



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



Success Mantra (Delhi) is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out, for your accomplishment. Delhi, GTB Nagar, branch of SUCCESS MANTRA Coaching is considered as the paramount choice of Law and Management aspirants, across country. Because, at the end of the day, it is our results which speak !

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PM MODI LAUNCHED VANDE BHARAT 2.0



Prime Minister Modi launched the new and upgraded version of Vande Bharat Express between Gandhinagar and Mumbai.

The latest version has cost over Rs 115 crore – Rs 15 crore higher than the previous version.

The new train can reach the maximum speed of 160 km per hour in 129 seconds, around 16 seconds faster than the other Vande Bharat trains. It needs to run almost a km less to reach the maximum speed.

It weighs just around 392 tonnes, 38 tonnes lighter than the previous version.

ROLLOUT OF 5G SERVICES IN INDIA

The 5G telephony service was rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 6th Edition of India Mobile Congress 2022 organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.



Important metro cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata will be first to receive the 5G service. Reliance Jio is planning the rollout by Diwali. The rest of the country will receive the next generation network by December 2023.

What is 5G?

The 5th generation mobile network (5G) is a global wireless standard that provides 10 times faster internet speed than 4G network. It provides a maximum data speed of 20 Gbps per second or more than 100Mbps per second. This ensures high data rate, reliable communication and low latency (minimum delay).

It will help connect billions of IoT devices, improve the quality of streaming and improve important services such as telesurgery and autonomous cars. It will enable real-time monitoring of disasters, improve precision agriculture, and automate hazardous industrial operations like offshore and deep mining.

REVIVAL OF SUKAPAICA RIVER

The NGT has directed the state government of Odisha to revive Sukapaika River within 6 months.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has instructed the Odisha government to revive Sukapaika River, a

distributary of Mahanadi River. It has directed the state government to create a dedicated fund for this river's revival.



The tribunal also directed the Odisha government to make budgetary allocation of Rs.49.67 crore to rejuvenate the river within one month and complete the whole river revival project by March 13, 2023.

NGT alleged that the Sukapaika river in Cuttack district became dead because of the closure of its mouth in the 1950s.

Sukapaika River originates from Ayathur Village in Cuttack district and flows some 40 km before rejoining the Mahanadi River in Tarapur in the same district.

WORLD'S FIRST CNG TERMINAL

Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the world's first CNG terminal in Gujarat.

The world's first compressed natural gas (CNG) terminal will be set up close to

Gujarat's Bhavnagar port. The terminal will be built by a private consortium of Mumbai-based Padmanabhan Mafatlal Group and the UK's Foresight Group.



This large terminal can handle 1.5 million metric tonnes each year. The project will be supported by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), which is currently managing the Bhavnagar Port.

It is being implemented using a public-private-partnership approach.

Besides the CNG terminal, the private consortium will equip the Bhavnagar Port with additional facilities like ultra-modern container terminal, multipurpose terminal (LPG and Chemical), a Ro-Ro (roll-on/roll-off) terminal for cargo ships that can load and unload wheeled objects such as trolleys and cars, and a liquid cargo terminal.

WORLD'S LARGEST WIND-SOLAR POWER PLANT



Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned the world's largest wind-solar power plant of 600 MW capacities in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The plant has a power purchase agreement with **Solar Energy**

Corporation of India (SECI) at Rs 2.69/kWh for 25 years.

In May 2022, AGEL operationalized India's first hybrid power plant with a capacity of 390 MW in Jaisalmer.

The commencement of the 600 MW plant AGEL has a total operational generation capacity of 6.7 GW. This includes an operational hydropower generation capacity of 1 GW, the largest in the world.

AGEL's total renewable portfolio goes up to 20.4 GW to reach its vision of 45 GW capacity by 2030.

About Adani Green Energy

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) is an Indian renewable energy company headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

It is owned by **Indian conglomerate Adani Group**. The company operates the Kamuthi Solar Power Project which is one of the largest solar photovoltaic plants in the world.

PAHARI COMMUNITY IN J&K GETS ST STATUS



Union Home Minister Amit Shah announces that **Pahari Community in Jammu and Kashmir** will get a Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and political reservations before Assembly elections.

The abolition of **Articles 370 and 35A** in August 2019 paved the way for providing reservations to deprived sections of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points related to Announcement of ST status in J&K

The **ST quota in J&K** carries 7% spots in government jobs and educational institutions. The **Gujjars and Bakerwals community** were getting ST benefits since 1991.

The **Paharis** were given a 4 percent quota in the **OBC category** from January 2020. The Centre formed the **Justice Sharma Commission** in March 2020, however it seemed to upset the **Gujjars and Bakerwals**.

There were also protests performed by the **Gujjars and Bakerwals** in **Jammu and Kashmir** regarding the **implementation of Status to Paharis**.

5TH ASSEMBLY OF ISA TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

The curtain raiser for the **5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance** and associated side activities, which will take place in New Delhi from October 17-20, 2022, was unveiled by **Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh**.



According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, India currently holds the position of President of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** Assembly.

The **International Solar Alliance** is very necessary to **achieve the energy transition objective for our planet**.

As the cheapest form of energy, solar and mini-grids, according to the Minister, is the solution to ensuring that everyone in the globe has access to electricity.

In addition, the Minister stated in his speech that the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is a crucial tool for fulfilling international commitments on the energy transition.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA LAUNCHED HERSTART INITIATIVE

herSTART was recently launched by **President of India, Draupadi Murmu**.

herSTART is an initiative implemented by the **Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC)**. It is supported by the state government of Gujarat, the Central Government and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** recognized it as a key driving initiative of the Gujarat Startup Ecosystem in the States Startup Rankings Framework Report of 2022.

The **purpose of herSTART** is to aid women-led startups to scale up. It will connect women-led startups with private and government platforms. The newly launched

platform will also help women entrepreneurs' innovative ideas to take off.

REVISED BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME



The Central Government, expanding the mandate of its flagship scheme - 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP Scheme) announced the inclusion of skilling of girls in non-traditional livelihood (NTL) options.

At the national conference on skilling in non-traditional livelihoods for girls, Ministries of Women and Child Development (MWCD) emphasises the importance of convergence between various departments for providing quality education to empower girls.

What is the BBBP Scheme?

The Scheme was launched by Prime Minister on January 22, 2015 to addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

It is a Tri-ministerial effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MH&FW), and Ministry of Education.

Main Objectives:

- Prevention of gender-based sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

INDIAN GOVT. LAUNCHED TELE-MANAS INITIATIVE



On the occasion of World Mental Health Day (October 10, 2022), the Indian Government launched the Tele-MANAS initiative.

Launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative is a round-the-clock mental health service that aims to increase access to mental healthcare across India.

The Tele-MANAS will boost access to mental healthcare across the country by providing a nationwide network offering counselling, consultation with specialists and e-prescriptions.

It aims to make mental healthcare services accessible to even the remotest and difficult-to-reach terrains in the country.

The initiative was first announced by the Central Government during the 2022-23 Budget, while acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health crisis in India.

'ONE NATION ONE FERTILIZER' SCHEME

The "One Nation, One Fertilizer" scheme was launched recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The "One Nation, One Fertiliser" scheme or Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana was launched by the Central Government.

This is the largest fertilizer initiative implemented by the Indian Government till date.

Under the scheme, all types of fertilizers, whether urea, DAP or NPK, will be sold under the single brand name "Bharat".

The scheme seeks to standardize fertilizer brands across India regardless of the company that manufactures them. It aims to remove all confusions related to the quality of fertilizers and their availability.

1ST INDIGENOUS ALUMINIUM GOODS TRAIN RAKE

The Indian Railways recently flagged off the first indigenously-made aluminium goods train rake in Odisha.



The aluminium goods train was jointly developed by Besco Limited Wagon Division and aluminium major Hindalco. It is developed based on the designs approved by the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO).

The wagon was made using high-strength aluminium alloy plates and extrusion, indigenously developed by Hindalco's rolling facility in Hirakud, Odisha.

The aluminium rake is 180 tonnes lighter than the existing steel rake. This has increased the travel speed and minimized the power consumption for the same distance.

1ST STATE TO ACHIEVE TARGET FOR JAL JEEVAN MISSION



Tamil Nadu has emerged as the only state in India which has achieved the target for 2022 Q1 and Q2 for Jal Jeevan Mission, with 69.57 lakh households provided with tap connections.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited Chennai and reviewed the progress of the work on the Jal Jeevan Mission for assured portable Tap water supply to every rural household by 2024.

Out of 1.25 crore households in Tamil Nadu, 69.57 lakh households have received tap water connections in Tamil Nadu.

The percentage of households with tap water connection is higher than the national average.

The target set by the Union government for Q1 and Q2 for 2022 was 12.1 lakh tap connections and registering 134% of that. The target set for 2022-2023 in Tamil Nadu is 28.48 lakh connections.

Currently, the implementation of 14.44 lakh tap connections is underway. Out of 12,525 villages in Tamil Nadu, the state has reported 2,663 Villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' Villages with tap water connection in 100% of households.

M. GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEES ACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) helped compensating 20-80% of the income loss incurred because of the Covid-19 induced lockdown, as per a study conducted by Azim Premji University across four states (Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh).

However, 39% of the surveyed households didn't get a single day of work in the Covid-19 year due to lack of adequate works being sanctioned/opened.

What is MGNREGA?

MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.

The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.

As of 2022-23, there are 15.4 crore active workers under the MGNREGA.

WHAT IS NHAI INVIT?

The Union Minister of Transport and Highways announced recently that National Highways Infra Trust (NHAI InvIT) bonds will provide a return of 8.05 percent each year.

The National Highways Infra Trust (NHAI InvIT) is an infrastructure investment trust established by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Its purpose is to provide funding for the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). It was established under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, and the SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India) regulations.

The creation of the NHAI InvIT was approved in December 2019 by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Modi.

Currently, the National Highways Infra Trust is looking to raise an additional investment of Rs 3,800 crore. It was able to receive Rs.1,500 crore via the issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) with a long-dated maturity of 24 years.

The InvIT bonds will be listed in the BSE and NSE to enable their trading in the stock market.

PM KISAN SAMMAN SAMMELAN 2022

The PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi.

More than 13,500 farmers from all around the country and about 1,500 agri entrepreneurs are expected to attend the two-day event.

The Prime Minister will officially open 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK) under the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers.

In the country, a progressive conversion of more than 3.3 lakh retail fertiliser stores into PM Kisan Samman Sammelan Kendras (PMKSK) is envisaged.

REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN LEGAL SYSTEM

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the All-India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries via video conference.

While Inaugurating the



Conference, PM bats for use of regional languages in the legal system to bring ease of justice.

What is the Background of Languages in the Legal System?

Background: The language used in Courts in India has seen a transition over centuries with the shift from **Urdu to Persian and Farsi scripts** during the Mughal period which continued in subordinate courts even during the British Rule.

