD 300 billion by 2030.

In 2021, India's bioeconomy will touch USD 80 billion, accounting for a growth of 14.1 per cent, as compared to USD 70.2 billion in 2020.

USD 219 million of bioeconomy were generated daily in 2021. Three biotech start-ups were set up every day, on an average, in 2021. Thus, 1128 biotech start-ups were set up in 2021.

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BY IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed India's growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) by 80 basis points to 7.4 per cent from 8.2%, citing less favourable external conditions and rapid policy tightening by the central bank.



However, despite the growth downgrade, India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies in the world in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Only Saudi Arabia,

estimated to grow 7.6% in 2022, is expected to outpace India.

However, growth in the Kingdom is expected to slow to 3.7% in the following year.

Indian Scenario: For India, its growth downturn mainly reflects the global downturn which in turn affects the exports of the country and the **tightening of the monetary policy** is also making it less attractive for investors to invest in the economy and hence contributing to the economic shortfall.

The Global prospect- In comparison, China's growth is estimated to slow to 3.3% in 2022 from 4.4% estimated earlier by the IMF.

Other emerging markets and developing economies, including **Russia, South Africa, and Brazil**, saw an upward revision in their economic forecasts on improved outlook.

The IMF also cut the global growth outlook and warned that the world may soon be on the brink of a recession.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) JOIN CDRI

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** recently joined the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**. CDRI is led by India. The EIB-CDRI coalition is aimed at limiting the destruction caused due to climate change.



As a part of this;

EIB will work in association with **national governments, multilateral development banks, UN agencies, and the private sector** for encouraging the fast development of

infrastructure which are resilient to climate change and natural disasters in developing as well as developed countries.

It will **provide advisory and financial support to members of CDRI**. It will also make sure that members of CDRI get benefits from all the relevant EU initiatives.

EID seeks to work with CDRI members, in a bid to unlock the benefits of EU initiatives that are aimed at attaining sustainable global connectivity like Global Gateway as well as **climate action initiatives like EU Green Deal**.

INDIA RECEIVED HIGHEST ANNUAL FDI IN FY 21-22

India received the highest annual Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of almost \$85 billion in FY 21-22. India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for FDI in the manufacturing sector.



FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing Sectors has increased by 76% in FY 2021-22 (\$ 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21.

What is FDI?

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or an individual in one country into business interests located in another country. **FDI is an important driver of economic growth.**

India's Position In the World:

As per the **UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2022**, in its analysis of the global trends in FDI inflows, India has moved to 7th rank among the top 20 host economies for 2021.

Even in this hard time, this is a good signal that the economy is doing very well and resilient from the global disturbances.

Top 5 States receiving the highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY 2021-22 :

Karnataka (37.55%),
Maharashtra (26.26%),
Delhi (13.93%),
Tamil Nadu (5.10%) and
Haryana (4.76%)

WHAT IS CRYPTO JACKING?

According to a recent report, **Crypto Jacking** has increased to a record high in 2022, even though the number of digital assets has decreased.



In the **first half of 2022**, the number of global crypto jacking has increased by approximately USD 66 million as compared to 2021.

About Crypto Jacking:

It is a **type of cybercrime**, in which cryptocurrencies are mined through a hacked computer. Due to this, **cyber-criminals are developing and distributing crypto**

mining malware. When the malware gets loaded onto a compromised device, it mints new coins. However, it creates vulnerabilities in the web browsers and extensions of browsers.

ELON MUSK TERMINATES DEAL TO BUY TWITTER



Twitter has hired a top law firm to charge legal action against Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on his decision to terminate the \$44 billion takeover deal. Musk decided to suspend the deal

due to multiple breaches of the purchase agreement.

The two parties are likely set for a protracted court battle, according to lawyers. Musk could also be faced with paying a \$1 billion breakup fee for walking away.

Twitter shares sank in premarket trade after Elon Musk said he is trying to terminate his \$44 billion takeovers of the company. Shares of the social media platform closed down 11%.

Tesla, where Musk is CEO, fell about 6.5%. After the market closed and Musk's letter was published, Twitter's stock continued to decline while Tesla climbed higher.

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APPOINTMENTS

FIRST BLACK WOMAN JUDGE TO SERVE US SC



The **United States of America** made history on June 30, 2022, as **Ketanji Brown Jackson** was sworn in as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

The appointment of 51-years old Ketanji Jackson by Democratic President Joe Biden means that white men are not in majority on the nation's highest court for the first time in 233 years.

The appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson, who became the first black woman judge of **US Supreme Court**, was termed by the US President Joe Biden as historic representing a profound step for the nation, for all the young, black girls who now see themselves reflected on the country's highest court, and for all of us as Americans.

Ketanji Jackson, a federal judge since 2013, will join the three other women, Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Amy Coney Barrett. It will be the first time that four women will serve together on a nine-member court.

KK VENUGOPAL RE-APPOINTED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL



Attorney General (A-G), K.K. Venugopal has been re-appointed as the country's top law officer for a period of three months. Mr. Venugopal, whose current one-year term ends on June 30, agreed to a short tenure following a request from the government.

In July 2017, **Mr. Venugopal, 90**, was appointed by the President of India to succeed **Mukul Rohatgi as the A-G**. The government's top law officer enjoys tenure of three years.

However, when **Mr. Venugopal's first term as A-G was to end in 2020**, he requested the government to give him a one-year tenure keeping in mind his advanced age. Last year too, he was reappointed for one year.

Career of K.K. Venugopal: An eminent advocate of the Supreme Court, who served as the **Additional Solicitor General of India between 1979 and 1980**, Mr.

