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Cheetah Rehabilitation in India

India will soon release cheetahs brought from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in Sheopur district mark the beginning of inter-continental cheetahs. The last the country was year 1947 in the year 1952 it was the country. The India (WII) prepared a project a few years back.



of Madhya Pradesh. This will India's ambitious plan for resettlement of spotted cheetah of found dead in the Chhattisgarh and in declared extinct in Wildlife Institute of cheetah rehabilitation

Cheetah: Cheetah is also the world's fastest, land mammal which is found in Africa and Asia. It is one of the oldest species, whose ancestors can be traced back to the Miocene epoch more than five million years ago. Their skin is slightly brown and golden, which is thicker than that of Asiatic cheetahs. They have a lot more spots and lines on their face than the Asian species.

Scientific name of African cheetah: *Acinonyx jubatus*.

- ◆ Asiatic Cheetah Scientific name: *Acinonyx jubatus veneticus*.
- ◆ Large body fur, short head and long neck, usually red eyes and often a cat-like appearance. It is smaller than the African cheetah. They are found only in Iran and there are less than 100 left in their numbers.

Protection:

- ◆ IUCN Red List: 'Critically Endangered'
- ◆ CITES: Appendix-I
- ◆ WPA: Schedule-2

Important Points

- ♦ Human-wildlife conflict, loss of habitat and non-availability of prey and illegal trafficking. Forest lands and cheetah habitats have decreased due to deforestation and agriculture. Climate change and increasing human population have further complicated these problems.
- ♦ Kuno National Park: Kuno National Park is a protected area in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India, which was given the status of a national park in 2018. It was established in 1981 as a wild sanctuary. or Sheopur and Morena districts of the state.
- ♦ Conservation Efforts by India: Seven years ago, the Wildlife Institute of India prepared a rehabilitation project for Cheetah conservation at a cost of Rs 260 crore. This could be the world's first inter-continental cheetah relocation project. The Environment Ministry had released the 'Action Plan for Cheetah Return to India' at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has decided to bring 50 African cheetahs from Namibia within the next 5 years.

India's largest floating solar project

The final 20 MW of commercial operation of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project i.e. Floating Solar Power

Simultaneously, the Floating Solar PV has been declared from July 1, 2022. project of its kind Floating Solar photovoltaic (PV) platforms and floating conditions are ocean and usually installed on calm bodies of water such as ponds, lakes or reservoirs. These solar panels are relatively quick to build and do not require leveling of land or removal of vegetation to install them.



Project has been announced. 100 MW Ramagundam Project in Telangana has operational with effect This is the largest in India.

Projects : These are modules mounted on on reservoirs, lakes where ocean-like. These platforms are such as ponds, lakes or reservoirs. These solar

Ramagundam Project: It is endowed with advanced technology and eco-friendly facilities. The project is spread over an area of 500 acres of reservoir which is divided into 40 blocks with a capacity of 2.5 MW each. Each block consists of a floating platform and an array of 11,200 solar modules. The project is spread over an area of 500 acres of reservoir which is divided into 40 blocks with a capacity of 2.5 MW each. The entire floating system is symmetrically installed in the reservoir by means of a special

type of High Modules Polyethylene (HMPE) rope. The project is unique in that all electrical equipment including inverter, transformer, HT panels and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) is available on a floating ferro cemented platform.

Environmental benefits of the project:

- ◆ The most obvious advantage from an environmental point of view is the minimum requirement of land which is mostly for the associated drainage system.
- ◆ Also with the presence of floating solar panels the evaporation rate from water bodies is reduced, thus helping in water conservation.
- ◆ About 32.5 lakh cubic meters of water can be saved annually by evaporation.
- ◆ The water body beneath the solar modules helps to maintain the temperature of their surroundings, which improves their efficiency and production. Similarly, coal consumption of 165,000 tonnes per annum can be avoided; Due to which the emission of 2,10,000 tonnes of CO₂ can be avoided annually.

Agneepath Scheme 2022

It will allow Indian youth who want to become a part of Indian armed forces to enter into the forces through this new entry and Indian Army, Indian Agneepath Army Bharti government scheme candidates. Through serve in the combat approximately 45,000 will be recruited every term of just four years.



opportunity available. Be it Navy, or Indian Air Force.

Scheme is a central for all Indian Agnipath, one can forces and to 50,000 soldiers year for the service

Agneepath Scheme Details

- ◆ Those who will get selected for this recruitment process will be called as "Agniveers". As decided, 'Agniveers' will be provided by a good pay package and an exit retirement package after 4 years of service. It is to notice that, this opportunity is only for personnel below officer ranks that is for those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers. Lt Gen Anil Puri, Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, has said, "Today average age is around 32 yrs, in time to come it'll further come down to 26 years. This will happen in 6-7 years. In order to transform armed

forces into youthful, tech-savvy, modern, there's a need to harness the youth potential and make him a future-ready soldier?" He mentioned that after four years of service with the Army, resume and biodata of agniveers will be very unique and he will stand out in crowd with his attitude, skills and time.

Purpose of Agneepath Scheme 2022 :

- ♦ The main purpose of central government is to introduce the Indian Army Agneepath Entry Scheme with the aim of training the youth and to make a cut in retirement as well as in pensions. Indian government has come up with this scheme in order to strengthen our security forces. Selected candidates will be trained professionally and then they will be recruited within the areas like Jammu and Kashmir border.
- ♦ One of the most important thing to focus about this recruitment is that, there will be no entrance test for the youth. After getting selection, the candidates will go through training for six months and then will be inducted for three and a half years. in order to make them ready for joining armed forces as professionals.
- ♦ Defence minister, Rajnath Singh has said, "This will also lead to availability of a higher-skilled workforce to the economy which will be helpful in productivity gain and overall GDP growth,".

Odisha, 'Mo Bus' Service received the prestigious UN Public Service Award

Mo Bus, Odisha-based public transport service has been honored with a prestigious United Nations award, for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid19. The public transport service has been recognised in "promoting its role in 'promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)", the UN said. Among the other winners of this year's awards, announced by Liu



Zhenmin, United Nations Under Secretary -General for Economic and Social Affairs during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations Public Service Day (celebrated on June 22), were public

service initiatives from Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine.

Recognition for Odisha:

- ♦ The UN recognition said the “problem” was that “bus services in the city of Bhubaneswar needed improvement”, as a result of which “the majority of people used private vehicles, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaw to commute instead of taking public transportation”.
- ♦ As the “solution”, the Odisha government in 2018 “reorganized the public transit services in the city to provide an integrated, reliable and inclusive public bus service system”. Mo Bus, the UN noted, has incorporated “real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing”, and an e-rickshaw system called ‘Mo E-Ride’ has been introduced as a last-mile feeder service.



Cabinet Approvals on June 8,2022

On June 8,2022 the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

The Union Cabinet has approved the transfer of 10 in-orbit communication satellites from Government of India (GoI) to NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), a wholly owned Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) of GOI under the administrative control of the Department of Space.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Narendra Modi, has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2022-23 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and encourage crop diversification.

Cabinet Approvals with Foreign Countries on June 8,2022

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals with foreign countries which were briefed by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) during a media briefing on Cabinet decisions, at National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

Cabinet has approved the proposal for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Cooperation in the field of Industries and Advanced Technologies.

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU to establish collaborative guidelines between the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), India to carry out and implement joint research on air quality and climate change.

The Union Cabinet also approved the signing of MoU between S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata (West Bengal), India and Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V. (IFW Dresden e.V.), Dresden, Germany for scientific cooperation in the field of Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials.

The Union Cabinet approved the MoU between MoHUA, Government of India and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia for Technical Cooperation for Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI).

The Union Cabinet also approved the signing of MoU among DBT, ICMR, and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), US in health sector.

Govt Launches PMMSY dashboard; Investment of around Rs 7,243 cr done

On 9th June 2022 Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala launched a Management Information System (MIS) dashboard for Padhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY) for aggregating information on one platform.

- ♦ The project investment of Rs 7,242.90 crore has been made in the Financial Years 2020 to 2022 (FY20-22) under PMMSY.

Hyper-Sensitive Airports to Install PIDS By 2023; Indigo & American Airlines Launches Codeshare Agreement

As per the circular provided by The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), all 'hyper-sensitive' airports need to install a perimeter intrusion detection system (PIDS) by December 2023, which helps in alerting security agencies of any intrusion through the boundary walls of the airport.

- ♦ Greenfield airports that are not part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) will also install PIDS.
- ♦ The airports coming up under RCS will plan the installation of PIDS at the development stage itself for the purpose of obtaining clearance of design stage security.
- ♦ Further, non-RCS greenfield airports shall plan installation of PIDS at design stage itself for the purpose of obtaining clearance of design stage security vetting in terms of rule 5 (3) of the Aircraft (Security) Rules 2011.

Indigo & American Airlines Launches Codeshare Agreement

IndiGo and American Airlines have launched a codeshare agreement that allows American Airlines to sell seats on the IndiGo's flights operating on Delhi-Bengaluru and Delhi-Mumbai routes.

Highlights :

- ♦ **American Airlines** : Currently, American Airlines operates flights on the New York-Delhi route only.
- ♦ The plan to extend the codeshare agreement in the near future includes more destinations in India, in addition to Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- ♦ **IndiGo** : IndiGo is India's largest airline that already has codeshare agreements with Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and Air France-KLM airlines.

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launches EASE 5.0 Public Sector Banks Common Reforms Agenda

On June 8, 2022, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) & Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) unveiled the fifth edition of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence - 'EASE 5.0: Enhanced digital experience; data-driven, integrated, and inclusive banking', which provides the Common Public Sector Banks (PSBs) Reforms Agenda for fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) under the EASENext program.

Need For Such Reforms: Since all PSBs are now profitable and have stronger balance sheets, it has become essential for them to harness this advantage to further boost their competitiveness.

ICAR-NRCE Develops "Anocovax" India's 1st COVID-19 Vaccine for Animals

Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare(MoAFW) launched "Anocovax", India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine for animals. The vaccine developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- National Research Centre on Equines(NRCE) (Hisar, Haryana), is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits.

- ♦ Anocovax contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant.
- ♦ This neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants of the SARS-CoV-2.

TDB under DST to Launch RS 1000 Crore Startup Funder under PPP Model

The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology is set to launch a Rs 1000 crore fund under a Public-Private Partnership(PPP) model.

i.Objective of the fund is to invest in startups across several sectors. The fund will also invest in early-stage startups.

The fund will be launched in 2 phases

India Extends Sri Lanka USD 55 Million Credit Line for Fertiliser Imports

On 10th June 2022 A Line of Credit (LoC) agreement has been signed between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India at Colombo, Sri Lanka to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 55 million to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser.

- ♦ The LoC agreement was signed in the presence of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Minister of Agriculture Mahinda Amaraweera, and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay.
- ♦ This credit line was extended in response to an urgent request from GOSL against the ongoing economic crisis.