The British introduced a codified system of law in India with English as the official language.

Post-independence, **Article 343 of the Constitution of India provides that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in the Devanagari script.**

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MONITORING AGENCY (MDMA)



The Indian Government recently disbanded the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) that was set up to investigate the assassination of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) was set up in 1998 for two years based on the recommendations of the MC Jain Commission.

The **MC Jain Commission** came across various leads, including bank transactions of the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) frontal outfits** before and after the assassination and movement of arms meant for the militant group during that period.

Hence, the **NDMA was set up under the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, having officers from various central security agencies like the Intelligence Bureau, RAW, Enforcement Directorate, and the Department of Revenue Intelligence.

It was given extensions each year but failed to make any breakthroughs in the investigation of a **wider conspiracy into the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.**

The **order to disband the NDMA was issued by the Central Government in May 2022** and the pending investigations were transferred to a different unit of the CBI.

CCI IMPOSED A PENALTY ON GOOGLE

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty on Google** for abusing its dominance in the Android mobile device ecosystem.

The CCI found that Google abused its dominant positions via online search and app store to protect its apps like Chrome and YouTube in mobile web browsers and online video hosting.



Hence, the **competition watchdog imposed a fine of Rs 1,337.76 crore** on the tech giant.

In 2018, the **European Union imposed a penalty of 4.34 billion euros (around Rs 35,541 crore)** on Google for the same reason. However, it was later cut to 4.125 billion euros (approximately Rs 33,296 crore).

The EU had fined the tech giant a total of 8.25 billion euros (around Rs 66,600 crore) for antitrust violations after 3 investigations that lasted for over 10 years. 97 percent of 600 million smartphones in India are powered by the android operating system. **This makes the country Google's largest market by users.**

The CCI found that Google used its dominant position to mandate OEMs to pre-install its entire Google Mobile Suite like **Search, Chrome, YouTube, Google Play store, Maps, Photos, and others** on mobile phones and place them in prominent positions.

WHAT IS NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK?

Recently, the Union Education ministry launched the National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage education of children in the three to eight years age group.

What is the National Curriculum Framework?

The NCF has four sections:

- the National Curriculum Framework for School Education
- the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education
- the National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education
- National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education

The **framework focuses on the 'panchakosha' concept - the ancient Indian emphasis on the body-mind connection.**

The NCF says its five parts are physical development (**sharirik vikas**), development of life energy (**pranik vikas**), emotional and mental development (**manasik vikas**), intellectual development (**bauddhik vikas**) and spiritual development (**chaitisik vikas**).

It is an important step taken to implement the **New Education Policy-2020**.

ENHANCED ACCESS & SERVICE EXCELLENCE (EASE)



As a part of the Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) reforms, the government is planning to leverage Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to expand their portfolio by adding new segments.

What are the Key Points?

The initiatives and targets will be part of the **EASE reforms being undertaken by the Centre**. Rural banks will be asked to look beyond crop loans and also provide loans for tractors, small businesses in rural areas and education and housing loans too in rural areas.

The Center is working on a proposal to raise the guarantee limit for education loans from Rs 7.5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh to ensure banks restart lending to the education sector. **The government's plan is to continue to improve the profitability of RRBs.**

What is EASE Reform?

It was launched in January 2018 jointly by the government and PSBs. It was commissioned through Indian Banks' Association and authored by Boston Consulting Group.

It aims to foster new-age reforms in PSBs to improve profitability, asset quality, customer service and digital capabilities.

MADHYA PRADESH'S DURGAVATI TIGER RESERVE



Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Board recently approved the establishment of a new tiger reserve called **Durgavati Tiger Reserve**.

The Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Board recently approved the creation of the Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

It will host tigers of Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), a **quarter of which is set to be submerged because of the linking of Ken-Betwa rivers**.

It will span across 2,339 square kilometres of new tiger reserve, covering Narisinghpur, Damoh and Sagar districts of Madhya Pradesh.

It will have **1,414 sq km of land as core area and 925 sq km area as buffer zone**. The tigers will be shifted to the new reserve by encouraging their natural movement via a green corridor that will link it with Panna Tiger Reserve.

Ken-Betwa link project

The **Ken-Betwa link project** is set to become one of the **first river interlinking projects implemented in India**. At the Union Budget 2022-23, Rs 44,605 crore was allocated for this project.

It is expected to provide for the irrigation needs to around 9 lakh hectares of farmland and drinking water for over 62 lakh people. It will **also generate 103 MegaWatt of hydropower and 27 MegaWatt of solar power**.

The project will be especially beneficial for the **drought prone Bundelkhand region**. It is expected to be completed in over 8 years.

It may **adversely affect various species** in the **Panna Tiger Reserve**, which is home to the largest population of vultures in Central India.

BCCI ANNOUNCED EQUAL PAY FOR MEN & WOMEN

On October 27, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that it will provide equal pay for both men and women.

The members of the 15th BCCI apex council had recently passed a unanimous resolution to implement a new pay equity policy for its contracted women cricketers. This will ensure that the same pay is provided for both men and women cricketers.

How does this decision affect the players?

Under the **new pay equity policy, women cricketers will receive the same match fee as men**. They will receive Rs.15 lakh for test matches, Rs.6 lakhs for ODI matches and Rs.3 lakhs for T20I matches.

Previously, **women cricketers earned just Rs.4 lakh for test matches, Rs.1 lakh for T20s and ODIs**. Apart from match-wise fees, women cricketers also receive payments under the retainership system.

Each year, Grade A cricketers receive Rs 50 lakh, Grade B players receive Rs.30 lakh and Grade C receive Rs.10 lakh.

Men cricketers, who play a higher number of games, receive payments between Rs.7 crore and Rs. 1 crore per annum based on the grade starting from A Plus grade. The BCCI has not made changes to the retainment systems as of yet.

WHAT IS BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION?



Two beaches in Lakshadweep received the international eco-label "Blue Flag".

Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach in Lakshadweep recently entered into the coveted list of Blue Beaches.

These two beaches have a dedicated staff to maintain cleanliness and provide safety and security for swimmers. **With these new entrants, India currently has 12 beaches with Blue Flag certification.**

Other beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden beach (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu) and Eden (Puducherry).

Golden Beach in Puri was the first in Asia to receive a Blue Flag certificate. In 2021, Kovalam beach in TamilNadu and Eden beach in Puducherry received the blue flag tag.

What is Blue Flag Certification?

The Blue Flag Certification is an eco-label awarded by the **non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.

It is obtained by a beach, marina or sustainable boating tourism operators in the FEE member countries after complying with 33 stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria. The blue flag certification is seen as an indicator for high environmental and quality standards of beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism.

DILIP MAHALANABIS PASSES AWAY

Dilip Mahalanabis, who pioneered Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) treatment as a simple, effective remedy for dehydration has passed away.

What is ORS?

ORS, a combination of water, glucose, and salts, is a simple and cost-effective method of preventing dehydration. It is an **alternative to intravenous rehydration therapy** for preventing and treating

dehydration from diarrhea when intravenous therapy is not available or feasible.

Oral rehydration therapy is **calculated by the World Health Organization (WHO)** to have saved the lives of over 60 million persons.

INDIA RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF ISA

In the third assembly of ISA, Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh was **re-elected as the President of International Solar Alliance.** France Minister of State for Development Chrysoula Zacharopoulou has been re-elected as Co-President.

India and France were re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly held on 14 October.



Four new **Vice-Presidents** were also chosen to **represent the four regions of ISA.**

The representatives of Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region; UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region, and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.

"EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT" INITIATIVE

Recently, the Government of India has announced a month-long programme named the 'Kashi-Tamil Sangamam' "to strengthen" and "rekindle" the cultural and civilisational bond between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi.



This programme would be a part of the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.**

What is Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat?

Launched: It was launched in 2015 to promote engagement amongst the people of different States/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.

Ministry Involved: It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education.

Activities under the Scheme: Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a

time period, during which they would carry out a **structured engagement with one another in the spheres** of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

WORLD'S EARLIEST KNOWN DOCK: LOTHAL



Recently, the Prime Minister has reviewed the construction of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** site at Gujarat's Lothal.

What is the National Maritime Heritage Complex?

The project began in March 2022, and is being developed at a cost of Rs 3,500 crore.

It will have several innovative features such as **Lothal mini-recreation**, which will recreate Harappan architecture and lifestyle through immersive technology.

Where is Lothal?

Lothal was one of the southernmost sites of the **Indus Valley civilization (IVC)**, located in the Bhāl region of what is now the state of Gujarat. The port city is believed to have been built in 2,200 BC.

Lothal was a thriving trade center in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and ornaments reaching West Asia and Africa. The meaning of Lothal (a combination of Loth and (s) thal) in Gujarati is "the mound of the dead."

PM MODI INAUGURATED DEF-EXPO 2022



Mission DefSpace was inaugurated at DefExpo2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi (PM Modi).

The project's goal is to create **cutting-edge defence forces in the space industry**. 75 space industry challenges have been highlighted for private companies to work on under Mission DefSpace.

Mission DefSpace: About

Through industry and startups, the space programme seeks to **create cutting-edge solutions for the Defense Forces**. Mission DefSpace, the effort will strengthen India's preparation and position the nation for potential future space opportunities.

'South Asia satellite' is a good illustration of this. Ten ASEAN nations will also have real-time access to Indian satellite data by the end of the following year. With **Mission DefSpace** even wealthy nations like Europe and America use the information from our satellites.

KARNATAKA CABINET TO INCREASE RESERVATION TO SC/ST

The Karnataka cabinet decided to promulgate an ordinance to raise reservations for **Scheduled Caste (SCs)** by 2 percent and for **Scheduled Tribe (STs)** by 4 percent.



The Karnataka cabinet is chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The decision by the Karnataka government aims to uplift the **ST/SC community in the state and provide adequate opportunities in the education and employment sector**.

The files related to the reservation will be submitted to **Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot** for approval. The hike in the reservation will benefit the **103 communities classified as SCs and 56 communities among STs**.

The initiative to increase the reservation for SC/STs by the state government implies that reservation will cross the Supreme Court's 50 percent limit and go up to 55 percent in Karnataka.

WHAT IS DELHI SAMRIDHI SCHEME?

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena launched the SAMRIDHI 2022-23 schemes on October 26.

SAMRIDHI is short for **Strengthening and Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi**. It is implemented from October 26 to March 31, 2023.

It is a one-time property tax amnesty scheme for both residential properties as well as commercial properties.

Under this scheme, **residential property owners can pay just the principal property tax amount of the current and past five fiscal years (FYs 2017-18 to 2021-22)** and get a 100 per cent waiver of interest and penalty on the outstanding tax amount.

The commercial property owners can pay the principal amount of the last six years (FYs 2016-17 to 2021-22) and get a waiver on the past pending dues, including penalties and interest incurred before 2016-17.

TERAI ELEPHANT RESERVE IN UTTAR PRADESH



The Centre has approved the setting up of the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh.