Venugopal was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

T. RAJA KUMAR APPOINTED AS PRESIDENT OF FATF

T. Raja Kumar of Singapore was recently appointed as the president of anti-money laundering watchdog, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.



Raja Kumar has replaced **Marcus Pleyer**. He will discharge his service for next two years.

He will focus on:

Improving asset recovery
Enhancing the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing measures.
He has been working against global terror financing since long time.

As soon as he took over the charge, he presented his objectives for the Plenary period July 2022 -June 2024, for strengthening the FATF.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The **Financial Action Task Force** is also known as **Groupe d'action financière (GAFI)** in French. It is an intergovernmental organisation.

It was founded in 1989, as an initiative of G7 for developing policies to combat money laundering. In 2001, its mandate was expanded by including terrorism financing.

AMITABH KANT AS INDIA'S NEW SHERPA FOR G20

Former CEO of Government's think tank NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, has been selected as the India's new Sherpa for the G-20.

He will replace **Piyush Goyal** as **G-20 Sherpa**. He was appointed as **G-20 Sherpa** in September 2021. **Amitabh Kant** has been appointed, as India is scheduled to assume the **G-20 presidency in 2022**, India will take over **G20**



presidency during December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

In the **context of India's term of G-20 presidency**, there was a need for full-time Sherpa. Reason being this, Amitabh Kant has replaced Piyush Goyal. Other Sherpas for G-20 include Shaktikanta Das, Suresh Prabhu and Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

About Amitabh Kant

Extended term of **Amitabh Kant as NITI Aayog CEO** was completed in June 2022. He heading this position for about six years. He is a retired 1980-batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre.

He **assumed charges as NITI Aayog CEO in 2016**. He has also been the chairman of Empowered Group-3, which is one among the 11 groups set up by central government for controlling the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

INDERMIT GILL AS WORLD BANK CHIEF ECONOMIST

The **international financial institution, World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill**, as its chief economist and senior vice-president for development economics at the multilateral development bank.

Gill will be only the second Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank. Kaushik Basu was the first, having served in the job from 2012-2016.



Previous work and career of Indermit Gill:

Gill, **currently vice-president for equitable growth, finance, and institutions** at the Bank, leads the work on macroeconomics, debt, trade, poverty, and governance.

Between 2016 and 2021, he was a professor of public policy at **Duke University** and a **non-resident senior fellow in the Global Economy** and Development program at the Brookings Institution.

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AWARDS & HONOR

WALL OF FORMER CHIEF ECONOMISTS



Gita Gopinath recently got featured on the “wall of former chief economists” of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She is the first woman and second Indian to get this honour.

The first Indian to get featured on “wall of former chief economists” was Raghuram Rajan. He served as the Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF during 2003-2006.

Gita Gopinath was hired as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018. In December 2021, she was promoted to become IMF’s First Deputy Managing Director.

Miss Gopinath had served as first female chief economist of IMF for three years. Before her appointment as IMF Chief Economist, she was working as John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University’s economics department.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF). IMF is headquartered in Washington, D.C., as an international financial institution. It comprises 190 countries.

68TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS



The winners of the 68th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi. This year’s awards ceremony honoured films from 2020 as well due to COVID-19-related delays.

The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur announced the award winners.

Soorai Pottru won three of the four biggest awards of the night, while Tanhaji The Unsung Warrior also took home major trophies.

Best Feature Film: **Soorai Pottru**

Best Director: **Sachidanandan KR, Ayyappanum Koshiyum**

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: **Tanhaji**

Best Actor: **Suriya for Soorai Pottru and Ajay Devgn for Tanhaji**

Best Actress: **Aparna Balamurali, Soorai Pottru**

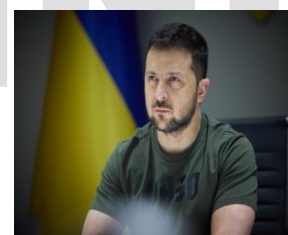
About the National Film Awards:

The National Film Awards is the most prominent film award ceremony in India. Established in 1954, it has been administered, along with the International Film Festival of India and the Indian Panorama, by the Indian government’s Directorate of Film Festivals since 1973.

WINSTON CHURCHILL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Winston Churchill Leadership Award was presented to President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson presented the award on July 26, 2022, after comparing Winston Churchill and Zelensky in times of crises.

Volodymyr Zelensky was presented this award for standing against Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and fighting back. The situation was similar to what Churchill had faced in 1940.



The Churchill leadership award:

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

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

SPORTS

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 IN QATAR



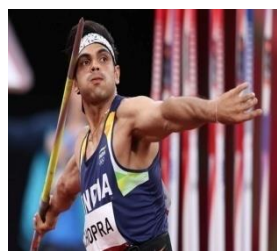
FIFA's aim is to regulate and grow football worldwide. The organisation has been swiftly evolving since 2016, into a body that can better serve our game for the benefit of everyone on the planet.

The FIFA World Cup 2022 is set to be the 22nd edition of the quadrennial international men's football championship, which will be contested by national teams from FIFA member countries.

It will take place in Qatar from November 21 to December 18, 2022. This will be the first World Cup to be held in the Arab world, and the second World Cup to be held fully in Asia, following the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan.

In addition, the tournament will be the last to feature 32 teams, with a 48-team tournament set for the United States, Mexico, and Canada in 2026. France is the current World Cup champion.

NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS SILVER IN DIAMOND LEAGUE



At the renowned Diamond League competition in Stockholm, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won his first-ever medal after breaking his own national mark twice in a month. Chopra had a

tremendous throw of 89.94 metres and placed second at the Stockholm Diamond League.