PM Modi inaugurates IN-SPACe



Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi established the Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad and reviewed its headquarters. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was also present in this program. PM also inaugurated AM Naik Healthcare Complex and Nirali Multi-Specialty Hospital in Navsari. During this, the Prime

Minister also met his high school teacher in Vadnagar, Navsari. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for several development projects totaling Rs 3,050 crore to improve the water supply of the region as well as increase connections and make life easier.

FSSAI's 4th State Food Security Index

Recently the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the fourth State Food Safety Index (SFSI) led by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on the occasion of World Food Safety Day. The State Food Security Index was launched in 2018-19 to bring about a competitive and positive change in the food security ecosystem of the country. This index was developed by FSSAI to measure the performance of states on several parameters of food security.

Important points:

- ◆ It is the fourth state food security index released to measure the performance of states on five parameters of food security.
- ◆ In this, Tamil Nadu has secured the first position in the category of large states.
- ◆ Goa has secured the first position in the small states category, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- ◆ In the Union Territories category, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh occupy the top three positions respectively.

UDAN celebrates 2022 as its 5th Anniversary Year

Central Government scheme of Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) i.e. let the

country's typical person fly, is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. This first of its kind scheme, headed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), stimulates Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) through a market-based mechanism.

It ensures common man to commute between smaller cities in a short time, and at an affordable cost.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is its implementing agency.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches Several Development Projects in Gujarat

On June 10, 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth Rs 3,050 crores during the 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' at Khudvel, a tribal region in Navsari district of Gujarat.

- ◆ This comprises the inauguration of seven projects, the laying of foundation stones for 12 projects, and the Bhumi Pujan of 14 projects.
- ◆ The projects will aid in improving the region's water supply, as well as enhance connectivity and improve ease of living for Gujarat's residents. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) at Bopal in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He was accompanied by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the ceremony.

Defence Ministry Amends Service Rule: Retired Chiefs of Tri Service Eligible for the Post of CDS

The Ministry of Defence has amended the service rule of the Army, Air Force and Navy, inserting the clause allowing the retired Chief

and their second in command in the armed forces, not older than 62, eligible for the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the topmost military assignment.

The government may extend the service of the CDS for such a period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65 years.

The clause has been inserted after sub-rule (4) of rule 16A of the Army Rules, 1954

- ◆ This will enable the retired 3 star generals from Army, Navy and Air force to become eligible for the post of CDS.
- ◆ The post of CDS has been vacant since the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on 8th December 2021 in Coonoor, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

Conclave on 'Direct to Mobile and 5 G Broadband - Convergence Roadmap for India'; D2M Technology

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh(UP) in collaboration with Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) organised a conclave on 'Direct to Mobile and 5 G Broadband - Convergence Roadmap for India' at Akashvani Rang Bhawan auditorium of Prasar Bharati in New Delhi, Delhi.

The 1st time NextGen Broadcast technology on smart phones and other smart devices were demonstrated and joint white paper on Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) broadcasting by IIT Kanpur, TSDSI and Prasar Bharat, India's public broadcaster, was released.

Govt Launches Rashtriya Puraskar Portal; Invites Nominees for Various Awards

The Union Government has launched a common portal, the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>) for inviting nominations for national awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies.

- ◆ **Aim :** To facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organisations for various national awards under one platform, instituted by the Government of India.
- ◆ With this portal, for the first time in the history of India, information regarding all national awards would be available to the public on a single digital platform including their eligibility criteria, selection procedure, and details of past awardees.
- ◆ Also, people will be able to make nominations for various awards on a single platform, which is simple and user-friendly.

MoR Launches Indian Railway Innovation Policy - StartUps for Railways



On 13th June 2022 the Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Indian Railway Innovation Policy - 'StartUps for Railways' and also an 'Indian Railway Innovation Portal' in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

- ♦ Aim : To leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups / MSMEs / Innovators / Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways
- ♦ Problems like rail fracture, headway reduction etc. have been taken up for phase 1 of this program which will be presented before the start ups to find innovative solutions.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Launches National Aero Sports Policy 2022

The National Air Sports Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). was launched by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), with the aim of optimizing India's potential in the field of air sports.

By 2030, the NASP 2022 aims to make India one of the top sports nations in the world by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable air sports ecosystem.

The NASP 2022 is a first step toward realising India's potential in the field of aviation.

It is drafted with inputs from policymakers, practitioners, and the general public in mind, and it ensures the establishment of high-quality infrastructure, equipment, instructors, and services.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Releases 2nd edition of NeSDA 2021

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State(MoS) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions released the 2 nd edition "National e-Governance Service Delivery

Assessment 2021 (NeSDA 2021): Reaching citizens through seamless service delivery"_repared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances \& Pensions.

- ♦ NeSDA is a biennial study that provides suggestions for the government to enhance its e-governance service delivery system.

Cabinet Committee on Security Approved New Scheme 'Agnipath' for Soldier Recruitment

Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the new scheme called "Agneepath" (Agnipath) for recruitment of soldiers in the Army, Navy and Air Force. This aims to reduce the increasing salary and pensions. This is a transformative initiative which will provide a youthful profile to the Indian Armed Forces.

- ♦ At present, the average age in the force is 32 years, this will be reduced to 26 in 6 to 7 years.
- ♦ The scheme was initially named as "Tour of Duty", was launched in the presence of the chiefs of all the three services.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Iconic Week Celebrations of FinMin & MCA-June 6-12, 2022

As a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)', an Iconic Week Celebrations of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) were held from June \$6-12,2022\$, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi.The event held under the theme of "Transforming Lives".

The PM Narendra Modi launched Jan Samarth Portal, a first of its kind platform to directly connect beneficiaries to lenders. It provides single window facility for 13 Government Schemes application submission and \$125+\$ Member Lending Institutions-MLIs (including all Public Sector Banks) to choose from.

The PM also launched a special series of coins of Re 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 denominations having AKAM design. They are not commemorative coins and will be part of circulation.

The Union Finance Minister also launched NETRA (New e-Tracking and Remote Administration) portal, and Mobile Application for Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).

On June 8, 2022, Indian Customs under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) observed 'Drug Destruction Day' across India as a part of AKAM during which \$42054.104\$ kgs kilograms of narcotics were destroyed which includes 17,108,45 tablets, 72757 bottles of cough syrup, and 16,336 vials of injections.

Indian Navy Conducts 38th Coordinated Patrol with Indonesian Navy

On 13th June 2022, the 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy (IN) Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy have been started in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca which takes place till 24th June 2022.

- ◆ The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia.

Modi Inaugurates Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 in New Delhi; Launched Biotech products & e-Portal

On 9th June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi. Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 is a 2-day event held on 9th & 10th June 2022, organised by the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

- ◆ The expo is a part of the celebration of the completion of 10 years of the establishment of BIRAC. The celebration recognises the efforts of BIRAC toward the biotech sector of India.
- ◆ The theme of Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 is "Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat".

Russia Overtakes Saudi Arabia to Become India's 2nd Biggest Oil Supplier

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's 2nd-biggest oil supplier next to Iraq, as Russian crude is currently available at discount following the war in Ukraine.

- ◆ Indian refiners have bought Russian crude oil at discount as high as USD 30 per barrel.
- ◆ Iraq was the top supplier to India and Saudi Arabia stands 3rd biggest supplier to India.
- ◆ **Note :** India is the world's 3rd biggest oil-importing and consuming nation after the United States (US) and China.

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of cooperation in the field of youth work among the member countries of the SCO

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of cooperation in the field of youth work among the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization-SCO. The MoU for cooperation in the field of youth work was signed by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports on 17 September last year with the member countries. The official working languages of the SCO Secretariat are Russian and Chinese. The aim of the agreement is to strengthen mutual trust, friendly relations and cooperation among the youth of SCO member countries. This agreement will ensure the development of youth cooperation to enhance the friendly relations among the SCO member states. The conditions for youth cooperation will be further improved based on international experience.

APEDA organizes eight-day mango festival in Bahrain



The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has organized an eight-day mango festival in Bahrain to promote mango exports. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that 34 varieties of mangoes from the states of West

Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha have been displayed at eight different places in Bahrain. All these varieties of mangoes have been procured directly from farmers and two agricultural producer organisations. This mango exhibition will run till 20th of this month. The Ministry said that the Mango Festival is part of APEDA's new initiative to explore the international market potential for Indian mangoes in Bahrain under 2022

Approval of the proposal to sign an agreement between India and the United Nations to develop a "Way Finding Application"

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to sign an agreement between India and the United Nations to develop a Way Finding Application to be used at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The project for the development of Way Finding Applications was conceptualized in the year 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The development and maintenance of this app is estimated to cost \$2 million. A large number of delegates arrive at the United Nations Office in five buildings and 21 floors to attend various meetings and conferences. The Way Finding App will help the visitors to find the route inside the campus. This GPS based app will be helpful in locating the rooms and offices.

Kerala CM inaugurates Cancer Research Center in Kochi

The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated a Cancer Diagnostic and Research Center here, which is the country's first

oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnosis services. Carkinos Healthcare's Advanced Center for Cancer Diagnosis and Research will serve as a central laboratory for analyzing samples at the molecular and genomic levels to aid in personalized targeted therapy, predict potential response to treatment and by liquid biopsy. Will evaluate the response.

First Bharat Pride train starts from Coimbatore-North to Sai Nagar Shirdi

The first Bharat Pride train started from Coimbatore North for Sai Nagar Shirdi. It was flagged off by the Divisional Manager, Southern Rail Salem, Gautam Srinivas. Southern Railway's release states that this train is being operated by a private service provider. In the first journey of this train, one thousand one hundred passengers traveled from Coimbatore to Shirdi. South Star Rail is a registered service provider company operating trains on this route. Three crore thirty four lakh rupees per year will get a fixed revenue from the operation of this train. The theme-based Bharat Gaurav train aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage and best historical places of the country.

Anand Gopal Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra Dholakia nominated to the Central Board of RBI

The Central Government has nominated Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Gopal Mahindra, TVS Motors Chairman Venu Srinivasan, Zydus Group Chairman Ramanbhai Patel and former Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Ravindra Dholakia as Central Part-time Directors on the Reserve Bank

of India as Central Non-Efficient Board of Directors. . In the release, the central bank has said that these people will be appointed for a period of four years from June 14. The Central Government appoints 10 non-official directors to the Board of the Reserve Bank from time to time. The official and whole-time board of directors of the bank consists of four deputy governors including the governor.

First National Conference of Chief Secretaries begins in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh

The first three-day National Conference of Chief Secretaries of the States began in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba inaugurated the conference. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the conference, which will continue till Friday. More than 200 delegates from the Centre, States, Union Territories and experts will participate in the conference. In this, the implementation of new education policy, governance and crop diversification and self-sufficiency in agriculture will be discussed. The focus will be on rapid and sustainable economic growth in partnership with the Center and the States.