The Terai Elephant Reserve is the 3rd Elephant Reserve in India which is spread over 3,049 sq km. The Terai Elephant Reserve includes protected areas, forest areas, and corridors for the conservation of wild elephants.

The Terai Elephant Reserve will be developed in the joint forest areas of Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserve. This will cover the conservation of four wild species including tiger, Asian elephant, swamp deer, and one-horned rhinoceros.

The TER is the third new elephant reserve that got approval in the past three months under Project Tiger.

UTTAR PRADESH TO HAVE INDIA'S 53RD TIGER RESERVE



Uttar Pradesh is set to have its fourth Tiger Reserve and 53rd tiger reserve in India.

The tiger reserve is spread across over 529.36 sq km out of which the core area is 230.32 sq km and the buffer area is 299.05

sq km.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate change Bhupendra Yadav confirmed the development.

Apart from Ranipur, Uttar Pradesh has three tiger reserves, Dudhwa, Pilibhit, and Amargarh. The Uttar Pradesh government approved the development of the first tiger reserve in the Bundelkhand region of the state on 28th September 2022.

The UP government also approved the notification of the Ranipur Wildlife Protection Act 1973.

AMENDMENTS IN THE IT RULES 2021



On October 28, the Central Government notified amendments to the IT Rules, 2021.

What are IT Rules, 2021?

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics

Code) Rules, 2021 or IT Rules, 2021 was notified by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

It replaces decade-old rules regulating social media intermediaries (SMI) to make them more accountable towards providing open, safe and trusted internet.

What are the key features of the IT Rules, 2021?

Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs)

The new rules pave the way for the establishment of one or more Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) within 3 months. These committees will enable users of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to get recourse to settle complaints without depending on the judiciary.

SMIs obligations

SMIs are mandated to ensure that their users comply with the relevant rules of the social platform. Earlier, the rules only mandated SMIs to inform their users of the "rules and regulation, privacy policy and user agreement". The SMIs are required to make "reasonable" efforts to prevent prohibited content from being hosted on their platforms.

WHAT ARE THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS?

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is currently planning to recommend environmental release of genetically modified (GM) herbicide tolerant cotton of German multinational company Bayer AG.



It had earlier approved the environmental clearance of Delhi University's transgenic hybrid mustard DMH-11 along with its parental lines.

What is BG-II RRF?

Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex (BG-II RRF) is a transgenic cotton having three alien genes.

Two of the alien genes - cry1Ac and cry2Ab - were isolated from a soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis. These genes have proteins that are harmful for American bollworm, spotted bollworm and tobacco caterpillar insect pests.

The BG-II RRF cotton was developed by the American company Monsanto, which was acquired by Bayer in 2018.

What are genetically modified crops?

Genetically modified crops are crops that had their DNAs altered to include certain desirable traits. The widely used GM soybean, maize, cotton and canola are tolerant to herbicides and resistant to pest attacks. Other common traits included in genetically modified crops are resistance to virus, resistance to drought and improved fruit and tuber quality.

CONCEPT OF 'OFFICE OF PROFIT'

Recently, Jharkhand chief minister who was accused of holding an office of profit, pleaded to the government to make his crime public as well as grant him punishment at the earliest.

What is the Concept of 'Office of Profit'?

Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislature (MLAs), as members of the legislature, hold the government accountable for its work.

The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if **legislators hold an 'office of profit' under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence**, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.

The intent is that there should be no conflict between the duties and interests of an elected member.

What Constitutes an 'Office of Profit'?

The law does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit but the definition has **evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments**.

An office of profit has been interpreted to be a **position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit**.

The **amount of such profit is immaterial**. In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment.

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MOST **IMPORTANT**

**CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

TOPICS FOR
2023
ENTRANCE EXAMS



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INDIA-ARMENIA DEFENCE EXPORT DEAL



India has inked a defence export deal with Armenia, which is facing threat from border tensions from Azerbaijan.

Military equipment like missiles, rockets and

ammunition will be exported by India to Armenia under the newly signed export contract.

The export order includes six additional first-ever exports of indigenous Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, anti-tank rockets and ammunition.

The estimated value of this contract is over Rs.2,000 crore. This comes amid the rising border tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The latter has close diplomatic and military ties with Pakistan and Türkiye.

Over the years, despite the physical distance, indirect links have arisen between Armenia-Azerbaijan and India-Pakistan. Azerbaijan had used Turkish drones at the war with Armenia and is currently in talks with Pakistan to procure JF-17 fighter aircraft.

In 2017, Türkiye, Pakistan and Azerbaijan signed a Trilateral Ministers Agreement to promote defence cooperation and strengthen the existing bilateral military assistance arrangements.

RUSSIA ANNEXED FOUR TERRITORY OF UKRAINE

Russian President Vladimir Putin presided over a ceremony to formally annex four Ukrainian regions.

Eight years following the Russian annexation of Crimea, Moscow has captured four more Ukrainian territories – Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Earlier, Russia organized a referendum on Russia's administration of these regions. Kremlin claimed that residents of these regions overwhelmingly supported their regions formally becoming part of Russia. These referendums are considered by the West as illegal and rigged and were orchestrated by the Russian Government.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed "accession treaties" to formalize these annexations at a ceremony in Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow in the presence of Russia's political elites.

US PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY SUMMIT

Recently, the US President hosted the first-ever U.S.-Pacific Island Country Summit in Washington, D.C, and announced USD 810 million in funding for Pacific Islands.



What were the Key Highlights of the Summit?

Expand US Presence: The announced USD 600 million will be in the form of a 10-year package to clean up and develop dirty waters to support the tuna industry, which will also expand climate and development aid and its diplomatic presence.

Countering China's Aggressive Policy: China had made inroads in the strategic but sparsely populated region by asserting itself strongly in recent years in the Pacific islands through investment, police training and, most controversially, a security pact with the Solomon Islands.

What are Pacific Island Countries?

The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas.

They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

PAKISTAN LIKELY TO EXIT THE GREY LIST OF FATF

Pakistan is likely to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after it was placed in the infamous category since 2018 for failing to check money laundering and terrorist financing, a media report said.



The Paris-based global watchdog on money laundering and terrorist financing said that the first FATF Plenary under the two-year Singapore Presidency of T. Raja Kumar will take place on October 20-21.

Pakistan was included in the increased monitoring list in June 2018 for deficiencies in its legal, financial, regulatory, investigations, prosecution, judicial and non-government sector to fight money laundering and combat terror financing considered serious threat to global financial system.

What Are Its Repercussions:

With Pakistan's continuation on the grey list, it had increasingly become difficult for Islamabad to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the cash-strapped country.

A 15-member joint delegation of the FATF and its Sydney-based regional affiliate – Asia Pacific Group – paid an onsite visit to Pakistan from August 29 to September 2 to verify the country's compliance with the 34-point action plan committed with the FATF.

INDIA & NEW ZEALAND RELATIONSHIP



Recently, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India has visited New Zealand and Australia.

The meeting consisted of various geo-political issues like how India-New Zealand contributions together will shape the larger region, the Indo-Pacific region.

They also discussed the present security situation in the Indo-Pacific and also the consequences arising out of the Ukraine conflict.

What are the Different Aspects of India-New Zealand Relations?

Historical Relations: India and New Zealand have a longstanding, friendly and growing relationship. Our ties go back to the 1800s, with Indians settling in Christchurch as early as the 1850s. Larger numbers of immigrants from Punjab and Gujarat came to New Zealand in the 1890s. Indian troops fought alongside the Anzacs in Gallipoli in 1915.

Political Relations: India and New Zealand have cordial and friendly relations rooted in the linkages of the Commonwealth, parliamentary democracy, and the English language.

Both countries became independent in the same year and diplomatic representation of India was established in 1950 with the opening of a Trade Commission, which was later upgraded to High Commission.

Both countries are fellow travellers in their commitment to disarmament, global peace, North-South Dialogue, human rights, ecological preservation and combating international terrorism.

ABDUL LATIF RASHID ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF IRAQ

The Iraqi Parliament chose Kurdish politician, Abdul Latif Rashid to lead the country. Rashid won more than 160 votes against 99 for the incumbent Saleh.



Rashid was born in 1944 in the northeastern Sulaymaniyah region of Iraq. He graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Liverpool in 1968. He went on to complete his engineering doctorate in 1976 from the University of Manchester.

Rashid has a long history in Iraqi politics. He served as the minister of water resources from 2003 to 2010 and then as the senior adviser to the President. He can speak Kurdish, Arabic and English.

Rashid is a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party. He was also the former spokesperson for the PUK in Britain.

According to the Iraqi political norm since 2006, a Kurd is elected as president of the country, while a Shia takes the role of prime minister. A Sunni will head the parliament.

WHAT IS IBSAMAR?

The seventh edition of maritime exercise IBSAMAR was organized from October 10 to 12 in South Africa.

Exercise IBSAMAR is a joint maritime exercise between South Africa, Brazil and India. The inaugural edition of this naval exercise was held in 2008 to converge the democratic values, economic interests and maritime cooperation.

In 2016, the fifth edition of the maritime exercise evolved to become a complex trilateral exercise involving the participation of naval vessels, aircraft and special forces from the three countries.

The previous edition (IBSAMAR VI) was held off SimonsTown in South Africa in 2018. In 2022, the seventh edition of the naval exercise took place in South Africa from October 10 to 12.

The harbour phase of the exercise involved the sharing of best practices regarding damage control, firefighting drills, maritime boarding actions like cross-boarding

and Visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) targeting adversary vessels, terrorism, piracy and smuggling.

The exercise has boosted maritime security, joint operational training capability, sharing of best practices and interoperability to address common maritime threats.

The Indian Navy was represented by INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).

G7's JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP (JETP)



a road-block.

The G7 nations' plan of persuading India to start negotiations on a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), an initiative of the rich nations to accelerate phasing out of coal and reducing emissions has hit

JETP makes various funding options available for this purpose in identified developing countries.

The Power Ministry has refused to give its consent to the negotiations so far, as it argues that coal cannot be singled out as a **polluting fuel, and energy transition talks need to take place on equal terms.**

What Is Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP):

Upon taking over the G-7 presidency for 2022, host Germany had promised to build on Glasgow's momentum.

JETP makes various funding options available to accelerate the phasing out of coal and reduce emissions in identified developing countries.

What Is The Climate Deal Offered To India:

The US and Germany have proposed a G-7 partnership with India to support and fund the makeover of its energy mix from fossil fuels to carbon-neutral sources. India is a special invitee to this year's summit, along with Indonesia, South Africa, Senegal and Argentina.

GI TAG SOUGHT FOR 'NIHONSHU' FROM JAPAN

This is the first time a product from Japan has filed for a tag at the Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai. The Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, has filed an application seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Nihonshu/Japanese sake, an alcoholic beverage.