Anderson Peters, the current world champion, won the competition with a best throw of 90.31 metres. Chopra beat his own national record of 89.30m, which he had established earlier this month at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku.

Chopra's greatest competition before the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month is the prestigious one-day meet in the Swedish capital.

Chopra is the first Indian to take home an Olympic gold medal in athletics.

About Diamond League Competition:

The Diamond League is an annual collection of the top fourteen invitational athletics meetings for track and field competitions.

The World Athletics (formerly known as the IAAF) one-day meeting contests place the series at the top of the standings. The first season began in 2010.

LOS ANGELES TO HOST 2028 SUMMER OLYMPICS

The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States. The opening ceremony for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will take place on July 14, 2028, and continue till July 30.



However, Los Angeles has previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932. The LA28 Games will feature more than 3,000 hours of live sport across 800 events in more than 40 sports.

This will be the first time that Los Angeles will be hosting the Paralympic Games. It must be noted that the 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Paris, France.

PV SINDHU WON THE 1ST SUPER 500 TITLE

PV Sindhu won the first Super 500 title of her career when she defeated reigning Asian champion Wang Zhi Yi of China 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 in the final of the Singapore Open.



This is her first 500 or better since the world championship win in 2019. This is her first 500 or better final in 2022. This is an important marker for the world No 7 while the rankings are still frozen.

In men's Single: Anthony Sinisuka Ginting won the men's singles title at badminton's Singapore Open 2022. Olympic bronze medallist Ginting from Indonesia beat unseeded Japanese player Naraoka Kodai in a closely fought final.

36TH NATIONAL GAMES 2022 TO BE HELD

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat

Olympic Association (GOA) and Gujarat State Government to jointly conduct the 36th National Games 2022 on July 22.

The 36th National Games 2022 will be held in Gujarat. It will be held across 6 cities of Gujarat, in which all the 28 states and 8 Union Territories will participate.



In all, 36 sports will be hosted, in line with the tagline "Sports for Unity". This year, Yogasana and Mallakhamba have been added to the list of games. Thus, it will promote indigenous sports in India.

The National Games 2022 will be held across 6 cities in Gujarat, viz., Gandhinagar, Surat, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, and Bhavnagar.

Logo of the National Games:

On the occasion of signing of the MoU, a logo for the 36th National Game 2022 was also launched. The logo depicts Gujarat's two enduring and proud symbols viz., Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Gir Asiatic Lion.

NEERAJ CHOPRA IN WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

Neeraj Chopra continues to create history as he won the silver medal in the men's Javelin throw event in the World Athletics Championship 2022.

In his fourth attempt, he managed to record a throw of 88.13m, with this historic performance he became the

only second Indian Athlete to win a medal at World Championship, after Anju Bobby George who won a bronze medal in Long Jump at the 2003 World Championship held in Paris.



He was awarded the silver medal as the gold medal was bagged by Anderson Peters who recorded a throw of 90.54m in his final attempt before Neeraj. Meanwhile, the bronze medal was bagged by Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch.

22ND COMMONWEALTH GAMES KICKED OFF IN UK

The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games kicked off with a glitzy opening ceremony at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

The Prince of Wales, reading out from the Queen's letter, declares the Games open. A total of 72 teams took part in the parade into Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. PV Sindhu and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers at the parade of the CWG opening ceremony.

A total of 54 nations are participating in this sports extravaganza and 6,500 athletes will compete in 280 medal events.



The Indian contingent consists of 215 athletes competing across 16 disciplines.

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DATES & DAYS

GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST) DAY: 1ST JULY



The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day** is observed annually on July 1, in India.

GST Day is observed to commemorate the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). GST Day

was first observed on July 1, 2018 marking the one-year anniversary of implementation of the new tax regime.

When was GST launched?

GST was launched on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, 2017, in a ceremony held in the central hall of Parliament. GST had replaced the old indirect tax regime in India. It was introduced with the idea of **"One Nation- One Market- One Tax"**. Year 2022 marks the fifth anniversary of GST.

What is GST?

GST is an **indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system**. It subsumes several domestic indirect taxes like service tax, purchase tax, value-added tax, excise duty, and others under one head.

However, items including petroleum, liquor, and stamp duty have not been added to GST. These items follow the old tax system.

NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY OBSERVED ON JULY 1ST

National Doctor's Day is celebrated in India every year on July 1 to express gratitude to the **medical staff all over the country for their dedicated services**.

National Doctor's Day 2022 also holds a special significance considering the fact that the doctors and the physicians are working round the clock in a **fight against the widespread COVID-19 pandemic** as well as various other health crises and deadly diseases.



National Doctor's Day 2022 honours their significant contribution to the well-being of society and the irreplaceable services. Doctor's Day in **India is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, an eminent physician, freedom fighter, academician, and politician.

In his memory, the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** had also instituted **B.C. Roy National Award** to recognize the eminent people in the field of medicine.

The **theme of National Doctor's Day** in India 2022 is 'Family Doctors on the Front Line'. This year's theme highlights the contribution of the doctors for their service and dedication to humanity.

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC BAG FREE DAY

The **International Plastic Bag Free Day** is held on July 3 around the world to spread awareness that a plastic bag free world is possible and that sound **environmental alternatives to single use plastic bags** are available.



2022 is the 13th edition of the celebrations. The day is an initiative by Bag Free World for the purpose of getting rid of the single-use of plastic bags around the world and promoting environmental conservation by encouraging us all to stay away from the **use of plastic bags and instead look for more eco-friendly alternatives**.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2022:

The **main goal of the day is to raise awareness of the growing harm** that the use of this non-biodegradable substance is causing to the environment.