India's 1st Government MLD Desalination Plant for Industrial Use inaugurated in Dahej, Gujarat

On June 16, 2022, India's first government desalination plant only for industrial use was inaugurated at Dahej in Bharuch (Gujarat) by the Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel. It was set up with an outlay of 881.91 crore.

Developers :

- ♦ Its construction work was awarded to the joint venture company of Larsen & Toubro and Tecton.
- ♦ A special purpose vehicle (SPV), Dahej Desal Foundation, has been constituted by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), and the beneficiary industrial units for operation and maintenance of the plant.

Gol Reconstitutes Committee to Examine the Representation of Officials Sacked for Alleged Corruption

The three-member panel of the committee to examine the representation of officials sacked for alleged inefficiency or corruption in the government service has been reconstituted by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Government of India (Gol).

Members of the Panel :

- ♦ Arti Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, has been appointed in place of Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- ♦ Puneet Kansal, Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, has been appointed in place of Ashutosh Jindal, Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- ♦ One member of the panel will be nominated by the cadre controlling authority (under whose administrative control the alleged corrupt officials come).

Indian Navy & NCMRWF Inks MoU for Cooperation on Numerical Model-Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology

The Indian Navy and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences(MoES), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for "Cooperation on Numerical Model-Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology."

The MoU was signed during a ceremony at NCMRWF in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, by Dr. Ashis K. Mitra, Head of NCMRWF, and Commodore G. Rambabu, Head of the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (DNOM), Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy).

Significance :

- ♦ Under this collaboration, the Indian Navy and NCMRWF will share expertise in the domains of weather and ocean modelling, coupled modelling, data assimilation, ensemble forecasting, and satellite data utilisation, with the intent of keeping both organisations up to date with rapid development.
- ♦ This would also promote meaningful interactions that leverage on the professional strengths of both organisations.

Delhi airport introduces RFID-enabled tag to track check-in luggage

In a first in India, the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi introduced radiofrequency identification (RFID) enabled baggage tags which will give passengers real-

time information about the location of their luggage. The RFID technology will be personalised and help arriving passengers keep track of their check-in luggage. The bag tags will be called 'Bagg Trax', and It will not only help domestic and international arrival passengers but also those in transit to track their checked-in baggage.

The tag is a blue-yellow card with a QR code on it. To avail the facility, the passenger will have to register by scanning the QR code or visit "bag.hoi.in" on their phones. After this, they will receive a message confirming the registration of the tag. Flyers will receive real-time SMS alerts with details of baggage on their phone.

WPI inflation rises to Record High of 15.88 % in May 2022: NSO Data

In accordance with the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to a record high of 15.88 % in May 2022 from 15.08 % in April 2022.

- ◆ This is the highest WPI in the 2011-12 series.
- ◆ The WPI based inflation was 13.11 % in May 2021.

Reason behind this rise :

- ◆ The high rate of inflation in May, 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, milk, manufacturing, fuel, power, mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, chemicals & chemical products and food products etc.

Shreyas G. Hosur becomes the first Indian Railways officer to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon



Shreyas G. Hosur became the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon, considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world. This event includes 3.8 km swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running.

- ◆ Shreyas G. Hosur also became first officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the event. He completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes in Hamburg, Germany.
- ◆ Shreyas G. Hosur, is an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch. He is returned from deputation to National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), Delhi and he is currently serving as Dy. FA&CAO in Construction/SWR.

Rubber Board's electronic trading platform 'mRube' goes live

mRube, the electronic trading platform promoted by Rubber Board went Live on June 8, 2022.

The board intends to complement the existing trade system for rubber by introducing more

transparency coupled with quality assurance and payment security through mRube. The technology partner for developing the mRube is Ahmedabad(Gujarat)-based i- Sourcing Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

- ◆ KN Raghavan, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, launched the beta version of the electronic platform at a function in the presence of the Rubber Producer Society and other industry representatives.
- ◆ Rubber Board is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. It was constituted as per the Rubber Act, 1947 and Rubber Rules 1955, for the overall development of the rubber industry in India. Rubber Board Founded on 18 April 1947 and Head Office is located in Kottayam, Kerala

India hosted ASEAN Foreign Ministers & Secretary General for a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) 2022

On June 16-17, 2022, India hosted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers and Secretary General for a 2-day Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) 2022 for the first time in New Delhi, Delhi, to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and the 10th anniversary of India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership.

The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year in honour of this milestone, as stated by ASEAN and Indian leaders at the 18th ASEAN-India Summit on October 28, 2021.

Chair and Dignitaries of SAIFMM 2022 :

S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), and Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs, co-chaired the SAIFMM.

Foreign Ministers from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam, and representatives from Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Thailand, attended the meeting, along with the Secretary General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi.

The 12th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DDXII) 2022, a premium Track \$1.5B Dialogue in the ASEAN-India calendar, was hosted by India on June 16-17, 2022, and was accompanied by the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM).

Tourism Ministry launched National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller Campaign

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller Campaign at the National Summit on Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tourist Destinations held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ◆ The summit was organised by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI).
- ◆ Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Tourism Ministry was launched with an objective to provide experience to the tourists and has sanctioned 76 projects.

- ♦ The Scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan \$2.0\$ with aims to undertake holistic development with the vision to develop Sustainable and Responsible Tourist Destinations. This will promote the adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates & lays Foundation Stones of Development Projects Worth Rs 21000 crore in Vadodara, Gujarat

On June 17-18, 2022, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi visited Gujarat to inaugurate the redeveloped temple of Shree Kalika Mata at Pavagadh Hill, he will also visit Virasat Van and to participate in Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan Program at Vadodara, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 21,000 crore.

The PM dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various Railway projects worth over Rs 16,000 crore which will help in lowering logistics cost and boost industry and agriculture sector in the region.

The PM also inaugurated the redeveloped Shree Kalika Mata temple atop the Pavagadh hill in the Panchmahal district of Gujarat. It is one of the oldest temples in the area.

iv. PM virtually released a book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani (Indian constitution: untold stories)' by senior journalist Ram Bahadur Rai at Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi. It was published by Prabhat publication.

NSDC & MoHUA Launches NIPUN for Skill Training of Construction Workers

On 20th June 2022 Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched project NIPUN (National Initiative for Promoting upskilling of Construction Workers), an initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

- ♦ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), will be the Implementation Partner for the project NIPUN. It is responsible for the overall execution of the training, monitoring and candidate tracking.
- ♦ **Aim** - To train more than one lakh construction workers through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provide them with opportunities in foreign countries.

GE Steam Power Signs USD 165 Million Pact with BHEL To Supply Three Nuclear Steam Turbines

GE Steam Power, a world energy leader, has inked a USD 165 million pact with state-run engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to supply three nuclear steam turbines.

The pact is for the supply of three nuclear steam turbines out of six units for Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) domestic nuclear programme phase 1 being developed at Gorakhpur in Haryana (units - 1 to 4 [Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP)] and Kaiga in Karnataka (Kaiga Generating Station-5&6).

- ♦ Domestic Program of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) NPCIL's domestic programme comprises the development of 12 units of 700 Mwe (Megawatts electric) nuclear reactors using their own nuclear reactor technology, i.e., Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
- ♦ In total, it will provide India with 8.4 GW (gigawatts) of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) free electricity, enough to power more than 14 million homes.

DoT Launches Design-Linked Incentive Scheme, Extends Telecom PLI by 1 year

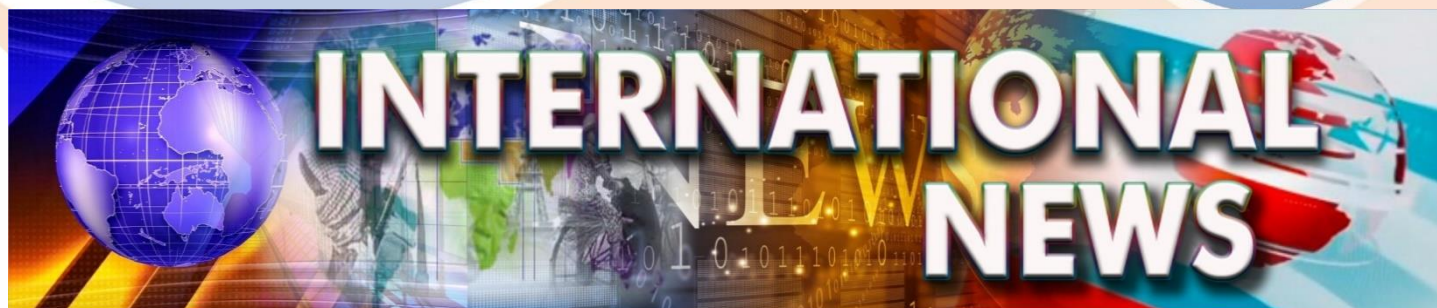
The Department of Telecom (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications launched an incentive scheme for design-led manufacturers and extended the base year for the calculation of Rs 12,195 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme by one year and raised the incentive rate by an additional 1 percent.

- ♦ The Government has opened applications for from 21st June 2022 to 20th July 2022.
- ♦ Objective - To build a strong ecosystem for 5G.

ICG Inducts Indigenous Developed ALH Mk-III in Chennai

On 20th June 2022 the Indian Coast Guard's (ICGs) inducted a first made in India Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark III aircraft in the Coast Guard Region East which is headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The ALH is an indigenous aircraft designed and developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- ♦ This is the first induction into the newly created '840 Squadron' that is to be based in Chennai, three more choppers of the same variant are to be inducted.
- ♦ The new aircraft was received at the Coast Guard Air Station, Chennai, with a traditional water cannon salute and Inspector General A P Badola, TM, Commander, Coast Guard Region East, welcomed the aircraft and crew..



China releases New Comprehensive Geologic Map of the Moon; World's 'Most Detailed to date' Map of Moon



China has released a new comprehensive geologic map of the moon. This is the world's "most detailed to date" map of the moon. The new map of scale was published by Science Bulletin. This is expected to contribute to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the Moon.

- ◆ The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures, which provides abundant information about the geology of the moon and its evolution.
- ◆ This project was led by the Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences along with the Chinese Academy of Geological Science, China University of Geosciences and Shandong University.

- ◆ This high-resolution topographic map was prepared based on the data from Chang'e project, the lunar exploration project of China, and other data and research findings from various international organisations.

Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland Elected to Serve as Non Permanent Members On UNSC

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland to serve as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term beginning January 01, 2023.

- ◆ The newly elected countries will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway, which will vacate their seats at the end of 2022.
- ◆ The UNSC is a United Nations (UN) organisation tasked with maintaining global peace and security.
- ◆ On June 9, 2022, the UNGA held elections to elect the five non-permanent members for the two-year period 2023-24. Abdulla Shahid, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, announced the result.