It is learnt that this is the first time a product from Japan has filed for a tag at the **Geographical Indication Registry here.**

Nihonshu is regarded as a special and valuable beverage made from fermenting rice.

People traditionally drink nihonshu on special occasions, such as festivals, weddings or funerals, but it is also consumed on a daily basis. **Thus, it is an integral part of the lifestyle and culture in Japan.**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERPOL HELD IN NEW DELHI

The General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) is meeting in Delhi for four days from October 18, 2022.

This is the second time since 1997 the 195 member-strong body is holding such a large conference in India.

What is Interpol?



It was set up in 1923, as a secure information-sharing platform that facilitates criminal investigation of police forces across the globe through collection and dissemination of information received from various police forces.

It is headquartered in Lyon, France. It keeps track of the movements of criminals and those under the police radar in various regions and tips off police forces which had either sought the Interpol's assistance or which in its opinion will benefit from the particulars available with it.

KEY POINTS ABOUT KURIL ISLANDS

Kuril Islands are stretched from the Japanese island of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula separating Okhotsk Sea from the North Pacific ocean.



It consists of 56 islands and minor rocks. The chain is part of the belt of geologic instability circling the Pacific (Ring of Fire) and contains at least 100 volcanoes, of which 35 are still active, and many hot springs.

Earthquakes and tidal waves are common phenomena over these islands.

Russia-Japan Dispute:

The Kuril Islands dispute between Japan and Russia is over the sovereignty of South Kuril Islands.

The South Kuril Islands comprise Etorofu island, Kunashiri island, Shikotan island and Habomai island.

These islands are claimed by Japan but occupied by Russia as the successor state of the Soviet Union. Japan calls the Islands as Northern Territories and Russia as the South Kuril.

INDIA-AFRICA SECURITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme was launched recently by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme was launched during the 2nd India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) that was held on the sidelines of the DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The newly launched fellowship will give opportunities for African scholars to conduct research on defence and security aspects in India.

Under this programme, the fellows will be part of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) for one to three months. They will be provided with a stipend during the research.

The research programme will focus on topics that will increase the understanding of security challenges in Africa and possibilities of boosting India-Africa cooperation. It will increase ties between Indian and African researchers and boost mutual research capabilities on strategic issues.

LIZ TRUSS TO RESIGN AS UK PRIME MINISTER



Liz Truss, the British Prime Minister, will step down from her position after only six weeks in office due to an economic plan that angered many members of her own party and rattled financial markets.

Suella Braverman, Indian origin British interior minister, also resigned making her the second senior cabinet official to do so in the past week after finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng.

Grant Shapps, the country's new interior minister, has taken Suella Braverman's seat.

Liz Truss to Resign as UK Prime Minister:

By Oct. 28, a new leader of the Conservative Party will be chosen. The Conservatives have a sizable majority in

parliament and do not need to schedule a general election for another two years. Rishi Sunak, a former finance minister, is most likely to face Penny Mordaunt in that race.

RISHI SUNAK AS PRIME MINISTER OF UK

Rishi Sunak will be named as the PM of UK, and he will be the first British Prime Minister of Indian descent.



In a remarkable shift of power during an economic crisis. In the midst of a "deep economic dilemma," the future prime minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak, has called for cooperation.

Due to Penny Mordaunt's inability to garner enough support from MPs, he won the race for the Conservative Party leadership.

Rishi Sunak declared that uniting his party and the UK would be his utmost priority in his opening statement.

Rishi Sunak, 42, is the first British Asian prime minister since more than 200 years and will also be the youngest. He succeeds Liz Truss, who resigned last week barely 45 days into her turbulent premiership.

Rishi Sunak took over as Conservative Party leader after his old employer Boris Johnson cancelled his attempt to make a comeback and his competitor Penny Mordaunt was unable to win enough support from Conservative MPs.

Sunak will be the nation's youngest prime minister in more than 200 years. He succeeds Liz Truss, who had to resign in disgrace when her tax-cutting schemes failed within two months.

2022 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) is set to be held from November 6 to 18 this year.



What is COP?

The Conference of Parties (COP) is the apex decision making body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP presidency rotates among 5 UN regions – Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central

and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and others. Egypt will assume the Presidency of COP 27.

Who will host the COP27?

The **Government of Egypt** will host the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27) at Sharm El Sheikh.

This is the **fifth time that a Conference of the Parties (COP)** is being held in Africa. It is expected to bring global attention to the climate crisis faced by Africa – one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to climate change.

PM MODI LAUNCHED 'MISSION LIFE'

Prime Minister Modi launched the **Mission LiFE** movement at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

What is Mission LiFE?

Mission LiFE was **introduced by Prime Minister Modi** at the COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021.

It is an **India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective actions** towards the protection and preservation of the environment. It follows three pronged strategy to achieve this goal:

Promotion of **environmental-friendly daily practices among people (demand)**

Enable industries and markets to respond to the shift in demand (supply)

Influence government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production (policy).

The **mission aims to mobilize at least 1 billion Indians and foreigners** to take actions that will preserve the environment for the period between 2022 and 2027.

It aims to make at least **80 percent of all villages and urban local bodies in India environmentally friendly by 2028.**

77TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS



Recently, the **World has celebrated the 77th anniversary of the United Nations (UN)** on 24th October 2022.

The **United Nations (UN)** is an **international organization** founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States.

Its mission and work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter and

implemented by its various organs and specialized agencies.

History:

In 1899, the **International Peace Conference was held in The Hague** to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare.

It **adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes** and established the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902. This court was the forerunner of the UN International Court of Justice.

The **forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations**, an organization conceived in circumstances of the First World War, and established in 1919 **under the Treaty of Versailles** "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security." **The UN Charter of 1945** is the foundational treaty of the United Nations, as an intergovernmental organization.

LULA DA SILVA AS NEW PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

The **leftist leader Lula da Silva** recently made a comeback as the new President of Brazil after defeating incumbent far right President Jair Bolsonaro.



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, popularly known as Lula, served as the President of Brazil for two terms between 2002 and 2010.

During his previous tenures as the president, **Brazil witnessed a massive economic growth and large-scale implementation of social welfare programmes** that raised millions of people out of poverty.

The **most popular of these social welfare programmes is the Bolsa Familia.** It provided cash to poor families if they send their children to schools and get them to undergo regular health check-ups. Lula left office since the laws in the country did not allow a **third consecutive presidential term.**

GARUDA VII AIR EXERCISE B/W INDIA & FRANCE

At Air Force Station Jodhpur, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FASF) are taking part in the bilateral exercise "**Garuda VII**"



from October 26 to November 12, 2022.

FASF is taking part in this exercise with a troop of 220 people, **one A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft, and four Rafale fighter aircraft.**

The IAF is taking part with fighter aircraft including the Su-30 MKI, Rafale, LCA Tejas, and Jaguar as well as helicopters like the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Mi-17.

Combat-enabling assets including AWACS, AEW & C, and flight refuelling aircraft will also be part of the IAF contingent.

The IAF and FASF's participation in this exercise will foster professional engagement, experience sharing, and the improvement of operational knowledge in addition to fostering bilateral ties between the two nations.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ANNUAL TRADE & DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022



The UNCTAD has released its annual Trade and Development Report 2022.

The UN report expects the world economy to grow 2.6% in 2022. This is 0.9 percentage points below last year's

projected rate.

The **growth is expected to further decelerate in 2023 to 2.2%.** This would leave the real GDP below the pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023.

The advanced **economies' monetary and fiscal policies risk triggering a global recession and prolonging stagnation.** This could lead to a situation worse than the 2008 financial crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 induced shock.

The report holds that attempting to curb inflation by increasing interest rates is an impudent gamble and would lead to a recession.

75 DIGITAL BANKING UNITS IN INDIA

Recently, the **Prime Minister of India has dedicated 75 Digital Banking Units (DBU)** across 75 districts to the nation.



As part of the **Union budget speech for 2022-23**, the Finance Minister announced setting up the 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate our country's 75 years of independence.

What are Digital Banking Units?

A **Digital Banking Unit is a specialised fixed point business unit or hub**, set up by scheduled commercial banks, housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.

The DBUs are being set up with the objective to ensure the **benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner** of the country and will cover all the States and Union territories.

Benefits: The DBUs will enable those who do not have **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** infrastructure to access banking services digitally. They will also assist those who are not tech savvy to adopt digital banking.

APPOINTMENTS

R VENKATARAMANI AS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA



R Venkataramani, a senior advocate in the Supreme Court, has been appointed as the **Attorney General of India** for a period of three years.

R Venkataramani is a lawyer having an experience of 42 years of practice in the apex court of India. He **enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1977** and joined the chambers of PP Rao, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court in 1979.

In 1982, he had set up an independent practice in the **Supreme Court** and was designated as **Senior Advocate of the SC** in 1997.

PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST OF ADITYA L-1 MISSION

The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has designated **Dr. Sankarasubramanian K** as the Principal Scientist of the **Aditya-L1** mission.

Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. Sankarasubramanian has contributed to **AstroSat**, **Chandrayaan-1** and **Chandrayaan-2** missions of ISRO in several capacities.

Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the first **Lagrange point, L1**, of the **Sun-Earth** system.

A satellite around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without occultation/eclipses.

This position provides a greater advantage of observing solar activities continuously. **Aditya-L1** carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the **Sun (the corona)** using electromagnetic and particle detectors.

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AWARDS & HONOR

NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2022



Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless have been awarded the Nobel Prize 2022 in Chemistry “for the development of Click Chemistry and Bioorthogonal Chemistry”.

Sharpless (won second time) came up with the term ‘click chemistry’ and worked extensively on it. Meldal, independently of Sharpless, came up with a special chemical structure called ‘triazole’ which has many significant applications.

Bertozzi took the next step of developing click reactions that could work inside living organisms – ‘bioorthogonal’ reactions (a term she coined).

The 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Benjamin List and David MacMillan for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.

Note: K. Barry Sharpless shared the 2001 Nobel Prize with William S. Knowles and Noyori Ryōji for “Developing the First Chiral Catalysts”.

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2022



The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2022 is awarded to the French author Annie Ernaux “for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory” at the Swedish

Academy in Stockholm.

The writer is known for **works that blur the line between memoir and fiction.**

The French author believes in the liberating force of writing. Her work is uncompromising and written in plain language, scraped clean.

With **great courage and clinical acuity, Annie Ernaux reveals the agony of the experience of class, describing shame, humiliation, jealousy or inability** to see who you are, she has achieved something admirable and enduring.

Annie Ernaux was born in 1940 and grew up in the small town of Yvetot in Normandy.

Ernaux, 82, has seen a sharp increase in popularity in the English-speaking world since 2019, after her seminal work ‘The Years’, translated by Alison L. Strayer, was shortlisted for the Man Booker international prize.

Her book on her illegal abortion in the 1960s, ‘Happening’ (first published in 2001) has also been in the limelight after abortion rights were curtailed in the US.