It is **concerning to learn that a plastic bag takes 1,000 years to disintegrate** in a landfill, despite the fact that collective efforts over the past 10 years have drastically decreased the impact thus far.

International Plastic Bag Free Day: History

The **first International Plastic Bag Free Day** was observed on July 3, 2008, when Rezero, a member of **Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)**, initiated it.

The holiday was only observed in Catalonia in its inaugural year. However, a year later, **ZWE introduced the International Plastic Bag Free Day** to the European Union.

NATIONAL FISH FARMERS DAY OBSERVED ON JULY 10TH

National Fish Farmers Day is observed on July 10, annually in India.



The day is celebrated to **exhibit solidarity with fish farmers, fisher folks, and concerned stakeholders** across India. Year 2022 marked the 65th National Fish Farmers Day.

The day was celebrated in virtual mode by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board in Hyderabad.**

Why is this day celebrated?

The **National Fisheries day** is celebrated every year, to commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr Hiralal Chaudhuri and his colleague Alikunhi in successfully inducing the breeding of major carps.

He **induced breeding of major carps on July 10, 1957 at Angul in Odisha.** This was done for the first time in India, by administering the pituitary hormone extract of carp in breeding of major carps.

This method was later standardised and synthetic hormones were started being developed for quality seed production in India.

WORLD POPULATION DAY OBSERVED ON JULY 11TH



World Population Day is celebrated on July 11 annually, across the world. The day seeks to raise awareness on global population issues.

Theme of World Population

Day 2022

The World Population Day 2022 was celebrated under the theme “A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all”.

Aim of the World Population Day: The World Population Day aims to raise awareness on the issue of population as well as to address those issues urgently.

History of the day: United Nations development Programme started observing the “World Population Day” in 1989.

This decision was taken after the global population reached 5 billion-mark on July 11, 1987. It is being celebrated for more than three decades. **Now this day seeks to spread awareness on population control measures.**

United Nations General Assembly has recognized this day in December 1990, under its resolution 45/26. This resolution aims to raise awareness about increasing population along with population issues like **fundamental rights, equality, development, poverty, and environment.**

WORLD POPULATION DAY OBSERVED ON 11TH JULY

World Population Day is celebrated on July 11 annually, across the world. The day seeks to raise awareness on global population issues.



The World Population Day 2022 was celebrated under the theme “A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all”.

United Nations development Programme started observing the “World Population Day” in 1989. This decision was taken after the global population reached the 5 billion-mark on July 11, 1987.

It has been celebrated for more than three decades. Now this day seeks to spread awareness on population control measures.

The **United Nations General Assembly** recognized this day in December 1990, under its resolution 45/26. This resolution aims to **raise awareness about increasing population** along with population issues like fundamental rights, equality, development, poverty, and environment.

WORLD PAPER BAG DAY OBSERVED ON 12TH JULY

Every year, World Paper Bag Day is observed on July 12 to raise awareness of the importance of **using paper bags instead of plastic bags.**



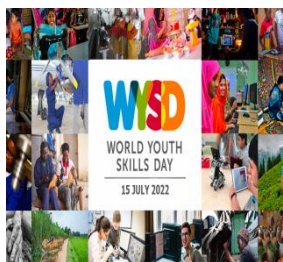
This **day is dedicated to spreading awareness** of the ill effects of plastic and how detrimental they are to our environment.

Paper bags can **easily be used to replace one-time-use plastic bags** which are non-biodegradable or, in other words, take hundreds of years to decompose in landfills.

World Paper Bag Day 2022: Theme

The theme for Paper Bag Day this year is, “If you’re ‘fantastic’, Do Something ‘dramatic’ To Cut The ‘Plastic’, Use ‘Paper Bags’.”

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2022



World Youth Skills Day 2022 is observed annually on July 15. It focuses on the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

This day is to equip young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship.

This day is meant to commemorate, acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

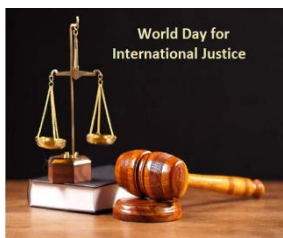
Every year, World Youth Skills Day is marked with a certain theme set by the United Nations. The theme for 2022 is “Transforming youth skills for the future”.

World Youth Skills Day: History

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

Since then, World Youth Skills Day has provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, employers’ and workers’ organizations, policy-makers and development partners.

WORLD DAY OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE: JULY 17TH



World Day for International Justice is observed on July 17 to commemorate the organisations that work to bring justice to the victims of international criminal acts. It also commemorates the establishment of modern court

systems in the world.

The day focuses on the advocacy of fundamental human rights and the promotion of international criminal justice.

World Day for International Justice aims at lauding the efforts of the ICC and uniting everyone in promoting justice for the victims of international crimes.

The ICC mainly focused on crimes against humanity (extermination, murder, etc.), genocide (deliberately harming one community), war crimes (willfully causing suffering, torture, etc.), and crimes of aggression (military occupation, annexation, etc.).

World Day for International Justice: History

On July 17, 1998, 120 countries came together to sign a treaty titled the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**. The establishment came to be known as the International Criminal Court (ICC), which came into force on July 1, 2002.

To celebrate the signing of the Rome Statute, World Day for International Justice has been celebrated every year ever since.

INTERNATIONAL MOON DAY OBSERVED ON 20TH JULY

The General Assembly declared **International Moon Day**, a United Nations-designated international day to be observed annually on 20 July.