DAVINCI Mission: NASA's Venus Mission is Set to Launch in 2029

NASA's Venus Mission, Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging (DAVINCI) mission named after visionary Renaissance artist and scientist Leonardo da Vinci (Italy) is tentatively scheduled to launch in June 2029 and enter the atmosphere of Venus in June 2031.

This will be the 1st mission to Venus that will incorporate science-driven fly-bys and an instrumented descent sphere into a unified architecture.

- ◆ DAVINCI, with Venus Oxygen Fugacity (Vfox), a miniature sensor, will measure the amount of oxygen present near the surface of Venus.
- ◆ VfoX will be designed, fabricated, tested, operated, and analysed by undergraduate and graduate students as the mission's Student Collaboration Experiment.
- ◆ The detail was published in the The Planetary Science Journal.

UNCTAD: India Ranked 7th at the Global Economies for FDI in 2021

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2022 entitled "International tax reforms and sustainable investment", India ranked 7th in the top 10 global economies for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021 despite a decline in FDI investment.

- ◆ FDI inflows have declined by USD 19 billion to USD 45 billion in 2021.

- ◆ However India managed to reach the top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021, ranking 7th after the US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and Brazil.
- ◆ Adding South Africa, Russia and Mexico to the list to round up the top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021.

US Treasury Report: India Among 12 Economies On Currency 'Monitoring List'

According to the semiannual Report of the United States (US) Department of the Treasury - "Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States" India is one of the 12 major economies that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies.

- ◆ The Monitoring list comprises China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam and Mexico.
- ◆ All these countries, except Taiwan and Vietnam, were on the monitoring list in the report of December 2021.

UNGA adopts India Sponsored Multilingualism Resolution; Mentions Hindi for the 1st Time

On 10th June 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution on multilingualism, co-sponsored by India, that mentioned the Hindi language for the first time. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time.

- ♦ The resolution encourages the United Nations(UN) to continue to spread awareness about the importance of communications and messages in official as well as non-official languages such as Portuguese, Kiswahili, Hindi, Persian, Bangla, and Urdu, in addition to official languages, in order to promote multilingualism. .
- ♦ Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations; English and French being the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat.
- ♦ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations is T. S. Tirumurti.

EAM of India S. Jaishankar visits Slovakia & the Czech Republic



Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India visited Slovakia on 2nd-3rd June 2022 and the Czech Republic on 4th-5th June 2022 and held various high-level exchanges and discussions on the cooperation across sectors with the leadership of both the nations.

EAM Visits Slovakia 2nd-3rd June 2022 :

- ♦ EAM Jaishankar met H.E. Mr Ivan Korčok, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia. This is the first-ever visit at the EAM level since the creation of Slovakia in 1993.

Highlights of Visit :

- ♦ On 3rd June 2022, EAM participated in the 17th edition of the Bratislava Forum "GLOBSEC 2022 Bratislava Forum" which took place from 2nd to 4th June 2022 in Bratislava, Slovakia.
- ♦ He addressed the forum on the topic of "Taking Friendship to the Next Level: Allies in the Indo-Pacific Region".
- ♦ EAM also invited Foreign Minister Ivan Korčok to join the International Solar Alliance.
- ♦ They also exchanged views on regional as well as multilateral issues including Ukraine, European Union(EU) and the Indo-Pacific.
- ♦ Both leaders discussed ways to expand our relations across sectors especially in the areas of investment, culture, tourism and renewable energy.

EAM Visits the Czech Republic 4th-5th June 2022:

EAM met H.E. Mr Jan Lipavský, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Czech Republic.

They discussed bilateral relations, including political, economic, defence & security, Science & Technology (S\&T), cultural, and people-to-people ties.

Both sides agreed to work towards an early conclusion of the India-European Union(EU) Free Trade Agreement(FTA).

Both sides discussed about the steady progress in bilateral cooperation, including in trade and defence, and exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific and the repercussions of the Ukraine conflict.

Note:

The bilateral trade between India and the Czech Republic has crossed over USD 2 billion.

China will set up solar power plant in space



Recently, China has presented a plan to start a solar power plant in space to get continuous electricity in the year 2028. Earlier this plan of China was to set up a solar power station of 1 MW capacity in space by the year 2030, however according to the updated plan, China will launch a satellite in the year 2028. This satellite is 400 km away. It will test the wireless power transmission technology from space to the ground from an altitude of 10 km. It will convert solar energy into microwave or laser. Using a laser, energy beams will be directed toward various targets, including moving satellites and fixed locations on Earth. The capacity of this solar power plant will be 10 kW,

China is building a 33-acre test facility in Chongqing's Bishan district for theoretical feasibility of space-based solar power station. The facility will help develop space transmission technologies as well as study the effect of microwave beams on living organisms on Earth.

WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland; Co-hosted by Kazakhstan



The World Trade Organization's (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) was co-hosted by Switzerland, and Kazakhstan at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland after a gap of almost five years from June 12-June 16, 2022. It was attended by the Trade ministers of 164 nations.

It was chaired by Timur Suleimenov, Deputy Chief of Staff of Kazakhstan's President.

Kazakhstan was originally scheduled to host MC12 in June 2020 but the conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WTO members agreed on tackling the food insecurity concerns, curbing harmful fishing subsidies, temporarily waiving intellectual property (IP) obligations concerning COVID-19 vaccines, deals on e-commerce, responding to pandemics and reforming the organisation itself.

Rajnath Singh's 3-day visit to Vietnam - Strengthens Defence Cooperation



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh went on a 3-day official visit to Vietnam from 8th June 2022, at the invitation of Vietnam's Minister of National Defence General Phan Van Giang.

- ◆ The visit marks 50 years of establishment of India-Vietnam Diplomatic relations and 75 years of India's Independence.
- ◆ Vietnam is an important partner in India's Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.

25th Foundation Day of BIMSTEC celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh - June 6th 2022

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated the Foundation Day of BIMSTEC 2022 or BIMSTEC Day 2022 on 6th June 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- ◆ 6th June 2022 also marks the celebration of the 25th foundation Day of BIMSTEC, Silver Jubilee Anniversary (25th anniversary) of the foundation of BIMSTEC.
- ◆ BIMSTEC, the sub-regional organization, came into being on 6th June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

First ever India-EU security and defense consultations held in Brussels

The first ever India-European Union (EU) security and defense consultation was held in Brussels, Belgium. The consultations were held in accordance with the decision taken at the India-EU summit in July 2020. The consultations were co-chaired by Somnath Ghosh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, and Sandeep Chakraborty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and Director Security and Defense Policy of the European Union.

EU Recommends Candidate Status for Ukraine & Moldova

The European Commission has made a historic step in recommending that Ukraine and Moldova be granted European Union (EU) candidate status, paving the way for them to progress from former Soviet republics to developed economies in the world's largest trade bloc, the EU.

On June 17, 2022, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the recommendation.

Backdrop :

- ◆ The European Commission's unprecedented announcement is made in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which killed many people and caused

India hosted 8th meeting of the Heads of the Border Services of SCO in New Delhi; 12th BRICS NSAs meet held virtually

On June 15-17,2022, India hosted the 8th meeting of the Heads of Border Services of the competent authorities of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ♦ India is represented by Border Security Force (BSF) Director General (DG) Pankaj Kumar Singh.
- ♦ This was one of several events being organised in 2022 by India as Chair of SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) mechanism. India became the chair of SCO-RATS on October 28,2021 for a one-year period.
- ♦ India also hosted the counter-terror experts from the SCO countries in New Delhi on May 16,2022.

Key Highlights :

- ♦ The discussions were held on the pressing security challenges, including threats of terrorism, and regional security scenarios, including the situation in Afghanistan.
- ♦ The members also assessed the situation on the state borders of the SCO member states, trends and forecasts of its development.
- ♦ The plan for preparation and organisation of Joint Border Operation 2022 i.e.
- ♦ "Friendship Border - 2022" was also reviewed and approved.
- ♦ The members supported the initiative of the China to conduct the 9 th round of Joint

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Border Operations of the border services of the competent authorities of the SCO member states i.e. "Solidarity - 2023" in \$2023 .\$.

- ♦ The proposals on the place, timing and work plan of the Group of Experts of the Border Services of the Competent Authorities of the SCO Member States for 2023 was also approved.

Delhi's IGI Airport Stands Best in India and South Asia, 37th among World's top 50

The 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards named Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport the finest in India and South Asia for the 4th consecutive year at the ceremony conducted at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris on 16 th June 2022.

- ♦ The airport rose to 37th position from 45th position in 2021, and it is the only airport from India to be featured in the world's top 50 airports.
- ♦ Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the 2nd year followed by Tokyo Haneda International Airport, Japan and Singapore Changi Airport.

Gustavo Petro Wins the Colombian Election, Becomes 1st Leftist President

Gustavo Petro, a former Mayor of capital Bogota and a longtime senator, who has transformed the social and economic system, becomes 1st leftist President, who will take office in August 2022.

- ◆ Francia Marquez, will be the country's first Afro-Colombian woman Vice President

About Gustavo Petro :

- ◆ Gustavo Petro has received more than 50 percent of the vote, with more than 99 percent counted. He will face issues related to Lack of opportunity and rising violence; high levels of deforestation in the Colombian Amazon; and growing threats to democracy.
- ◆ He has also pledged to fully implement a 2016 peace deal with FARC rebels and seek talks with the still-active ELN guerrillas.
- ◆ Petro had also been a part of a different rebel group, called the M-19, which demobilized in 1990 , and became a political party that helped rewrite the country's constitution.

China Launches its 1st fully Domestically Built Aircraft Carrier named Fujian



On June 17, 2022, China launched its first fully domestically built catapult aircraft carrier, 'Fujian' which is its most advanced naval vessel. It was launched at a brief ceremony held at Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard. It is the biggest and most modern aircraft carrier, marking a major military advance for the Asian superpower.

- ◆ Fujian is China's 3rd aircraft carrier built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) Limited.
- ◆ It has a flat, straight flight deck equipped with electromagnetic catapults and arresting devices, and has a full displacement of more than 80,000 tones.
- ◆ It is named after China's eastern coastal province of Fujian.
- ◆ The ship can carry 50 unmanned systems, including unmanned boats, drones and underwater vehicles.

Pakistan Stays on FATF 'Grey List' Subject to On-site Verification

June 2022 plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was held in Berlin, Germany. According to this session, Pakistan will continue to be on the 'Grey List' of countries under increased monitoring of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a French based international watchdog.

- ◆ Paris-based FATF added Pakistan in 2018 to the "grey list," which is composed of countries with a high risk of money laundering and terrorism financing but which have formally committed to working with the task force to make changes.
- ◆ FATF removed Malta from its "grey list" but added Gibraltar.