They present **uncompromising portraits of sexual encounters, abortion, illness and the deaths of her parents.** Ernaux describes her style as “flat writing” (écriture plate), a very objective view of the events she is describing, unshaped by florid description or overwhelming emotions.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2022

The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2022 was awarded to John F. Clauser, Alain Aspect and Anton Zeilinger for their work in quantum mechanics by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.



In 2021, the Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann (jointly) for their research on climate models and to Giorgio Parisi for his work on the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.

What is Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Entanglement?

Mechanics is the branch of physics that deals with the movement and interaction of various bodies. Mechanics has two parts - classical and quantum.

Classical or Newtonian mechanics is the mathematical study of the motion of macroscopic objects and the forces that affect them.

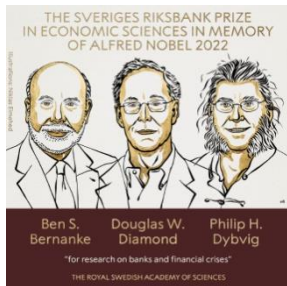
Quantum mechanics is a subfield of physics that describes the behavior of particles – atoms, electrons, photons and almost everything in the molecular and sub molecular realm.

One important difference in the behaviour of quantum systems, when compared to classical rigid bodies, is the concept of entanglement.

Quantum entanglement is a phenomenon by which a pair of subatomic particles are allowed to exist in a shared state where they have complementary properties, such that by measuring the properties of one particle, one can automatically know the properties of the other particle.

This is **true regardless of how far apart the two particles are transported**. Quantum entanglement was first elucidated by Erwin Schrödinger in 1935, leading to his well-known cat paradox.

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2022



This year, the **Nobel Prize for Economics** was conferred to **Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig**.

The **2022 Nobel Prize for Economics** recognized the works that have significantly improved the world's understanding of the role of banks in the economy, especially during the times of financial crises.

The research by **Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig** found why it is important to prevent the collapse of banks. A research by Dybvig and Diamond provided recommendations to prevent the collapse of the banks.

Banks are involved in the combination of activities of offering long-term loans to borrowers and accepting deposits and allowing their access to concerned clients.

The **combination of these activities are making banks vulnerable to rumours of their imminent collapse**, leading to rapid withdrawal from savings accounts and the ultimate collapse of the banks.

Dybvig and Diamond recommended that this worst-case scenario can be prevented if the government provides deposit insurance and acts as a last resort lender to the banks.

Diamond's research showed how the banks **can assess borrowers' creditworthiness** and ensure that the loans are used for worthy investments.

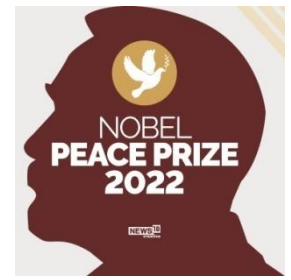
Ben Bernanke analysed the Great Depression that happened in the 1930s. His research showed how the banks played a major role in exacerbating and prolonging the Great Depression – the worst economic crisis in modern history.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2022

Ales Bialiatski, a human rights defender from Belarus who is now incarcerated, Memorial, a Russian human

rights organisation, and **Center for Civil Liberties**, a Ukrainian human rights organisation, have all been jointly given this year's **Nobel Peace Prize 2022**.

The Russian human rights organisation Memorial is one of the **two organisations to receive this year's Nobel Peace Prize**.



The Memorial was ordered to close down during a wave of repression against critical voices and refers to it as **"the conscience of Russia prohibited under Putin."**

During a time of unrest in Ukraine, **the Center for Civil Liberties was established in 2007** to advance democracy and human rights there.

GLOBAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT & AWARDS

The **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry addressed the 3rd edition of Global Artificial Intelligence Summit & Awards (GAISA)**, and articulated that Artificial Intelligence can help India be a developed nation by 2047.

What is GAISA?

The third AI Summit has been organized by **AICRA (All India Council For Robotics & Automation)** and is focusing on the areas of defence, healthcare, agriculture, smart cities, mobility and education in partnership with the government.

AICRA sets up standards in the robotics & automation and education industry, helping organizations and professionals to solve difficult technical problems, while enhancing their leadership and personal career capabilities.

24X7 focuses on the prominence of AI in human lives & business industries. The aim is to develop a roadmap on how to use the **AI ecosystem and startups for the benefit of society**.

ANGELA MERKEL RECEIVED NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD

Ex-German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the UNHCR Nansen Award for providing asylum for refugees while in office.

While **Merkel was the Chancellor in 2015 and 2016**, Germany welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers, especially from Syria.



The UNHCR recognized Merkel's determination to protect asylum seekers, helping them to survive and rebuild after facing war.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2022 RANKINGS

The Swachh Survekshan 2022 rankings have been released. This year's edition covered 4,354 cities across India.

The Swachh Survekshan is a list of India's cleanest cities released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

This initiative was started in 2016 to encourage urban sanitation. It is the largest urban cleanliness and sanitation survey in the world.

The cities are assessed based on 3 parameters- **service level progress (worth 3,000 marks), certification (worth 2,250 marks)** and citizens' voice (worth another 2,250 marks). This adds to a total of 7,500 marks.

The 2022 edition listed Indore as the cleanest city (with more than 1 lakh population)- marking the 6th time the city of lakes and palaces topped the Swachh Survekshan list. Following Indore, Surat (2nd spot for 2nd consecutive year) and Navi Mumbai were named as the 2nd and 3rd cleanest cities respectively.

Indore has become India's 1st 7 star Garbage Free city. The title of 5 star Garbage Free city was conferred to Surat, Bhopal, Mysuru, Visakhapatnam, Navi Mumbai and Tirupati.

Among cities with less than 1 lakh population, the list was topped by Panchgani in Maharashtra, followed by Patan (NP) in Chhattisgarh and Karhad in Maharashtra.

SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA AWARDED BOOKER PRIZE 2022



The Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka won the Booker Prize for "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida".

The novel was recognized for its scope and the humorous narrative tactics that bring

home the fact those concepts of corruption, race-baiting, and cronyism will never work.

The work narrates the story of a war photographer who has woken up dead in a celestial visa office. He has "seven moons" to try and solve his death's mystery and help unveil photos that will rattle war-torn Sri Lanka.

With this, Shehan Karunatilaka became the second Sri Lankan to receive this prestigious literary award. The first Sri Lankan to receive this award is Michael Ondaatje, who won the award in 1992 for his work "The English Patient".

About Booker Prize

Booker Prize is a literary prize that is conferred each year to recognize the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

Initially, this prize recognized only those novels written by authors from Commonwealth countries, Ireland and South Africa. In 2014, it was expanded to include any English-language novel.

UTTAR PRADESH BAGS 1ST POSITION IN PMAY-U AWARDS

Under the BJP-led Centre's flagship, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) housing scheme have been delivered and the rest are under various stages of completion, Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri.



In the awards, Uttar Pradesh bagged the first position followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at second and third place, respectively.

Poll-bound Gujarat saw five special category awards for performance related to Affordable Rental Housing Complexes and 'Convergence with other Missions' coming its way.

Madhya Pradesh got three special category awards followed by Jammu and Kashmir, which was adjudged the 'Best Performing UT' alongside Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

Odisha has been felicitated with the prestigious PMAY-U Awards 2021 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for the best policy initiative under a special category.

PMAY-U scheme

PMAY-U scheme is aimed at confronting and tiding over the shortage of housing facilities in urban India for beneficiaries under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Groups (LIGs) and Middle Income Groups (MIGs) categories.

PMAY-U, a flagship Mission of the Government of India implemented by the Ministry of Housing and

Urban Affairs (MoHUA), was launched on 25th June 2015.

SAKHAROV PRIZE FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT 2022

The **2022 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought** was bestowed to the people of Ukraine, represented by their president, elected leaders, and civil society.

It recognizes the **bravery of Ukrainians** who have been affected by the Russian invasion and their role in **defending freedom, democracy, rule of law, and European values on the battlefields.**

The Sakharov Prize involves prize money of 50,000 euros. It will be distributed to the representatives of Ukrainian civil society. This is the second time that this award was used by **EU lawmakers to send a message to Russia.**



Last year, the Sakharov prize was conferred to the imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Others who won the award in the past include **former South African president Nelson Mandela, Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai and the democratic opposition of Belarus.**

SPORTS

36TH NATIONAL GAMES IN AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the **36th National Games in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.** The 2022 National Games of India will be held from September 29 to October 12 this year.

L known as **Gujarat 2022**, it will be organized in **Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar.**

The event will include sports such as athletics, field hockey, football, volleyball, table tennis, skateboarding, kabaddi, mallakhamb etc.



The **two new UTs - Ladakh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu** - will make their debut at the National Games this year. The last edition of these games was held in Kerala in 2015.

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DATES & DAYS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS



The **International Day of Older Persons** is observed on October 1 every year across the world. The **International Day of Older Persons** is observed annually to honor the contributions of elderly people and look into the issues

faced by them.

The theme for this year's International Day of Older Persons is **"Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World."** It recognizes the resilience of older people while facing crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, worsening climate crisis, conflicts and increasing poverty.

WORLD SPACE WEEK OBSERVED FROM 4TH TO 10TH OCT.



World Space Week is observed from **October 4 to 10** every year.

World Space Week is observed to create awareness about space activities, inspire the next generation to

contribute to those activities and *promote international cooperation in space outreach and education.*

"Space and Sustainability" is the theme for this year's **World Space Week**. Its aim is to achieve sustainability in and from space.

It focuses on how sustainability in space relates to how **humanity uses space, especially the orbital area around the Earth.**

IAF CELEBRATES ITS RAISING DAY ON OCTOBER 8TH



The **Indian Air Force** was raised on **October 8, 1932**, and it is completing 90 years today. The day and its observance is a matter of pride for Indians and inspire a patriotic zeal among the citizenry for the air arm of the

Indian Armed Forces.

The **President of India** is the **Commander-in-chief of the IAF**. This time Air Force Day flypast is scheduled to

take place over Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh this afternoon.

The Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.

This time **75 aircrafts will participate in the flypast, while 9 aircrafts** will be kept on standby mode.

The light combat helicopter LCH which was recently inducted in the IAF will also showcase its air capabilities in the sky at Sukhna lake. **Tejas, Sukhoi, MIG -29, Jaguar, Rafale, and Hawk** will also be part of fly past.

INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICES (IFS) DAY

Every year, **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day** is celebrated on **9th October**.

Why is Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day Celebrated?



Indian Foreign Service Day is celebrated to commemorate the day the Indian Cabinet created the Foreign Service.

Origin: The Indian government established the Indian Foreign Service for **India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas** on **9th October 1946**.

With independence, there was a near-complete transition of the Foreign and Political Department into what then became the new **Ministry of External Affairs**.

The origin of the Indian Foreign Service can be traced back to **British rule** when the **Foreign Department** was created to conduct business with the "Foreign European Powers".