International Moon Day 2022 is chosen as the day to educate and promote awareness on the status and prospects for humanity.

In cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the International Moon Day 2022 will be observed as an annual event and general public celebrations will be held all over the world.

International Moon Day: History

An application submitted by the **Moon Village Association at the 64th UN-COPUOS Session** stating to observe July 20 as International Moon Day.

The day was selected to commemorate the first human landing on the moon done on July 20, 1969, with the **United States’ Apollo 11 mission**.

On December 9 2021, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the resolution stating that July 20 will be observed every year as **International Moon Day**.

INCOME TAX DAY TO BE CELEBRATED ON 24TH JULY

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** observed the **162nd Income Tax Day** (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on 24 July 2022.



The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against **British Rule in 1857**. The day was first celebrated in 2010.

On 24 July 1980, **Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson**. The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.

About the Central Board of Direct Taxes:

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

The officials of the Board in their ex-officio capacity also function as a Division of the Ministry dealing with matters relating to levy and **collection of direct taxes**. **Historical Background of C.B.D.T.**

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY OBSERVED ON JULY 28TH

On July 28, **World Hepatitis Day** is celebrated across the World, annually.

The **day seeks to raise awareness on Hepatitis**, which causes deaths of around 125 000 people in Africa every year, even though the disease can be cured.

Theme of the World Hepatitis Day 2022:

In the year 2022, the World Hepatitis Day is being celebrated under the theme- "Bringing hepatitis care closer to you".

This theme is aimed at highlighting the **usefulness of bringing hepatitis care closer to primary health care facilities and communities**.

It also seeks to **ensure better access to treatment and care**.

INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY: JULY 29TH

On July 29, the **International Tiger Day** is celebrated across the world. It is also known as **World Tiger Day**. Year 2022 is marking the **12th International Tiger Day**.

The **day is aimed at promoting a global system** to protect natural habitats of tigers, raising public awareness on risks and challenges faced by tigers worldwide.

History of the day:

The **World Tiger Day** was founded in 2010, during **Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit 2010**. During the summit, representatives from 13 countries declared that; **tiger-populated countries** will start initiatives to double the population of tigers by 2022.

Tigers in India:

Tiger is the national animal of India. The country is home to more than half of the world's wild tigers, **with an estimated 2,226 number of Tigers**.

However, since 2012, India has lost 1,059 tigers. **Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths**. Madhya Pradesh is known as the 'tiger state' of India. As per National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), **75 tigers have lost life so far in 2022**.

WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY: JULY 28TH

World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **July 28** every year. The objective is to spread awareness regarding the preservation of nature and biodiversity for a healthy environment which is required for stable and prospering humankind.



It is also marked as the day to create positive opinions about climate change. **World Nature Conservation Day** acknowledges that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and healthy society.

World Nature Conservation Day 2022: Theme: This year World Nature Conservation Day will be celebrated under the theme "**Cut Down on Plastic**."

The World Nature Conservation Day also **creates awareness of the management and utilization of the resources**. While the exact origin of the day is unknown, the aim of celebrating the day is to introspect on how we have exploited nature so far.

REPORT & INDEXES

STATES START-UP RANKING 2021



The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) released the third edition of "States' Start-up Ranking 2021", on July 4, 2022.

In terms of developing the 'start-up ecosystem for entrepreneurs', Gujarat and Karnataka emerged as the **Best Performers among states including NCT of Delhi**. Meghalaya was ranked first among UTs and North-eastern (NE) states.

Gujarat has been recognised as the best performer for the third consecutive year. Kerala, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Telangana were Top Performers among states.

Jammu & Kashmir was ranked as Top Performer, among UTs and NE states. Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nādu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh emerged as winners in "Leaders' category" among states.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa emerged as winners in "Leaders' category" among UTs and NE states.

STATES RANKING INDEX FOR NFSA



State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2022 was released by Central government recently. In the index, Odisha has emerged as number one state in India.

Odisha's Ranking: Odisha was ranked first, for bringing resilient food systems in state, in a bid to optimise the delivery of benefits.

This announcement was made by **Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal** during a Food & Nutrition Security Conference of Food ministers.

Odisha received an index score of 0.836. Ranking of other States. **Uttar Pradesh has been ranked second, with an index score of 0.797.** Andhra Pradesh has been third, with a score of 0.794.

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2022 LAUNCHED BY EIU

The Global Liveability Index 2022 was published by the "Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)", recently.

The **Global Liveability index** ranks cities across the globe for their "liveability quotient", on the basis of certain criteria. In the latest index, **top 10 world's most liveable city list is dominated by Western European countries.**



Indian cities have performed poorly this year.

Cities Ranking

Vienna has topped the ranking.

It is followed by **Copenhagen, at second position.**

Among the least 10 liveable cities, Tehran, Karachi, Dhaka and Lagos have been listed.

Indian cities

Bengaluru have been ranked at 146th position. It is the least liveable city in India.

Delhi has been placed at 140th

Mumbai has been placed at 141st

For the first time, Chennai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad have been included to the list.

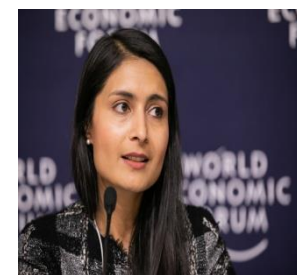
Chennai is at 142nd and Ahmedabad is at 143rd

Before this year's index, only Delhi and Mumbai got featured **among 173 cities that are ranked in the index.**

'GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2022' BY WEF

The World Economic Forum recently released its "Gender Gap Report 2022".