Indo-Nepal Bharat Pride Tourist Train



Recently the first India-Nepal Bharat Gaurav tourism train has been flagged off from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station. 500 Indian tourists are on board this train. This tourist train will connect India and Nepal for the first time. The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train between India and Nepal will provide an opportunity to people across the country to visit the country's architectural, historical and cultural sites. The first journey of this train (Ramayana circuit) covers the religious destination of Janakpur (in Nepal) apart from other popular destinations like Ayodhya, Nandigram, Varanasi, Sitamarhi, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Hampi, Panchavati (Nashik), Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam Will be done. Bharat Gaurav Trains is an attempt to show the rich spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of India to its people. This unique idea was conceived by the Ministry of Railways. This concept will help in promoting tourism on a large scale across the country. It will also provide an opportunity to the people to explore the Indian culture. This train will return to Delhi after

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completing 18 days journey. It will cover a distance of about 8000 km in the entire Ramayana tour.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates 'Mango Festival' in Belgium

On 17 June, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has inaugurated a "Mango Festival" in Brussels, Belgium to raise awareness among Europeans and establish a market for Indian mangoes in Europe.

- ♦ India is a big supplier of mangoes to the rest of the globe, but most of the mangoes end up in the Middle East rather than Europe. This is the first time it has been hosted in Belgium.

Khuvsgul Lake National Park

Recently Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO. This decision was taken during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of Man and Biosphere Programme. This event is taking place in Paris, France. Khuvsgul Lake is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border.

It is the source of 70% of Mongolia's fresh water and is situated at an altitude of about 1645 m above sea level which is 135 km long and 262 m deep lake. It is the second largest lake in Mongolia in terms of area and about 200 km from Lake Baikal in Russia. Located in the west.

South Korea launches first home-made space rocket

On June 21, South Korea launched its first home-made space rocket on a second attempt. This space rocket was launched months after the last lift-off, failing to place a payload into orbit.

The successful launch of the space rocket will boost South Korea's growing space ambitions. It has also proved that the country has critical technologies for manufacturing space-based surveillance systems as well as large missiles. Since the 1990s, South Korea has sent several satellites into space, but all were launched overseas using rockets built on foreign technology.

South Korea attempted to launch the satellite for the first time in October 2021. On the first attempt, the rocket's dummy payload reached the desired altitude of 700 km. However, it could not enter orbit as the rocket's third-stage engine burned out earlier than planned.

14th BRICS Summit 2022

The 14th BRICS summit will be held in virtual mode on June 23, 2022. Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will come together in this summit.

India's negotiators want to ensure that any joint statements made from this summit are neutral as well as limit any attempts by China and Russia to use the platform to spread propaganda against the US and its allies. To be.

The Indian side will also try to delay China's attempt to expand the BRICS grouping by

pushing the organization to bring in new members criteria.

- ◆ The BRICS grouping has become a forum for all developing countries to discuss and deliberate on issues of common concern. During this meeting, the Heads of State will discuss inter-BRICS cooperation in areas such as trade, terrorism, traditional medicine, health, environment, reform of multilateral institutions and combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ Theme of BRICS Summit: BRICS Summit 2022 will be organized under the theme "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development".
- ◆ BRICS Summit: Brazil, Russia, India and China formed the BRIC bloc in 2009. South Africa joined this block in 2010, which was followed by the creation of the "BRICS Block".

EX KHAAN QUEST 2022

Multinational peace exercise "Ex Khan Quest-2022" concluded on June 20, 2022 at "Peace Support Operations Training Center" in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Ex Khaan Quest 2022 was conducted from June 6 to June 20, 2022. It provided a platform for sharing best practices and mutual learning among armies of 16 nations. The Indian contingent was represented by the personnel of "Ladakh Scouts". He participated in field training and command post exercises.

Activities Organized During the Exercise: During this exercise, a number of training activities were conducted as part of the United Nations Brigade, conducting simulated tactical operations, training of staff and command appointments as

per the mandate of the United Nations (UN). As part of the nation brigade.

- ◆ **Ex Khan Quest** : It is a multinational peacekeeping operation exercise. The exercise includes the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission Command Post exercise, which is a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission field training exercise. It is designed to improve peacekeeping capabilities, enhance the core doctrine of the United Nations, and strengthen military-to-military ties of all participants.
- ◆ EX Khan Quest 2022 helped to increase the level of defense cooperation between the Indian Army and other participating countries, especially the Mongolian Armed Forces. It also helped enhance bilateral relations between India and Mongolia.

China's navy has the world's largest fleet- To build a naval facility in Cambodia

China is secretly building a naval facility on the northern portion of Cambodia's Ream Naval Base that would help extend its military's currently limited reach in foreign waters.

China commands the world's largest naval fleet with more than 350 vessels compared to the US Navy has 296 ships and submarines.

ii. China currently has only one foreign naval base at Djibouti in East Africa. The project in Cambodia would give China a foothold in Southeast Asia and a position in the western region of the South China Sea, part of china's ambition to grow its military influence worldwide.

Two African Nations Gabon & Togo Join the Commonwealth Group of Nations

The two African countries, Gabon and Togo, were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations, as its 55th and 56th members, respectively, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022, held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, from June 20 to June 25, 2022, under the new chairmanship of Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

- ◆ Gabon and Togo were historically French colonies which have never been British colonies.
- ◆ Rwanda was the last country to join the Commonwealth in 2009.
- ◆ Like Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony that joined the Commonwealth in 1995 and became the first member without historic links to Britain, Rwanda was never colonised by the British.

New Members Gabon and Togo :

- ◆ The formal Commonwealth membership procedure for Gabon, a Central African nation, began in 2017, while that for Togo, a West African nation, started in 2014.
- ◆ Gabon, is bordered by the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon, which is also a Commonwealth member. It has a thin population of 2 million.
- ◆ Togo is bordered by Ghana, a Commonwealth member as well as Benin and Burkina Faso. It has a population of approximately \$7.8\$ million people.

Khushi Patel from United Kingdom Wins Miss India Worldwide 2022

According to the New-York based India Festival Committee (IFC), Khushi Patel, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom (UK), has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.

- ◆ This is the 29th edition of the pageant. The previous event (28th edition) was held in \$2019.\$
- ◆ Vaidehi Dongre from the United States was declared the 1st runner up while Shrutika Mane became the 2nd runner up.
- ◆ The top 12 contestants at the pageant were the winners of various other contests globally.
- ◆ 2022's pageant was held after 3 years with the last one being organised at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai, Maharashtra in September 2

Mohammed Jalood became New President of the International Weightlifting Federation

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has elected Mohammed Hasan Jalood from Iraq as its new president at the 2022 IWF Special and Electoral Congress in Tirana, Albania. He is also the first Asian who became president in International Weightlifting Federation. He succeeds out-going Interim President Dr. Michael Irani.

- ◆ Mohammed Jalood was a former weightlifter and also holds citizenship status in Kazakhstan and also a former general secretary of the Asian Weightlifting Federation.

NASA Launches First Rocket from Australian Commercial Spaceport In 27 Years

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the space agency of the United States (US), launched a NASA Black Brant IX suborbital sounding rocket from the Arnhem Space Center(ASC) on the Dhupuma Plateau near Nhulunbuy in Australia.

- ◆ It was the first occasion that NASA had launched a rocket from Northern Territory of Australia in 27 years, since 1995. It was also the agency's first launch from a commercial spaceport outside of the United States.
- ◆ Two of the three missions will focus on Alpha Centauri A and B and the nearest double-star systems to the Earth, at a distance of \$4.3\$ light-years. The third will study X-rays emerging from the interstellar medium - the clouds of gases and particles in the space between stars.

Note :

- ◆ NASA launched rockets from the Royal Australian Air Force's Woomera range complex in South Australia in 1995.

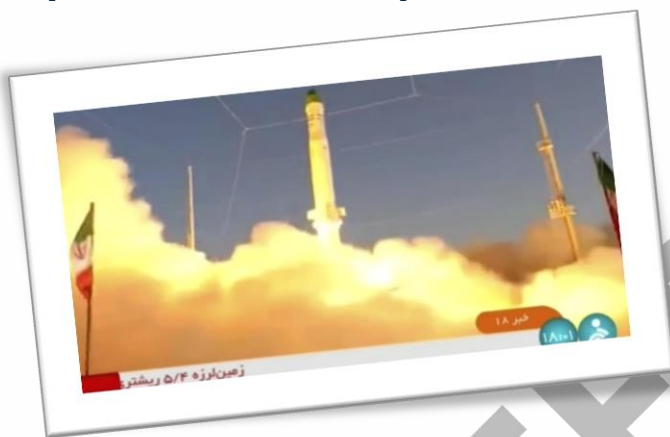
World Allergy Week 2022

World Allergy Week 2022 is observed across the globe from 5th to 11th June 2022 to create awareness about allergic diseases and related disorders. World Allergy Week is an annual observance initiated by the World Allergy Organisation (WAO).

The initiative of WAO also aims to advocate for the provision of training and resources in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of these allergic diseases and asthma.

- ♦ World Allergy Week 2021 was observed from 13th to 19th June 2021
- ♦ World Allergy Week 2020 was observed from 28th June to 4th July 2020 .
- ♦ The theme of World Allergy Week 2022 is "Breathe Better: The Asthma & Allergy Connections", which highlights that breathing better starts with understanding the connection between asthma and allergy.

A solid fueled rocket named "Juljana" was launched by Iran



Recently a solid fueled rocket named "Juljana" has been launched by Iran. The Juljana is a 25.5 meter tall Iranian Satellite Launch Vehicle. It is capable of carrying a payload of 220 kg or a satellite into an orbit located 500 km above the Earth. The satellite will provide a boost to Iran's space industry along with collecting data in low-Earth orbit. It is the first indigenously designed and indigenously built Hybrid Fuel Satellite Launch Vehicle. It is the third civilian satellite launch vehicle developed in Iran after Safir and Simorg. The Juljana rocket was unveiled on February 1, 2021. It was first launched into sub-orbital flight for telemetry and testing purposes on February 1, 2021. The rocket is named after the horse of Imam Hussain (grandson of Prophet Muhammad).

India Center established at Busan University of Foreign Studies, South Korea

The India Center has been established at Busan University of Foreign Studies, South Korea to promote activities related to India. This center will act as a major organization for India related programs in Busan. It will provide necessary resources for interested students in India and will emphasize on increasing academic and cultural cooperation with Busan University. An MoU was also signed on the occasion to promote cooperation in the field of education and cultural exchange between Busan University and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center in Seoul.

Announcement of Global Infrastructure Programs

Recently, global infrastructure programs worth 600 billion US dollars for poor countries have been announced by the G7 group. The move is aimed at boosting competition with China's Belt and Road Initiative. From the year 2022 to the year 2027, the US government and its allies will try to touch the figure of 600 billion US dollars.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is formally known as the One Belt One Road Initiative. It is a global infrastructure development strategy, which was launched by China in the year 2013. Under this, China planned to invest in about 70 countries and international organizations. The project is the centerpiece of Chinese President Xi Jinping's foreign policy. BRI has been signed by 146 countries till March 2022.