Offices under IFS: Ambassador, High Commissioner, Consul General, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and **Foreign Secretary** are some of the offices held by the members of the Indian Foreign Service.

WORLD POST DAY CELEBRATED ON 9TH OCTOBER

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern**.



This day celebrates the role of the post in people's and businesses' everyday lives. It was **declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.**

Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.

The **theme for World Post Day 2022 is 'Post for Planet'.** The Post is the world's largest logistics network. Every year, more than 150 countries celebrate World Post Day in a variety of ways. In certain countries, World Post Day is observed as a working holiday.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY: 10TH OCTOBER



World Mental Health Day is observed on **October 10** to raise global awareness about mental health problems across the world.

World Mental Health Day is observed every year to increase international awareness **about mental health and related issues.**

The **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)** sets a unique theme for this day every year. The theme for this year is **"Make mental health and well-being for all a global priority".**

It aims to raise general awareness about mental well-being by providing opportunities for **people suffering from mental health issues to collectively voice the requirements** to make mental health and well-being a global priority for all.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed each year on October 13. **The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** aims to promote international awareness about disaster risks and preparedness.

It also recognizes the efforts of individuals and communities towards minimizing their vulnerabilities to disasters. **The theme for International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 is Early Warning.**

Background

The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** was first established by the UNGA in 1989 to promote the global culture of disaster risk mitigation and increase awareness about various risks posed by disasters.

In 2002, **another UNGA resolution** was passed to mark this day every year.

WORLD STANDARDS DAY OBSERVED ON 14TH OCTOBER

14th October is observed as the **World Standards Day.**

World Standards Day raises global awareness about the importance of standardized measurements, technologies and industries.



It gives recognition of scientists' achievements in the development of voluntary universal standards used for measurements. The theme for this year is **"Shared Vision for a Better World".**

This year's theme is **part of the campaigns of ISO (the International Organization for Standardization), IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) towards creating global awareness about the role of standardization in achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

On the occasion of World Standards Day 2022, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized a **standards conclave called "Manak Mahotsav".**

The event was organized based on the theme **"Standards for Sustainable Development Goals - A Shared Vision for a Better World".**

WORLD FOOD DAY OBSERVED ON 16TH OCTOBER

World Food Day is observed on **October 16** each year to emphasize the importance of a healthy diet and a regular access to nourishing food.

The 2022 edition of the World Food Day was observed amid the rising concerns of the food crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, inflation and diplomatic crisis.

The theme for this year is **Leave NO ONE behind.** It highlights the importance of providing food security



and nutrition security for everyone in the world on a regular basis. It aims to create a sustainable world where everyone, **everywhere gets regular access to healthy food.**

On the occasion of World Food Day 2022, the **Kirisia Community Forest Association (CFA)** was conferred an FAO award for the restoration of the Kirisia forest in Kenya.

The second edition of the World Food Forum was organized on this occasion. It included events such as **WFF Global Youth Forum, the FAO Science and Innovation Forum and the FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum.**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN



International Day of Rural Women is observed on October 15 to promote gender equality and women empowerment in rural regions.

International Day of Rural Women celebrates the achievements and contributions of women living in remote rural regions.

The theme for International Day for Rural Women 2022 is **"Rural Women, key for a world free from hunger and poverty"**. The theme focuses on the role of women in combating hunger and malnutrition.

One of the major contributions of the United Nations since it was established was empowerment and well-being of women, especially those living in rural areas.

During the **Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in 1995 in Beijing**, the UN suggested the creation of the International Day of Rural Women to honour the role of women in agriculture, food production and food safety.

The UN declared this day on **December 18, 2007**. Since then, it has been observed across the globe to empower rural women and celebrate their achievements despite the struggles and stereotypes.

INT. DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 every year.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty seeks to raise global awareness

about the problem of poverty and its role in the violation of human rights and dignity. It also honors the bravery of people living in **poverty and recognizes their everyday struggles.**

2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. **"Dignity For All in Practice"** is the theme for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Through this theme, the **United Nations urges individuals across the world to commit to the promotion** of social justice, with an emphasis on human dignity, which is the basis for all fundamental rights.

Background

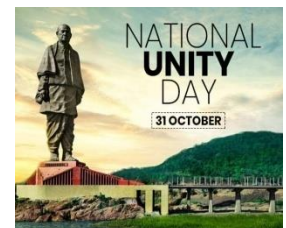
The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** commemorates the day in 1987 when thousands of people came together at the Trocadéro in Paris to honor victims of extreme poverty, violence, and hunger.

They proclaimed that poverty is a human right violation. The following year, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in Trocadéro**. The UNGA adopted the resolution declaring this day in 1992.

NATIONAL UNITY DAY OBSERVED ON 31ST OCTOBER

The **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** is celebrated every year on October 31st to commemorate the birth anniversary of **India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

This year will mark the **147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, who is also known as the **Iron Man of India.**



National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2022: History

The **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day** was introduced by the Indian government in 2014 to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary for his extraordinary work in keeping India united.

The **first Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who flagged off a program, 'Run for Unity' in New Delhi in 2014.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

He was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat. He was the **first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of independent India.**

He played an important role in the integration of many **Indian princely states to make an Indian federation.**

After the **signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, Patel was elected president of Congress for its 1931 session (Karachi). Women of Bardoli bestowed the title '**Sardar**' on Vallabhbhai Patel, which means 'a Chief or a Leader'.

He is recognized as the real unifier of India for his colossal contribution to integrating and making **India a united (Ek Bharat) and an independent nation.** The **Statue of Unity at Kevadiya** in the Narmada district of Gujarat (2018) was built in his honour.

WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2022

World Statistics Day 2022 is celebrated annually on October 20th to recognize the importance of statistics in our daily lives.

The **United Nations Statistical Commission** has been at the forefront of advocating for the use of statistics to track progress towards the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Good data and statistics are essential for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs.

World Statistics Day 2022: Theme

The **theme of Statistics Day, 2022** is "**Data for Sustainable Development**". On this occasion, MoSPI also recognizes the outstanding contribution through high-quality research in the field of applied and theoretical statistics benefiting the official statistical system through awards instituted for this purpose.

WORLD POLIO DAY OBSERVED ON 24TH OCTOBER

World Polio Day 2022 is observed every year on October 24 to raise awareness about the polio vaccination and eradication of polio from every corner of the world.

The day is observed to commemorate the progress made by the **world towards polio eradication.**



World Polio Day 2022: Theme

This year, the overarching theme of World Polio Day is "**World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A healthier future for mothers and children**".

The theme urges the world to

acknowledge the **progress made in the battle to eradicate polio in children and the work to provide a healthier future for mothers.**

UN DISARMAMENT WEEK FROM 24TH OCT. TO 30TH OCT.

The **UN Disarmament Week** is observed from October 24 to 30.

The **UN Disarmament Week** is observed to raise awareness and improve understanding of the significance and challenges of disarmament.

The week starts on October 24, which marks the **anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN).** Since the UN was founded, disarmament and arms control has been one of its major focus areas.

The week-long annual event advocates for the ending of diplomatic tensions with political dialogue and negotiations instead of using more arms and ammunition.

It calls for the **elimination of all materials that support armed conflicts.**

CENTRAL VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

Central Vigilance Commission observes **Vigilance Awareness Week** during the week in which 31st of October, the birthday of the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls.

This year, Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed **from 31st October to 6th November 2022** with the following theme: "**Corruption-free India for a developed Nation**".



As a precursor to **Vigilance Awareness Week 2022**, the Central Vigilance Commission had carried out a **three-month campaign highlighting certain preventive vigilance initiatives as focus areas for all the Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations.**

The six focus areas include the following:

- Property Management
- Management of Assets
- Record Management
- Technological Initiatives **comprising two parameters**
- Website Maintenance & updation
- Identification of new areas for service delivery for customers to be brought on the online portal and initiation of steps for creating an online platform.
- Updation of guidelines/circulars / Manuals wherever found necessary
- Disposal of complaint

REPORT & INDEXES

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2022



The **Global Innovation Index 2022** was released recently by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Switzerland topped the Global Innovation Index for the 12th consecutive year. It leads the world in innovation outputs and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing and production as well as export complexity.

The second position was held by the **United States, followed by Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.**

The ranking of the most innovative economies takes into consideration infrastructure and technology outputs, human and capital research, business sophistication etc. India has climbed 6 positions to 40th rank in the GII due to improvements in several parameters.

INDIAN TOURISM STATISTICS 2022 REPORT

The **Indian Tourism Statistics 2022 report** was released by the Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar on the occasion of World Tourism Day (September 27, 2022).

The **union tourism ministry's report revealed that Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** witnessed the highest number of visits by foreign tourists in 2021.

India witnessed 677.63 million domestic tourist visits in 2021. This is a 11.05 per cent increase from 2020's figures. Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Qutub Minar are the top 3 most visited sites in India in 2021-22.

Taj Mahal reported 3.29 million visits or 12.65 per cent of total footfall in 2021-22 from domestic visitors.

INDIA EMERGED AS LARGEST PRODUCER OF SUGAR



India has emerged as the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world and the **second largest exporter.**

During the **sugar season in India, over 5,000 lakh metric tons (LMT)** of sugarcane was produced out of which about 3,574 LMT was crushed by Sugar Mills to produce about 349 LMT of Sugar. 35 LMT

of Sugar is diverted to ethanol production and 359 LMT of sugar was produced in sugar mills.

During this season all records of **sugarcane production, sugar production, sugar export, cane dues paid** and ethanol production were made.

In 2020-21, India made records with the highest exports of about 109.8 LMT with no financial assistance. The sugar exports from India earned foreign currency of about Rs 40,000 crore for the country.

EDUCATION 4.0 REPORT RELEASED BY WEF

Titled **Education 4.0 Report**, the report explains how technology can address learning gaps and make education accessible to all.



The **information** was published under **Education 4.0 India initiative, launched in May 2020** and has convened over 40 partners from the education technology, government, academic and start-up communities.

About The Education Market: India is the second largest market for online education after the US. With conducive policies and initiatives of the government, such as the **National Education Policy 2020 and over 5000 EdTech start-ups** across the learning lifecycle, the current education environment is potent for digital transformation.

India Specific Data: India has more than 60 million secondary and higher secondary students, **but 85 per cent of schools are yet to implement vocational courses as part of their curriculum. School-to-work (S2W) transition** refers to making students job-ready in a rapidly evolving employment landscape.

GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

The **multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** was recently released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).



The **MPI 2022** was released under the title **"Unpacking deprivation bundles** to reduce multidimensional poverty". In 111 countries, 1.2 billion people (19.1%) live

in acute multidimensional poverty. 593 million (50%) of these people are minors under the age of 18.

The developing region with the highest prevalence of **multidimensional poverty** is **Sub-Saharan Africa (nearly 579 million)**, followed by South Asia (385 million).