In the report, India was ranked at 135th position, out of 146 countries. It has scored 0.629, on a scale of 0 to 1.



Ranking of other countries

Iceland has been ranked at first position, followed by Finland and Norway. 6 among the 10 positions have been reserved by European nations like Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden at 5th place, Ireland at 9th and Germany at 10th.

New Zealand has been ranked at 4th position, Rwanda at 6th, Nicaragua at 7th and Namibia at 8th.

NIRF RANKINGS 2022 RELEASED BY EDUCATION MINISTER



NIRF Rankings 2022 were released on July 15, 2022 by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

In year 2022, rankings were announced in 11 categories viz., Engineering, Colleges, Universities, Management, Overall, Medical, Law, Architecture, Research, Dental, and Pharmacy.

Number of colleges or universities or institutions taking part in NIRF ranking has been increasing over the year.

In 2021 rankings, 6,000 colleges took part for eleven categories. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad was ranked first that year, in management category. It was followed by IIM Bangalore, and IIM Kolkata.

NIRF Rankings 2022-highlights

In engineering institutes category, IIT Madras has been ranked at first position.

In Medical college category, AIIMS New Delhi has been ranked as best. Savitri Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai was ranked best in dental college category.

What is NIRF Ranking?

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is provided by Ministry of Human resource development. Ministry has launched the NIRF on September 29, 2025.

It provides a methodology for providing rank to institutions across India in different categories. This methodology is prepared from overall recommendations and broad understanding, which was arrived at by a Core Committee.

This committee was formed by MHRD, in a bid to identify broad parameters of providing ranks to universities and institutions.

The parameters cover- Teaching, Learning & Resources; Graduation outcomes; Research & Professional Practices; Perception and Outreach & Inclusivity.

NITI AAYOG INDIA INNOVATION INDEX

Third edition of the India Innovation Index released by NITI Aayog on July 21, 2022. The index assesses performance of states in the innovation ecosystem on the basis of NITI Aayog's ranking released the previous year.



Key Features of India Innovation Index 2021 can be summed up as:

The index inspects the innovation capacities and ecosystems across states, at the sub-national level. It highlights recent factors and catalysts, in a bid to promote covid-19 like crisis-driven innovation.

It provides a more comprehensive outlook to measure innovation performance across countries based on 66 new & unique indicators, as opposed to 36 indicators in India Innovation Index 2020.

To compare the performance of States and UTs, it has categorised them into 17 major states, 9 UTs and 10 northeast & hill states.

In the Major State's category, Karnataka (Score 18.01) has been ranked at first position. It is followed by Telangana and Haryana. Chhattisgarh has been ranked last with a score of 10.97.

Among North-Eastern & Hilly States, Manipur (19.37) was ranked as best performer. Uttarakhand and Meghalaya have been ranked at second and third. Nagaland (Score 11) ranked at last position.

Among Union Territories and City-States, Chandigarh (Score 27.88) has been ranked as top performer, which is followed by Delhi (Score 27.00). Ladakh remained at the bottom with a score of 5.91.

Thus, the India Innovation Index 2021 provides state-wise rankings on the basis of innovation landscape and performance of states and union territories in India.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2022

Henley Passport Index 2022 was recently published by immigration consultancy Henley & partners. In the index, India has been ranked at 87th position, among 199 world's most powerful passports in 2022.



Ranking was based on the number of destinations the passport holders could access without prior visa.

Performance of the countries in index:

Among the **199 countries**, **Japan was ranked first**. It is followed by Singapore and South Korea. **Japan's passport provides entry to 193 countries without a prior visa**. On the other hand, Singapore and South Korea allow hassle-free entry to 192 countries.

Top 10 countries in World's most powerful passports list include-Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Germany,

Spain, Finland, Italy, Luxemburg, Austria and Denmark (in the order).

Bangladesh is at **104th position**. Pakistan has the fourth worst passport worldwide, with access to 32 destinations.

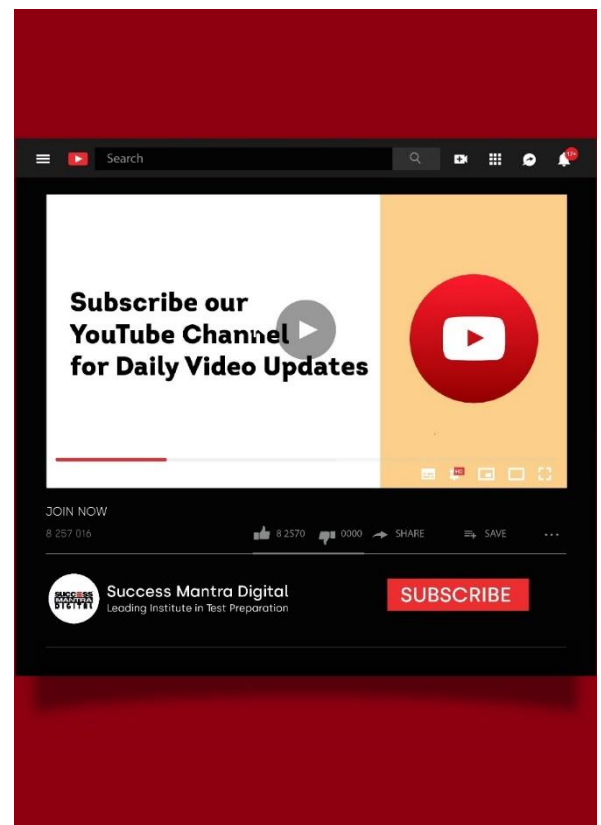
The ranking was given to countries on the basis of data from the **International Air Transport Association**. It maintains the largest database of travel information in the world.