India and UK launch Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program

External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar and his UK counterpart Liz Truss have announced plans to launch a joint "India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy programme". The plan was announced after their meeting in Rwanda. The India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program will be launched to train young and aspiring diplomats from both countries. The new Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program was announced because, in an increasingly geopolitical world, countries need to champion the Commonwealth values of democracy and sovereignty. The new Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program will equip young diplomats with the expertise and training they need to tackle global challenges.

Khushi Patel of Britain won the title of Miss India Worldwide 2022

UK biomedical student Khushi Patel has been declared the winner of the beauty pageant Miss India Worldwide 2022. It is the longest running beauty pageant outside India. Vaidehi Dongre of America was declared the 'first runner-up', while Shrutika Mane was declared the 'second runner-up'. The top 12 contestants in the beauty pageant were winners of various other competitions globally. According to the India Festival Committee (IFC), Roshni Razak of Guyana was declared 'Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022'. According to the IFC, Navya Pengol of America was the "first runner-up", while Suriname's Chiquita Malaha was the "second runner-up". IFC has been organizing this competition for the last 29 years. This year's beauty pageant was held after a gap of three

years, with the last being held in September 2019 at The Leela Hotel in Mumbai.

Researchers discover a new enterprise-grade Android spyware called 'Hermit'

Lookout, a cloud-based security company, recently discovered a new spyware called "Hermit". Hermit spyware is capable of affecting Android and iOS devices. As TechCrunch reports, security researchers at Lookout have reported that national governments in Kazakhstan and Italy have used the Android version of Hermit spyware in "targeted attacks".

Hermit is a commercial spyware and has been used by governments in northern Syria, Kazakhstan and Italy. It was first detected in Kazakhstan in April 2022, when the government violently suppressed protests against its policies. It was also used for anti-corruption investigations in the north-eastern Kurdish region of Syria and by Italian authorities.

Hermit Android App is distributed via text message. The message seems to be coming from a legitimate source. Malware can impersonate telecommunications companies and other apps developed by manufacturers such as Oppo and Samsung.

The Hermit Android malware is modular because it allows spyware to download additional components that are required for the malware to run. Like other spyware, Hermit malware also uses various modules to record audio as well as collect call logs, messages, photos, emails.

It can redirect phone calls and reveal the exact location of the device.



Formula One: Max Verstappen wins Azerbaijan GP to Become Red Bull's Most Successful Driver



On 12th June 2022 Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Belgium) won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022 held at Baku, Azerbaijan to extend his Formula One (F1) championship lead over Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco).

Verstappen's 25th career win ties him with Jim Clark and Niki Lauda for ninth on the all-time list.

- ♦ Formula One championships are held by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

Kishore Rahul Srivastava becomes India's 74th Grandmaster

Rahul Srivastava P of Telangana has become the 74th Grandmaster of India to clinch the title by breaking the barrier of 2500 (Elo points)

in the live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy. The 19-year-old reached 2500 Elo Live rating points after drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulia at the Cattolica event. His current Elo rating is 2468. Srivastava had already achieved five GM benchmarks and won the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500.

Stuttgart Open 2022: Matteo Berrettini Beats Andy Murray in Men's Single, Iga Swiatek won Women's Single Title



Stuttgart Open 2022 was the men's and women's tennis tournament held in Stuttgart, Germany. 2022 BOSS Open (formerly known as the Mercedes Cup) was a men's tennis tournament played on outdoor grass courts and 2022 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, is a women's tennis tournament played on Clay courts.

2022 BOSS Open :

It was the 44th edition of the Stuttgart Open, and part of the ATP Tour 250 series of the 2022 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour. It was held at the Tennis Club Weissenhof in Stuttgart, Germany, from 6 June until 12 June 2022. The 1st edition of the tournament was held in 1898

- ♦ Matteo Berrettini (Italy) won men's singles title against Former World No. 1 Andy Murray (Britain) in 2022 BOSS Open.
- ♦ The Men's Doubles title was won by Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) and Mate Pavic (Croatia) against Tim Putz (Germany) and Michael Venus (New Zealand) in 2022 BOSS Open.

2022 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix :

- ♦ 2022 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix was a women's professional tennis tournament played on indoor clay courts at the Porsche Arena in Stuttgart, Germany from 18 Apr 2022 to 24 Apr 2022. It was the 45th edition of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix and is classified as a WTA 500 tournament on the 2022 Women's Tennis Association(WTA) Tour. The tournament is the oldest women's indoor tournament in Europe.
- ♦ Iga Swiatek of Poland (Women's singles world no 1) won the women's singles title against Aryna Siarhiejeŭna Sabalenka of Belarus.

TN CM MK Stalin Launches Logo & Mascot of 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad

Tamil Nadu(TN) Chief Minister(CM) MK Stalin, launched the official logo and mascot named 'Thambi' (which means younger brother in Tamil) for 44th International Chess Federation

(FIDE-Fédération Internationale des Échecs) Chess Olympiad which is scheduled to be held from 28th July to 10th August 2022 in at Mamallapuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Note :

- ♦ A record 343 teams from 187 countries have already entered for the tournament in Open and Women's sections.

ISSF World Cup, Baku: India Finishes with Five Medals

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2022 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 28th May 2022 to 7th June 2022.

Highlights

India won a total of five medals, with 2 gold, 3 silver, and holds 5th position in overall championship.

- First being the Republic of Korea with 5 Gold and 3 Bronze, Next comes the United States of America with 4 Gold 3 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Neeraj Chopra sets national record in javelin throw at Pavo Nurmi Games in Finland

India's Neeraj Chopra, who won the Tokyo Olympics gold medal at the Pavo Normi

Games in Finland, created a national record in the javelin throw with a distance of 89.3-zero meters. Chopra's earlier national record was 88.07m which he had set in March last year in Patiala. He won the Tokyo Olympic gold medal on August 7, 2021 with a throw of 87.58m. Neeraj Chopra is India's first Olympic gold medalist in athletics and only the second individual gold medalist at the Olympics.

US, Canada, & Mexico to Host FIFA World Cup 2026; 1st time to be Hosted by 3 Countries

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA -International Federation of Association Football) announced that the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be jointly hosted by the United States (US), Canada, and Mexico. for the first time in the history of FIFA world Cup the event will be hosted by 3 countries. FIFA has selected 16 cities from these countries through a bid.

- ♦ Los Angeles (US), Toronto (Canada) and Mexico City (Mexico) are among the host cities for the tournament.
- ♦ This will be the first World Cup hosted by more than one nation since 2002. Japan and South Korea jointly hosted the 2002 World Cup.

Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri becomes 5th Highest Goalscorer; Equals Ferenc Puskás

Indian Men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri scored his 84th International goal against Hong Kong during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers.

He has equalled the record of Real Madrid and Hungarian Football Legend Ferenc Puskás and became the joint fifth highest goalscorer in international football.

Sunil Chhetri scored 84 goals in 129 appearances while Ferenc Puskás (who died in 2006 aged 79) scored 84 goals in 85 international matches.

- ♦ Sunil Chhetri is the 3rd highest goal scorer in international football among active players, after Cristiano Ronaldo with 117 goals and Lionel Messi with 86 goals.
- ♦ He is also the highest active goal scorer from Asia and India.

Formula 1: Max Verstappen wins Canadian Grand Prix 2022

2021 Formula One World Champion and a red bull racer, Max Verstappen of the Netherlands has won his 6th Formula One (F1) Canadian Grand Prix 2022 at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Canada. Verstappen has won the four of the previous five Grand Prix this season.

- ♦ This is Verstappen's 1st Canadian victory in his 150th career start, his 6th in 2022 and the 26th of his career.
- ♦ Carlos Sainz of Spain, Ferrari driver placed 2nd and Lewis Hamilton of United Kingdom, Mercedes driver placed 3rd in the season.

Rahul Srivastav Becomes India's 74th Grandmaster

The 19-year-old Rahul Srivastav P of Telangana has become India's 74th

Grandmaster (GM) after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live International Chess Federation (FIDE) ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy.

Achievements:

- ♦ Rahul Srivatshav reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark after drawing his 8 th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia in the Cattolica event. ii. He had already secured 5 GM norms and achieved the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500 .
- ♦ To become a GM, a player must secure 3 GM norms and cross the live rating of 2500 Elo points.

India's Anahat Singh wins Asian Junior Squash title in U-15 category

Indian player Anahat Singh, 14-year-old, won the gold medal in the girls Under15 category at the 29th Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships defeating Kwong Ena of Hong Kong 3-0 in the final. The tournament was held in Pattaya, Thailand between 15 - 19 June 2022 .

Anahat reached the finals without dropping a single game in the tournament and had also defeated Malaysian top seed Whitney Isabelle Wilson 3-0 in the semifinals.

So far, Anahat has won 46 national circuit titles, two national championships and eight international titles. She is the only Indian girl to win the US Junior Open in any category and the British Junior Open.

Badminton: Viktor Axelsen, Tai Tzu Ying win singles titles in Indonesia Open 2022

Indonesia Open 2022 was held from June 14 to 19 at Istora Stadium in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. It was one of the tournaments in 2022 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World

Tour. Viktor Axelsen from Denmark and Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei won the respective men's and women's singles titles.

- ♦ **Men's Singles** : - Viktor Axelsen from Denmark won Men's Single title against China's Zhao Jun Peng and became top in the men's singles World Tour rankings.
- ♦ Indian male shuttler HS Prannoy went semi-final and lost his game against China's Zhao Jun Peng. After this tournament, HS Prannoy lost his top spot and finished second in the men's singles World Tour rankings.
- ♦ **Women's Singles** : The second-seed and Tokyo 2020 olympic silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying from Chinese Taipei defeated 2022 Asian champion Wang Zhi Yi of China to claim the women's singles title.

Hockey: India Men's Team & Uruguay Women's Team won Inaugural Hero FIH Hockey5s Lausanne 2022

Indian Men's Hockey Team won the Inaugural men's Champion of Hero FIH Hockey5s Lausanne 2022 defeating Poland in the finals. Uruguay women's Hockey Team defeated the Switzerland team and became the inaugural women's champion.

Hero FIH Hockey5s Lausanne 2022, the 1st ever official senior World Hockey5s competition organised by Fédération Internationale de Hockey FIH - International Hockey Federation). The event was held in the centre of the Olympic Capital Lausanne, Switzerland on 4 and 5 June 2022 . \$

- ♦ The men's teams of India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland and Switzerland complete a round-robin style tournament.
- ♦ Women's teams of Switzerland, India, Poland, South Africa and Uruguay also competed in the same format.

26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Rwanda

The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) took place from 20th June 2022 to 25th June, 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. Leaders of the Commonwealth countries will conduct the CHOGM every two years.