In India

For the first time, the report dedicated a special section focusing on the 15-year trend of poverty in India. **Over the past 15 years**, the number of poor people has declined by 415 million. The MPI value and incidence of poverty fell from 0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.122 in 2015-16. The figure dropped again to 0.069 in 2019-21.

The **incidence of poverty declined from 55.1 per cent to 16.4 per cent over the past 15 years**. However, India still has the highest number of poor people in the world and Nigeria has the second-highest poor population.

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2022



Living Planet Report 2022 found drastic decline in the global wildlife population.

Living Planet Report 2022 is a joint endeavor of the World Wildlife Fund and Zoological

Society of London.

According to the flagship publication, there has been a **69 per cent decline in the global wildlife population** between the years 1970 and 2018.

This does not mean that 69 per cent of individual animals across the world have declined.

The **report gives an average of changes in population sizes of different species of animals** and not of the number of creatures lost. It measures the relative size of the decline in each animal population and averages it.

The report analyzed almost 32,000 populations of 5,230 species. Besides providing a broad picture of the dwindling wildlife population across the world, **the Living Planet Report also highlighted the importance of dealing with biodiversity loss and climate crisis as one rather than two different issues**.

The link between these two issues was highlighted for the first time in this report. According to the report, the **Latin America and the Caribbean region**, which hosts the Amazon Rainforest, witnessed the highest wildlife decline of 94 percent between 1970 and 2018.

Africa recorded the second highest decline of 66 per cent during the **same period, followed by the Pacific (55 per**

cent). **North America and Europe** recorded lesser nature decline, falling by 20 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

WHAT IS LEADS REPORT 2022?

LEADS (Logistics Ease across Different States) 2022 was released recently by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



The LEADS survey assesses the views of various users and stakeholders involved in the value chain of the logistics sector. This survey is conducted to recognize the enablers, hindrances and gaps within the logistics ecosystem.

This annual survey ranks the logistics ecosystem of each state and union territory across India using data received from stakeholders (**perception data**) and states and union territories (**objective data**).

The **LEAD 2022**, unlike the former versions, adopted the classification-based grading, with states and union territories classified under four broad categories – coastal states, hinterland/landlocked states, northeastern states and union territories.

It provides **three performance categories** – **Achievers (states and UTs achieving 90 per cent or more)**, **Fast Movers** (states and UTs scoring between 80 and 90 per cent), and **aspirants** (states and UTs with percentage scoring below 80 per cent).

The 15 states and UTs that have been categorized as achievers in the logistics index chart 2022 are **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.

The fast movers in the latest report are Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura.

INDIA BECOMES 3RD LARGEST FISH PRODUCING COUNTRY

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugan has recently said that India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. India is the 3rd largest fish producing and **2nd largest aquaculture nation in the world after China**.

What The Minister Said:

He said, India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. Making specific reference to Karnataka, the

Union Minister said that 734.77 crore rupees was allocated to the state under the flagship scheme of **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** from 2020-21 till date for the development of infrastructure facilities.

What Is Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

The vision is to bring about the **Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector**. The main motto of PMMSY is 'Reform, Perform and Transform the fisheries sector.

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is the implementing agency. **The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two separate components - Central Sector Scheme and Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**

The **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** Component is further segregated into non-beneficiary oriented and beneficiary orientated sub-components/activities.

EMISSIONS GAP REPORT RELEASED BY UNEP

The report titled "Emissions Gap Report 2022-The Closing Window" was released recently by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

Emission Gap Reports assess the gap between countries' pledges on emission reduction and the reduction required to bring down the **global temperature increase below 2°C by the year 2100**.

It analyzes the difference between where the **GHG emissions** are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to prevent catastrophic consequences of climate change.

The **report is seen as a scientifically authoritative source for information on the implementation of the Paris Agreement**. It has been published by UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP CCC) since the year 2011.

The **2022 edition (13th edition) of this report was released recently**. This report was released a day after the UNFCCC warned in its annual assessment that the world is on track for around 2.5°C warming by the end of this century.

CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2022

The **eighth edition of the Climate Transparency report** was released recently.

The report, which assessed the climate actions by G20 countries, found that the members' support to produce

fossil fuels have reached new heights at 64 billion USD in 2021, despite the worsening climate crisis.

Wider government fossil fuel subsidies, which shrunk to 147 billion USD in 2020, rose back again by **29 per cent to 190 billion USD in 2021**.

The **subsidies continue to spike into 2022, partly because of the Russian war in Ukraine** causing inflation in the energy sector, which has increased profits of energy manufacturers.

G20 members with highest total subsidies for fossil fuels are **China, Indonesia and the United Kingdom**.

These subsidies are contributing to the global temperature surpassing the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit agreed under the **Paris Agreement and reaffirmed in 2021 at the COP26 held in Glasgow**.

The report also found that energy emissions **also rebounded across G20 countries by 5.9 per cent last year**, returning back to the pre-pandemic levels despite the warning from the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** that recommended reducing emissions by 50 per cent to keep the 1.5 degree warming levels.

IEA RELEASED WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK 2022

Amid the global energy crisis caused by war in Ukraine, the World Energy Outlook 2022 report was released to provide insights into the implications of this global energy shock.

What is WEO?

The **WEO is the world's most comprehensive** and authoritative assessment and projection of the global energy sector. It is an annual report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) since 1998.

It provides comprehensive insights into the global energy supply and demand in different scenarios and their impact on energy security, climate targets and economic development.

What are the key findings of the 2022 report?

Russia's invasion has exacerbated the energy crisis that was already triggered by supply disruption caused by the pandemic. **Russia has been the world's top exporter of fossil fuels.**



However, its supply curtailments to Europe and European sanctions on imports of oil and coal from Russia have increased energy prices significantly.

Natural gas prices have reached unprecedented levels. They are consistently exceeding the equivalent of USD 250 per barrel of oil.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (GHI) 2022



The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 was released recently. The GHI has been released since 2000 by the European NGOs – Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

It aims to track the prevalence of global hunger by region and by country. A low score means the country will be ranked higher, implying a better performance.

Its ultimate aim is to help the world achieve “Zero Hunger by 2030” – one of the SDGs of the United Nations. It does not rank certain high income countries.

It focuses on 4 main parameters – undernourishment (inadequate food), child wasting (acute undernutrition among children), child stunting (chronic undernutrition) and child mortality (inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment).

Countries scoring less than or equal to 9.9 on a 100-point scale will come under the “low” category of hunger. The “serious” category countries are those that score between 20 and 34.9 and “extremely alarming” category countries are those scoring above 50.

India's performance

Out of 121 countries, India's GHI ranking fell from 101 in 2021 to 107 this year. It is ranked behind its neighbors – Nepal (81), Pakistan (99), Sri Lanka (64) and Bangladesh (84).

Afghanistan, at the 109th position, is the only Asian country ranked behind India. India's score in all four indicators was poor, especially for the prevalence of child wasting.

Child wasting has increased from 15.1 in 2014 to 19.3 and child undernourishment increased from 14.8 in 2014 to 16.3. India has the highest child wasting rate in the world – higher than it was in 1998-1999. India improved its performance in other two indicators – child mortality (3.3) and child stunting (35.5).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX (PAI) 2022

The Bengaluru-based Public Affairs Centre (PAC) recently released the seventh edition of the Public Affairs Index (PAI 2022).

The PAI 2022, which assesses the delivery of economic, political, and social justice in the states, recognized Haryana as the **best-governed state under the big states category, which ranked 18 states.**

It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Karnataka, and others. Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jharkhand were ranked 16th, 17th and 18th positions in the index. Sikkim retained the top position in the category of 10 smaller states.

It is followed by Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which secured second and third positions respectively.

Economic Justice: Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Karnataka are the top performers in delivering economic justice. The worst performer in this aspect is West Bengal, with a score of 0.18. Sikkim topped the list of small states providing economic justice, while Uttarakhand scored the lowest.



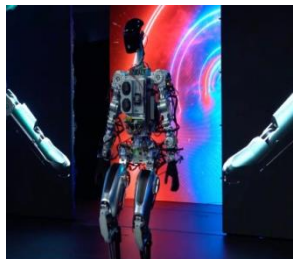
Political Justice: Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh topped the list of major states providing political justice. Among the smaller states, the top rank is held by Uttarakhand and Goa secured the last position.

Social Justice: Punjab received the highest score in the delivery of social justice. Haryana and Kerala hold the second and third positions respectively. Among the smaller states, Uttarakhand was ranked at the top, while Nagaland was ranked at the lowest.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

HUMANOID ROBOT 'OPTIMUS' DEVELOPED BY TESLA

Tesla CEO Elon Musk recently unveiled the latest prototype of Optimus – a humanoid robot developed by the American company based in Texas.



The prototype of Optimus was showcased during the annual Tesla AI [artificial intelligence] Day presentation. The humanoid robot demonstrated the ability to perform simple tasks like watering plants, carrying boxes and lifting metal bars.

Its purpose is to replace human tasks with machines. This robot shares some of the artificial intelligence software and sensors with the Tesla cars' autopilot driver assistance features.

The mass production of these robots will cost less than 20,000 USD. The design of the robot mimics human anatomy, with five independently moving fingers capable of grasping adaptively with high precision.

This enables it to use tools in an accurate manner.

IAF INDUCTED MULTI-ROLE LCH: PRACHANDA

Recently, the Indian Air Force formally inducted the indigenously developed multi-role Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Prachanda which is suitable for operating in high-altitude battlefields.

What is a Light Combat Helicopter?

The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 meters with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.

The helicopter uses radar-absorbing material to lower radar signature and has a significantly crash-proof structure and landing gear.

A pressurised cabin offers protection from Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) contingencies. The helicopter is equipped with a countermeasure dispensing system that protects it from enemy radars or infrared seekers of enemy missiles.

LCH is powered by two French-origin Shakti engines manufactured by the HAL.

WHAT IS HTT-40 AIRCRAFT?

The indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40 is set to be unveiled during the 12th edition of the DefExpo on October 19, 2022.

The indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40 (Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40) is developed and manufactured by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



The trainer aircraft is expected to be unveiled at the India Pavilion during the DefExpo 2022. The HAL and Indian Air Force will finalize a contract for 70 HTT-40s during the event.

HTT-40 will be used by the IAF for training new pilots before they are allowed to use more advanced HAL HJT-16 Kiran (intermediate jet-powered trainer aircraft) and "Hawk" Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT).

ISRO'S MARS ORBITER MISSION?

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) confirmed that the Mars Orbiter craft has lost communication and is non-recoverable and the Mangalyaan mission has attained end-of-life.

Despite being designed for a life-span of six months as a technology demonstrator, the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has lived for about eight years in the Martian orbit.

What is MOM?

About: The Rs 450 crore Mars Orbiter Mission was launched onboard PSLV-C25 on 5th November, 2013, and the MOM spacecraft was successfully inserted into the Martian orbit in September, 2014 in its first attempt.