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SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THREE SINGAPOREAN SATELLITES LAUNCHED BY ISRO



Three Singaporean satellites were successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as part of a commercial mission for the New Space India Limited.

This was the space agency's second launch of the year; its first had put an Indian Earth Observation Satellite in orbit.

The space agency also carried six in-orbit experiments mounted on the fourth stage of the rocket on the current mission in addition to the commercial satellites.

The nation's workhorse rocket, PSLV-C53, launched from Sriharikota and put the three satellites into precise orbits about 18 minutes later.

Its first small commercial satellite, weighing 155 kg, is called NeuSAR. It can transmit images in all weather conditions, day or night.

The third satellite was the 2.8 kg Scoob-1 from Nanyang Technical University, the first in a series of student satellites designed to provide practical training for the university's satellite research centre.

PSLV ORBITAL EXPERIMENTAL MODULE (POEM)



On June 30, 2022 the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the "PSLV Orbital Experimental Module" (POEM) successfully.

The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module is a platform which will perform in-orbit experiments through the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.

It is a four-stage rocket in which the first three spent stages will drop into the ocean and the final stage will end up as space junk after launching the satellite into orbit.

However, in PSLV-C53 mission, spent final stage will be used as a "stabilised platform" for performing the experiments.

LAUNCH OF IS4OM FOR SAFE SPACE ENVIRONMENT

With the help of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM), India has increased its ability to protect its space assets on its own.



Mr. S Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, are slated to officially launch the IS4OM in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.

The IS4OM system was developed with a comprehensive viewpoint, according to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), to assure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the benefits of sustainable use of space for national development.

Additionally, as part of IS4OM, specialised labs for space debris reduction and cleanup, compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations, and diverse R&D activities have been set up.

A dedicated control centre for operations aimed at monitoring, tracking, and safeguarding India's space assets was opened by ISRO in December 2020.

PIVOT: AI BASED TOOL TO DETECT CANCER

An Artificial Intelligence-based tool called 'PIVOT' has been developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).



About PIVOT

PIVOT is capable of predicting cancer-causing genes in patients. This AI-based tool will help in formulating strategies for personalized cancer treatment.

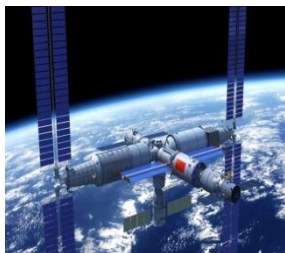
PIVOT has been designed to predict genes which are responsible for causing cancer.

On which model was PIVOT developed?

The PIVOT tool was developed on the basis of a machine learning model, which divides genes as tumour oncogenes, suppressor genes, or neutral genes.

It successfully predicted the oncogenes as well as tumour-suppressor genes such as TP53, and PIK3CA. This tool is also capable of foreseeing new cancer-related genes such as PRKCA, SOX9 and PSMD4.

CHINA'S TIANGONG SPACE STATION



China launched the second of the three modules needed to complete its new space station. This was the most recent development in Beijing's ambitious space programme.

A Long March 5B rocket launched the unmanned spaceship with the call sign Wentian from the Wenchang launch facility on China's tropical island of Hainan. A representative from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) confirmed the launch's "success."

In April 2021, Beijing launched the main module of the Tiangong space station, which is Chinese for "heavenly palace."

It will join with the current module in space, a difficult procedure that will call for the utilisation of a robotic arm and multiple high-precision manipulations.

China's Space Mission:

The country's preparations for its widely publicised "space dream" have been intensified under Chinese President Xi Jinping. China has made significant progress in catching up to the United States and Russia, countries having astronauts and cosmonauts who have extensive space exploration expertise.

RUSSIA TO EXIT FROM ISS AFTER 2024

Russia is all set to exit the International Space Station after 2024. Russia took this decision after escalation of tensions between Russia and the West due to Russian military intervention in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia.



Russia and the United States have been working side by side on the International Space Station since 1998, when it was deployed.

Space exploration was among few areas where cooperation between the United States and Russia and other allies was not affected due to tensions over Ukraine. Russia is likely to focus on building its own space station.

The International Space Station;

is jointly run by space agencies of US, Russia, Japan, Canada and Europe. It was first placed in orbit in 1998.

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MISCELLANEOUS

INDIA TO SURPASS CHINA'S POPULATION BY NEXT YEAR?



According to a report released by the **UN on World Population Day**, India is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous nation next year.

The world's population is anticipated to exceed eight billion people on November 15, 2022, according to research by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

According to the **United Nations' most recent estimates**, the world's population may reach 8.5 billion people in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.

Key Highlights Of The UN Report:

By 2037, **Central and Southern Asia is anticipated to overtake Eastern and South-Eastern Asia** as the world's most populous region, since the populations of those two continents may begin to decline.

The **two most populated regions in 2022**, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia with 2.3 billion people (or 29% of the world's population), and **Central and Southern Asia with 2.1 billion people**, were both in Asia (26 per cent of the global population).

With populations of about 1.4 billion apiece, China and India made up the majority of the people in these two areas. According to the research, India would have a population of 1.412 billion in 2022, compared to 1.426 billion for China.

By the middle of the century, **India is expected to have a population of 1.668 billion**, much exceeding China's 1.317 billion.

WHAT IS KARAKORAM ANOMALY?



Recently, **Researchers unravelled why some areas of glaciers in the Karakoram Range** are going against the worldwide trend of glacial melt due to climate change.

Even in the Himalayas, glaciers are losing mass. Researchers linked this phenomenon to **"resurgence of western disturbances (WDs)"**.

The phenomenon of Karakoram not losing glacier mass is known as **Karakoram Anomaly**.

What is the issue?

In India, **Himalayan glaciers are very significant, specifically for people living downstream**. They depend on perennial rivers for daily water needs. However, due to **global warming and climate change**, the water bodies are rapidly disappearing. On the other hand, glaciers in central Karakoram have remained the same.

DELHI AIRPORT AMONG WORLD'S TOP 20 BUSIEST AIRPORT

The **Airports Council International (ACI) World** has released the annual World Airport Traffic Dataset to reveal the global air traffic rankings of the top 20 aviation industries for the full year 2021.

The **World Airport Traffic Dataset** is the industry's most comprehensive airport statistics dataset featuring airport traffic for over 2,600 airports in more than 180 countries and territories.

Important Points of the report:

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) has topped the 2021 Ranking with 7.6 crore passengers in terms of passenger footfall in the year 2021.

From India, the **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** in New Delhi has been ranked among the top 20, as the 13th busiest airport. IGI witnessed 3.7 crore passenger footfall in 2021, which is 30.3% more than 2.8 crore in 2020 when IGI was ranked 16th.

FIVE WETLANDS TO BE ADDED IN RAMSAR LIST

Three **wetlands from Tamil Nadu** and **One each from Mizoram & Madhya Pradesh** have been identified under the Ramsar Convention, which is also called the **"Convention on Wetlands"**.



Thus, India has added **five new Ramsar Wetlands Sites of international importance**. With the latest addition, the total number of Ramsar Sites in India has reached 54, as opposed to 49 earlier.

New Ramsar Sites include;

Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu: It is a freshwater marsh in Chennai. It is the only surviving wetland ecosystem in Chennai. It is counted among the last remaining natural wetlands of South India.

Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu: It is a 61.21-hectare protected area located in Kancheepuram District of Tamil Nadu. It is located at a distance of 75 km from Chennai.

Pichavaram Mangrove, Tamil Nadu: It is located near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. It covers an area of 1100 hectares and is counted among the largest mangrove forests in the country.

Pala wetland, Mizoram: It is the largest natural wetland in Mizoram. The wetland is surrounded by green woodlands. It is known for its rich diversity of animal species including several species of animals and birds.

Sakhya Sagar, Madhya Pradesh: This Lake is an integral part of Madhav National Park in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh.

'HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT' RECOGNISED AS HUMAN RIGHT



The UN General Assembly (UNGA) recently passed a resolution that recognises the **Healthy Environment as Human Right**. India has voted in favour of this resolution.

As per the resolution, **the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** has become a human right.

The **UN General Assembly passed the resolution on July 28, 2022**. Out of 193-members, 161 members voted in favour. Belarus, China, Cambodia, Russia, Syria, Ethiopia, Iran and Kyrgyzstan were absent to vote.

India has voted in favour. However, it is concerned regarding the procedure and of the resolution.

SAVITRI JINDAL BECOMES ASIA'S RICHEST WOMAN

Savitri Jindal, the Chairperson Emeritus of OP Jindal Group, has surpassed China's Yang Huiyan to become Asia's richest woman, **as per the real-time Bloomberg Billionaires Index.**



The **72-year-old Savitri Jindal** who also holds the position of the richest woman in India has a total fortune of \$11.3 billion.

Jindal's net worth has fluctuated wildly in recent years. It fell to \$3.2 billion in April 2020 at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, then to \$15.6 billion in April 2022 due to a rise in **commodity prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.**

The fortune of Yang Huiyan, owner of **China's largest real estate developer 'Country Garden Holdings'**, dropped by more than half in 2022, from \$ 24 billion to \$11 billion. She had been Asia's richest woman for the past five years.

Jindal, 72, is India's richest woman and the 10th-richest person in the country. She became the chairwoman of the Jindal Group shortly **after her husband died in a helicopter crash in 2005.**

REFERENCES OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN CLAT 2022

PASSAGE-1 (REFERENCES)

- SAGARMALA PROJECT – NATIONAL AFFAIRS (MAY 2022)
- DEEP OCEAN MISSION – NATIONAL AFFAIRS (MAY 2022)
- WHAT IS MISISON SAGAR – NATIONAL AFFAIRS (DECEMBER 2021)
- 18TH MARCH – ISA FULL FORM/ ALSO MENTIONED IN ARTICLE TITLED 'DEEP OCEAN MISSION'
- INDIA'S 1ST MANNED OCEAN MISSION – NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (OCTOBER)

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PASSAGE-2 (REFERENCES)

- INDIA BANS IMPORT OF FOREIGN DRONES – LEGAL AFFAIRS COMPENDIUM (FEB & MARCH)
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PASSAGE-3 (REFERENCES)

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- IRENA FULL FORM MENTIONED IN PASSAGE BASED QUESTION SET - 33
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- PASSAGES ON IEA & RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

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PASSAGE-4 (REFERENCES)

- ONGOING RUSSIA UKRAINE CONFLICT– INT. AFFAIRS (FEB 2022)
- MANY PASSAGES BASED QUESTIONS ON RUSSIA – UKRAINE CONFLICT

PASSAGE-5 (REFERENCES)

- EXTENSION OF AFSPA ACT – LEGAL AFFAIRS (JAN 2022)
- JEEVAN REDDY COMMITTEE (LEGAL AFFAIRS JAN 2022) RIGHT TO PRIVACY
- PASSAGE BASED QUESTIONS ON AFSPA & NORTHEAST

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