Mangalyaan was India's first interplanetary mission. The mission made India the first Asian country, and the fourth in the world after Roscosmos, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), and the European Space Agency, to get to the planet.

ISRO PLANS TO LAUNCH CHANDRAYAAN-3 MISSION

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) plans to launch its third lunar mission in the month of June 2023.

The more capable lunar rover will be carried by Chandrayaan-3, which is essential for future interplanetary explorations, according to S. Somnath, Chairman of the Indian Space Agency, ISRO.



According to S Somnath, the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) will launch Chandrayaan-3 (C-3) in June of next year.

About the Mission Chandrayaan-3:

The mission was previously scheduled to launch in the third quarter of 2022, but it has now been further postponed. The coronavirus epidemic and the upcoming lockdown earlier hampered the progress on Chandrayaan-2's replacement.

It is important to note that the Chandrayaan-2 mission lost control and fell to the Moon's dark side. However, the orbiter is still operational and making crucial observations of both the solar system and the lunar surface.

IRANIAN MADE KAMIKAZE DRONES



Recently, Ukraine's capital region was struck by Iranian-made kamikaze drones.

What are Kamikaze Drones?

These are small unmanned aircraft that are packed with explosives that can be flown directly at a tank or a group of troops that are destroyed when it hits the target and explodes.

They are called **Switchblade** because their **bladelike wings spring out on launch**.

The drones have the capability of going past traditional defences to strike its targets and also cost a fraction of what the larger counterparts do.

These small lethal drones are difficult to detect on radar, and they can even be programmed to **hit targets without human intervention, based on facial recognition**.

Countries Possess such Drones: Although the Kamikaze might be the most advanced form of this genre of drones, Russia, China, Israel, Iran and Turkey all have some version of it.

LVM3 ROCKET PLACES 36 SATELLITES IN ORBIT

OneWeb's 36 satellites were successfully orbited by the biggest rocket ever launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3), which lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.



With this 14th launch, OneWeb will have 462 satellites in its constellation. This launch represents more than 70% of the 648 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites that are expected to be deployed globally to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity. LVM3 has entered the market for international commercial launch services with this launch.

The LVM3-M2 dedicated commercial satellite mission is being carried out by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) that is part of the Indian government's Department of Space.

About One Web's Mission

OneWeb is still on target to activate global coverage in 2023 with just four more launches, and its connectivity solutions are now operational in areas north of 50 degrees latitude.

OneWeb's commitment to supplying connectivity throughout all of India by 2023 is demonstrated by its relationship with NSIL and ISRO.

WHAT ARE THE PILLARS OF CREATION?

A lush, highly detailed landscape- the iconic "Pillars of Creation" has been caught by NASA's powerful James Webb Telescope.

What are Pillars of Creation?

It is a vista of three looming towers made of interstellar dust and gas. These iconic Pillars of Creation are located in the centre of the Eagle Nebula (it is a constellation of stars), which is also known as Messier 16.

The images show vast, towering columns of dense clouds of gas and dust where young stars are forming in a region some 6,500 light-years from Earth.

At the ends of several pillars are bright red, lava-like spots. These are ejections from stars that are still forming, only a few hundred thousand years old. The pillars were made famous by the Hubble Space

Telescope, which first captured them in 1995 and then again in 2014.

What is the James Webb Space Telescope?

The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency which was launched in December 2021.

It is currently at a point in space known as the **Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point**, approximately 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit around the Sun. Lagrange Point 2 is one of the five points in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system.

Named after Italian-French mathematician **Joseph-Louis Lagrange**, the points are in any revolving two-body system like Earth and Sun, marking where the gravitational forces of the two large bodies cancel each other out.

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED AGNI-PRIME

Recently, **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test-fired indigenously-developed **new generation medium-range ballistic missile Agni Prime (Agni-P)** from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island at Odisha coast.

What is Agni Prime?

It is a two-stage canisterised missile. It is the latest and sixth variant of the Agni series missiles (**under IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program**).

With **multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles**, the missile is capable of delivering a number of warheads at separate locations at a distance of 1,000 - 2,000 km.

These missiles will be inducted in the armed forces after a couple of user associated launches. It has a dual redundant navigation and guidance system. The **Agni-P missile** would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

INDIA TO EXPAND NAVIC

India is planning to **expand the regional satellite navigation system NavIC**.

The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** is currently planning to expand the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

It had sought the **government's permission to launch 12 additional satellites into the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)** for this purpose. Placing NavIC satellites in MEO will make them global like GPS.

About NavIC

NavIC is an **independent stand-alone navigation satellite system developed by ISRO**. It was operationalized in 2018 with 7 satellites covering the whole of the Indian landmass and up to 1,500 km from the international boundaries.

It is currently being used for public vehicle tracking, **providing emergency warning alerts for fishermen sailing to the deep sea, and tracking information related to natural disasters**.



With NavIC, India is one of the few countries having its own positioning system. Others with their **own navigation satellite systems are Russia (GLONASS), the European Union (Galileo), and China (BeiDou Navigation Satellite System)**.

MISCELLANEOUS

1ST ASIAN-AMERICAN TO FEATURE IN US CURRENCY



Anna May Wong, a Chinese-American movie star in Hollywood, is set to become the first Asian-American to feature in US currency.

A quarter-dollar coin depicting a close-up image of Anna May

Wong will commence circulation on October 24, 2022.

This will be the fifth coin in the **American Women Quarters (AWQ) Program**. It will have the Latin phrase "E PLURIBUS UNUM", which means "out of many, one".

It is designed to **recognize Wong's accomplishments** while overcoming challenges and hurdles during her lifetime.

Wong is regarded as **Hollywood's first Chinese-American star**, having a decades-long career in motion pictures, television, and theatre amid the widespread racism in the United States.

ELON MUSK FIRES TWITTER CEO PARAG AGARWAL



Elon Musk finally completed his **\$44 billion acquisition of Twitter Inc.**, after six months of public and legal battle over the purchase.

Placing the world's richest man in charge of the faltering social network. **One of Musk's first actions was to replace the leadership.**

Redundancies include **Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, director of legal, policy, and trust Vijaya Gadde, chief financial officer Ned Segal, who joined Twitter in 2017, and general counsel Sean Edgett, who has served as Twitter's general counsel since 2012.**

According to two of the people who requested anonymity because the details are private, Edgett was led out of the building.

Long before Musk took over, it was obvious that Agrawal probably wouldn't stay in command. **Twitter will now be a private corporation and shareholders will receive \$54.20 per share.**

The conclusion brings to an end a complicated process that started in January with Elon Musk quietly building up a sizable investment in the business, his mounting displeasure with the way it's handled, and an eventual merger agreement that he later spent months trying to undo.

FOURTH TIGER RESERVE OF UTTAR PRADESH

The **fourth tiger reserve** has been notified by the Uttar Pradesh Government.



The **state cabinet** has approved the notification of Uttar Pradesh's fourth tiger reserve in the **Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS)** in Chitrakoot district under the Wild life (Protection) Act of 1972.

While this wildlife sanctuary does not host tigers of its own, it is often frequented by tigers from the neighbouring Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Panna Tiger Reserve and the RWS are situated close to each other and the latter is an important corridor for the movement of tigers. A 2018 survey by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** revealed that Ranipur hosts three tigers.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TRIBES IN ODISHA

Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.



With the release of the **five volumes of "Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha"**, Odisha became the first state in India to start an encyclopaedia on tribal communities and document their historic and unique traditions.

The encyclopaedia was published by **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI)** and Odisha State Tribal Museum.

It has 418 research articles focusing on tribal communities, including 13 particularly vulnerable groups. This 3,800-page scholarly book came as a result of research contributions from numerous scholars and eminent anthropologists.

The purpose of this book is to preserve the rapidly changing cultural identity of tribal communities in the state.

It brings together both published and unpublished data regarding the tribes' ethnography and development over the years, covering their past as well as the present.

SUPREME COURT ORDER ON ABORTION



The Supreme Court recently held that women, regardless of their marital status, are entitled to safe and legal abortion until 24 weeks of pregnancy.

The apex court held that any differentiation between a married or unmarried woman under abortion law was "artificial and constitutionally unsustainable".

It held that abortion for unmarried and single woman whose pregnancies are between 20 to 24 weeks cannot be denied. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 does not allow abortion for unmarried pregnant women between 20 to 24 weeks after consensual sex.

The court held that Rule 3B of the MTP Act is unconstitutional since it deprives unmarried women the right to access safe and legal abortions after 20 weeks if they face a change in their maternal circumstances similar to married women.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT IDENTITY (IMEI)



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has made it mandatory for mobile phone manufacturers to register the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) of all handsets made in India with the Indian

Counterfeited Device Restriction portal of Government of India.

The IMEI number of mobile phones imported to India will also have to be registered on the same portal of the Government prior to the import of the mobile phone into the country.

What is an IMEI Number?

The IMEI is a unique number that is used to identify a device on a mobile network. It has 15 digits and is like a phone's unique identity.

The telecom department and the customs department work together to check and record the IMEI numbers of handsets that come into India.

Functions:

The number is used to verify the identity of a device when a user uses the Internet or places a call through it. Phones with a dual-SIM option have two IMEI numbers, one for each SIM.

1ST ACTOR TO SHOOT IN SPACE

Hollywood Actor Tom Cruise, who is renowned for pulling off high-octane stunts in his projects, is taking things to the next level and may soon become the first actor to shoot in space.



The Top Gun actor has reportedly partnered with director Doug Liman on a project that calls for him to perform a spacewalk.

The Hollywood actor and director have reportedly approached the Universal Filmed Entertainment Group (UFEG) with a proposal for Tom to launch himself up to the International Space Station.

The project was initially slated for 2020, but the Covid-19 outbreak put the project on hold. The movie is currently in the conceptual stage and hasn't started shooting yet.

Tom Cruise would be the first movie celebrity to film on the International Space Station if the film is successful, as was previously announced.

Liman was asked about reports that the movie will cost around \$200 million but she insisted they are yet to work out the final budget. Presumably, a flight to space for Cruise and a film crew will cost a packet.

WHAT IS GALAPAGOS ISLANDS?

According to a recent study, Cold ocean currents have sheltered the Galápagos Islands from global warming.

The islands are protected from an otherwise warming Pacific Ocean by a cold, eastward equatorial ocean current.



The equatorial undercurrent in the Pacific Ocean is bound to the equator by the force of the planet's rotation.

Under the ocean's surface, a swift circulation of cold, nutrient-rich water flows from west to east.

What is Galapagos Archipelago?

Location: The **Galapagos Islands**, spread over almost **60,000 sq km**, are a part of **Ecuador**. These are located in the Pacific Ocean around 1,000 km away from the South American continent.

Protection Status: Ecuador made a part of the Galapagos a wildlife sanctuary in 1935, and the sanctuary became the Galapagos National Park in 1959. In 1978, the islands became UNESCO's first **World Heritage Site**.

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