- ♦ It is a week-long programme of high-level side events, minister's meetings and forums such as, the Commonwealth Youth Forum, the Commonwealth Women's Forum, the Commonwealth Business Forum, and the Commonwealth People's Forum.
- ♦ The theme of 26th CHOGM Summit - "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming."
- ♦ The 2024 CHOGM will be hosted by Samoa.

Navjit Dhillon won gold medal in discus throw at Kosanov Memorial 2022

Indian female discus thrower, Navjit Dhillon won the gold medal at the Kosanov Memorial 2022 Athletics Meet being held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Navjit Dhillon, who is looking to cement her place in the Indian team for the Commonwealth Games, won the women's discus throw with an effort of 56.24m. Local athlete Karina Vasilyeva clocked 44.61m and Yuliana

Shchukina of Uzbekistan with 40.48m followed Navjit Dhillon on the podium.

IWF elected Mohd Jalud as President of 2022

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) believes that substantial progress has been made in enhancing the culture and leadership of the sport. According to a press release from Tirana, Albania, Mohamed Jalud has been elected as the organization's president, and 11 additional new members have been added to its executive board. Albania has hosted both the Special and Electoral Congress and the recently concluded European Weightlifting Championships.

Eoin Morgan: World Cup winning captain quits international cricket

According to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Eoin Morgan has announced his immediate retirement from international cricket. Morgan was the captain of England's men's white-ball team. The 35-year-old captain captained the England men's team to their maiden ICC Men's Cricket World Cup victory at Lord's in 2019 during his 13-year international career with England. He also competed for England in the 2010 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup held in the Caribbean.



Rabab Fatima Appointed as UNs Under Secretary General ; Amandeep Singh Gill As UNs Envoy On Technology



United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres appointed Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh as the Under Secretary General or Assistant Secretary General of the UN and also appointed as High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS).

- ◆ She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.
- ◆ She is the current Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York.

- ◆ Ambassador Rabab Fatima is the 1st woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post and also the highest ranking official of Bangladesh under the UN system.

Mayank Kumar Agrawal DG of DD given additional charge of Prasar Bharati CEO

Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Director General (DG) of Doordarshan(DD) and Doordarshan News has been given additional charge as Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Prasar Bharati till further orders or regular appointment to the post.

- ◆ Mayank Kumar Agrawal, a 1989-batch Indian Information Service official, was given the additional charges following the approval from Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
- ◆ This decision was made after the 5-year tenure of Shashi Shekhar Vempati as CEO of Prasar Bharati concluded on 8th June 2022. Shashi Shekhar Vempati

Ruchira Kamboj appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Recently Ruchira Kamboj has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. He is currently serving as the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan.

Ruchira Kamboj T.S. Tirumurti and she is likely to take charge soon.

Ruchira Kamboj has been the All India Women Topper of the Civil Services Batch of the year 1987 as well as the Topper of the Foreign Service Batch of the year 1987. She began her diplomatic journey from Paris, France and was posted as the Third Secretary in the Indian Embassy in France during 1989-91.

She has also been Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO in Paris and Head of Protocol in New Delhi.

The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations is the most prominent diplomatic representative of India to the United Nations. It heads India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York City. Currently, T.S. Tirumurti is the Permanent Representative of India. He was appointed in May 2020.

Senior IPS officer Dinkar Gupta is appointed Director General, NIA



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP), Dinkar Gupta as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency

(NIA). The 1987 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Punjab cadre was removed as the State DGP and posted to the Police Housing Corporation after Charanjit Singh Channi replaced Captain (retd.) Amarinder Singh as Punjab's Chief Minister in 2021.

According to the order, Gupta will hold the post of NIA chief till March 31, 2024, that is the date of his retirement or till further orders, whichever comes earlier.

S.S. Mundra appointed as chairman of BSE



S.S. Mundra, a public interest director to lead the world's largest stock exchange, according to the BSE. Justice Vikramajit Sen will be replaced by Mr. Mundra. After serving for three years, Mr. Mundra left his position as Reserve Bank of India's Deputy Governor in July 2017. Before that, he held the positions of Chairman and Managing Director at Bank of Baroda, until he retired in July 2014.

Key Points :

- ♦ Mr. Mundra has held a number of significant positions over his more than 40-year banking career, including Executive Director of Union Bank of India and Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda (European Operations), among others.

- ◆ Additionally, he represented the RBI as the G20 Forum's nominee on the Financial Stability Board and its numerous committees.
- ◆ Additionally, he served as the International Network on Financial Education's Vice-Chair for the OECD.
- ◆ He served on the boards of a number of multi-faceted businesses before to the RBI, including Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. and Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSL).

Parameswaran Iyer appointed as CEO of NITI Aayog



Former Drinking and water Sanitation Secretary, Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog for 2 years. He will succeed Amitabh Kant. Kant was appointed as the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was further extended for two years, till this month-end, in June 2019. In June 2021, Kant received another one-year extension.

Samant Kumar Goel re-appointed as Chief of RAW



Samant Kumar Goel's contract as secretary of the intelligence agency's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) was extended by the Centre on June 24 by another year. Goel is an IPS officer from the Punjab cadre class of 1984 and will hold the position of agency secretary through June 30, 2023. In June 2019, Samant Kumar Goel succeeded Anil Dhasmana as the Chief of RAW

Tapen Kumar Deka appointed as new Director of Intelligence Bureau

The Central government has appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau. Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Deka will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose tenure ends on June 30

Deka has spent most of the career in the Intelligence Bureau. He was an Additional Director in Intelligence Bureau when he was promoted to the rank of Special Director in the

Wing in June last year. Deka has handled crucial cases like terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, especially targeted killings in the Valley.

IRS Officer Nitin Gupta named as the new chairman of CBDT

IRS officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman. Gupta, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre, is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board and is scheduled to retire in September next year.

The post of the CBDT chief was being held in an additional capacity by Board member and 1986-batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh after J B Mohapatra retired on April 30. The CBDT is headed by a Chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary

Anil Khanna named as the acting President of IOA

Anil Khanna has been appointed the acting President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The Delhi High Court has ordered that Narinder Dhruv Batra cannot continue as the President of the IOA and appointed Anil Khanna as acting president. Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra was ordered to stop functioning as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president by the Delhi High Court "in a contempt proceeding", a month after it asked him to relinquish the top job. A vacation bench of Justice Dinesh Sharma passed the order on a contempt petition filed by Olympian and hockey World Cup winner Aslam Sher Khan.

IRARC's Avinash Kulkarni to head India Debt Resolution Company

The chief govt of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Firm (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been chosen to head the India Debt Decision Firm (IDRCL). Kulkarni is a (SBI) veteran, having undertaken numerous roles on the public sector behemoth. His engagements on the SBI group have included assignments within the funding banking and advisory arm, Capital Markets.

IWF chooses Mohammed Jalood as President 2022

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) believes that substantial progress has been made in enhancing the culture and leadership of the sport. Mohammed Jalood has been elected as the organization's president, and 11 additional new members have been added to its Executive Board, according to a press release from Tirana, Albania, which hosted both the Special & Electoral Congress and the recently concluded European Weightlifting Championships.

Mukesh Ambani Resigns, Akash Ambani is New Jio Chairman

Mukesh Ambani's eldest son Akash Ambani will take over as chairman of Jio Infocomm's board, the digital division of Reliance industries, in what is viewed as the 65-year-old billionaire's succession planning. Mukesh Ambani has resigned as the company director effective from 27 June.

Pankaj Mohan Pawar was among the other selections made, and his five-year term as

managing director began on 27 June. KV Chowdary and Raminder Singh Gujral were named independent directors.

Mukesh Ambani will continue to serve as chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and as the chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd, the parent firm of all Jio digital services brands, including Reliance Jio Infocomm. Broadly, Reliance operates under three main business segments, petrochemicals and oil refining, retail, and digital services, which includes telecom

KK Venugopal Re-Appointed Attorney General For Three Months

Attorney General (A-G), K.K. Venugopal has been re-appointed as the country's top law officer for a period of three months. Mr. Venugopal, whose current one-year term ends on June 30, agreed to a short tenure following a request from the government. The sources cited above said that he was initially not willing to continue in the Constitutional post due to "personal reasons".

In July 2017, Mr. Venugopal, 90, was appointed by the President of India to succeed Mukul Rohatgi as the A-G. The government's top law officer enjoys a tenure of three years. However, when Mr. Venugopal's first term as A-G was to end in 2020, he requested the government to give him a one-year tenure keeping in mind his advanced age. Last year too, he was reappointed for one year.

Sandeep Kumar Gupta named as next chairman of GAIL

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Director for Finance at Indian Oil Corporation, has been picked to head India's largest gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd. He will replace Manoj Jain, who is scheduled to retire on August 31. The PESB recommendation will be vetted by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after the go-ahead of anti-corruption bodies such as the CVC and CBI.

Career and Experience of Sandeep Kumar Gupta:

- ♦ A commerce graduate and Chartered Accountant by education, Gupta has more than 31 years of working experience at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company. He has been Director (Finance) of IOC since August 3, 2019.
- ♦ With an experience of handling almost the entire gamut of finance and accounts activities, his tenure as Director (Finance) witnessed two extreme volatile global oil price cycles and deregulation of petrol and diesel prices in India.

Lisa Sthalekar becomes first female president of FICA

Former Australia cricketer, Lisa Sthalekar has become the first female president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA), the sport's international player's association. Her appointment was made at a meeting of the organisation's executive committee in Switzerland, the first in-person

meeting since the start of the Covid pandemic. Sthalekar joins a shortlist of former cricketers including Barry Richards, Jimmy Adams and Vikram Solanki to have held the post of FICA president.

P Udayakumar begins office as NSIC's Chairman and Managing Director

P Udayakumar, Director (Png and Mktg), NSIC, took additional responsibility as CMD NSIC with effect from 20 June 2022. He has a mechanical engineering degree from College of Engineering in Guindy, a postgraduate degree from IIM Bangalore, and 12 years of service on the Board.

Dr D J Pandian appointed to lead NDB's India Regional Office in Gift City

Shanghai-headquartered New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has appointed former bureaucrat Dr D J Pandian as the Director-General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), the bank announced. Pandian earlier served as the Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the Beijing-based Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in which India is the 2nd largest shareholder after China.

During his tenure at the AIIB, he was instrumental in securing USD 6.7 billion in funding for 28 projects in India, stated to be the highest project finance extended by the bank. A retired IAS officer, Pandian had also served as Chief Secretary of Gujarat.

The announcement of Pandian's appointment comes as China, which is the chair of this year's BRICS, is set to host the summit of the five-member bloc via video link on June 23-24 in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to take part.

Satish Pai named as the new chairman of International Aluminium Institute

The International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the only body representing the global primary aluminium industry, has announced the appointment of Satish Pai as its new Chair. He is the Managing Director of Hindalco Industries, one of the world's largest integrated producers of aluminium. Earlier serving as Vice Chairman, he succeeds Ben Kahrs, Chief Innovation Officer, Alcoa Corporation. An engineer by education and profession, Satish earlier worked with Schlumberger, based out of Paris, where he was responsible for Schlumberger's operations globally.



Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan released books titled 'Loktantra ke Swar' & 'The Republican Ethic'



Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur released books 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', having selected speeches of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Ram Nath Kovind. The compilation includes speeches on a wide range of subjects. E-books were also released on the occasion.

PM releases Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani'

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi

Kahani'. Prime Minister noted Shri Ram Bahadur Rai's life-long quest for searching for new ideas and desire to bring something new before the society. He expressed the hope that the book that was released today will present the Constitution in a comprehensive manner.

The book by Shri Rai will be in the tradition of New India's effort to remember the forgotten thoughts to ensure that in the India of the future, consciousness of the past remains strong. The book, along with the history of independence and the untold chapters of our constitution will give a new thinking to the youth of the country.

IISM Launches "The Winning Formula for Success" India's 1st Sports Marketing Book

India's leading sports and Management institute, the International Institute of Sports & Management (IISM) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, launched India's first-ever book on Sports Marketing titled "Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success" authored by noted Sports author Vinit Karnik.

This is the first book in a series to be launched as a part of a knowledge series. The book has been published by Popular Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. The book was released by Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, the Governor of Maharashtra in the presence of Nilesh Kulkarni Founder & Director of IISM.

A book titled “Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India” by RN Bhaskar

The biography of billionaire industrialist, Gautam Adani, titled “Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India” will hit the stands in October, announced Penguin Random House (PRHI). The book written by journalist-author RN Bhaskar, claims to bring to light, for the first time, the unknown aspects of one of the richest men in the world.

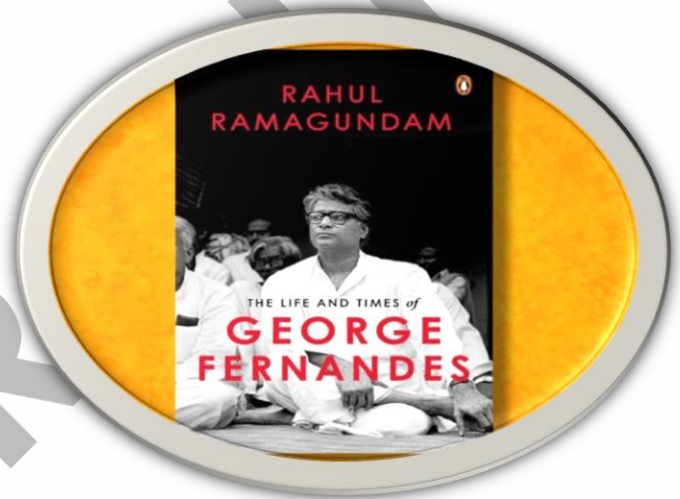
At the helm of a business empire that is now India’s largest player in ports and renewable energy, the Ahmedabad-based industrialist is currently also leading the country’s largest private sector player in sectors such as airports, city gas distribution, power transmission, thermal power, edible oil, and railway lines. The book, according to the publishers, delves deep, detailing a range of fascinating anecdotes from Adani’s life, illuminating his early childhood, his initiation into business, and the learnings and opportunities he pursued.

Haryana CM releases a book ‘Ashtang Yoga’ by Dr Sonu Phogat

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on the eve of 8th International Yoga Day released a book titled Ashtang Yoga authored by Dr Sonu Phogat. Manohar Lal Khattar said that every person should have a

resolution for Yoga and he has to connect himself with the resolution. He said that the Mantra of Yog to Sehyog will show us a new way to the future. Appreciating the efforts of writer Dr Sonu Phogat, it is a matter of pride that the book on Yoga was released on the eve of International Yoga Day. He said that it will benefit the people.

Biography of George Fernandes to hit stands next month



A new biography of one of India’s most firebrand union leaders and former Central minister George Fernandes will trace his journey from the streets of Bombay to the corridors of power in Delhi, announced the Penguin Random House India (PRHI). “The Life and Times of George Fernandes”, written by Rahul Ramagundam, will be released under Penguin’s ‘Allen Lane’ imprint on July 25.



List of Important Days National & International



International Level Crossing Awareness Day 2022- June 9

International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), a global initiative, was observed on 9th June 2022 to create awareness about level crossing safety. The day also aims to create public awareness about the dangers of misbehaviours at the level crossing.

- ◆ Since 2009, The annual ILCAD campaign is spearheaded by the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (UIC)(International union of railways).

World Blood Donor Day 2022 June 14



World Blood Donor Day(WBDD) is annually observed across the globe on 14th June to create awareness about the importance of blood donation and to promote voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.

The day also aims to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products like Red

blood cells (RBCs), Fresh frozen plasma, White blood cells (WBCs), Immune globulins, etc.

- ◆ The observance of WBDD is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

June 17: World Day for Desertification and Drought Prevention

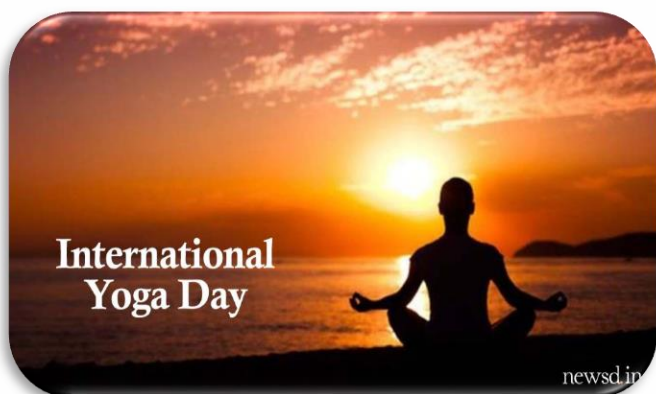
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is organized by the United Nations on 17 June every year. To combat desertification and drought, the day focuses on changing public attitudes towards land degradation and desertification. The day was declared after the United Nations drafted it in 1995 by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The 2030 Agenda for SDGs includes saving the earth from erosion. Sustainable Development Goal 15 aims to prevent land degradation. As the global population is increasing, the global prosperity is increasing, there is a greater need for land to meet the need for food, clothing and animal feed.

According to the United Nations, the world population will reach 10 billion by the year 2050. To meet the needs of such a large population, an additional 593 million hectares of agricultural land would be required by 2050 compared to 2010 levels. It is twice the area of India.

On the other hand, the fertility and productivity of land is decreasing due to climate change, thus to combat desertification and drought, World Desertification and Drought Prevention Day encourages people to reduce the effects of land degradation.

International Day of Yoga 2022



International Day of Yoga is celebrated worldwide on 21st June since 2015. This year, the 8th edition of the International Day of Yoga will be observed. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness. Today it is practised in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity.

International Yoga Day 2022: Theme

- ◆ International Yoga Day 2022 will be celebrated on 21 June 2022 with the theme 'Yoga for Humanity' across the world with great enthusiasm. As the pandemic COVID-19 continued this year also, yoga is helping people to stay energetic and have strong immune system.

World Music Day 2022- June 21

World Music Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 21st June to encourage young and talented musicians across the globe.

The day also aims to provide a platform for young artists to showcase their talents. World Music Day is also known as "Fête de la Musique" which means "Festival of Music" in French.

- ◆ The year 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the celebration of "Fête de la Musique"
- ◆ The theme of World Music Day 2022 is "Music on the intersections".
- ◆ **Note :** The annual celebration of "Fête de la Musique" across the globe coincides with the day of the summer solstice.

23 June: International Olympic Day



International Olympic Day is organized every year on 23 June to promote the importance of sports and health in military activities. The day marks the establishment of the International Olympic Committee in the year 1894. The primary objective of organizing this day is to encourage sports among the common people and to spread the message of making sports an integral part of life.

- ♦ It is to be known that the beginning of the modern Olympic Games is inspired by the ancient Olympic Games held in Olympia (Greece) from 8th century BC to 4th century AD. It was held in Olympia, Greece in honor of Zeus (the supreme god of Greek religion).
- ♦ Baron Pierre de Coubertin established the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the year 1894 and laid the foundation for the Olympic Games. It is a non-profit independent international organization committed to building a better world through sport. It ensures the regular holding of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organizations and promotes the values of the Olympics in appropriate ways.
- ♦ The idea of organizing International Olympic Day was presented at the meeting of the International Olympic Committee in the year 1947 and in the year 1948 this proposal was given official approval.

World Hydrography Day 2022- June 21

World Hydrography Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 21 st June to create awareness about Hydrography and its importance in improving knowledge of the seas and oceans.

- ♦ The theme for World Hydrography Day 2022 is "Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade".

23 June: United Nations Public Service Day

United Nations Public Service Day is organized by the United Nations every year on 23 June as a token of respect and gratitude towards civil services around the world. This day recognizes the work of public servants, emphasizes their contribution in the development of the society and motivates the youth to make a career in the public sector. On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly declared 23 June as the United Nations Public Service Day. In order to increase awareness about this day and the importance of public service, the United Nations had started the 'United Nations Public Service Awards' (UNPSA) program in the year 2003, which was awarded in the year 2016 according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. was updated.

The 'United Nations Public Service Awards' program promotes and rewards innovation and quality in public services by recognizing innovative achievements and services of public institutions, which are more efficient and favorable in countries around the world in favor of sustainable development. Contributing to public administration.

Day of the Seafarer 2022

The United Nations(UN)'s Day of the Seafarer is annually observed across the globe on 25th June to create awareness about the seafarers and the challenges they face. The day also offers a platform to pay tribute to the seafarers recognising the risk they take in the execution of their daily life and their duties in the hostile environment.

- ♦ 25th June 2022 marks the observance of the 12th Day of the Seafarer.
- ♦ The observance of the Day of the Seafarer is led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- ♦ The theme/Campaign theme of Day of the Seafarer 2022 is "Your voyage then and now, share your journey".

World Vitiligo Day June 2022

World Vitiligo Day(WVD) is annually observed across the globe on 25 th June to create awareness about vitiligo, a long-term skin condition caused due to lack of melanin. The day also aims to include recognition of bullying, social neglect, psychological trauma and disability of the people affected by vitiligo. 25th June 2022 marks the observance of the 12th annual World Vitiligo Day.

- ♦ Every year WVD is hosted by a different city and the global campaign headquarters of 2022 WVD is hosted by Mexico under the presidency of Prof. Jorge Ocampo Candiani MD, Chair of the Dermatology Department at Hospital Universitario De Nuevo Leon - WVD 2022 President.
- ♦ The International theme for World Vitiligo Day 2022 is 'Learning To Live With Vitiligo'.

30 June : International Asteroid Day

International Asteroid Day is organized every year on 30 June as a United Nations recognized campaign to raise awareness about asteroids, the potential hazards they cause and the scientific mysteries known from their study. Also, this day inspires the general public to know about asteroids. This year's 'International Asteroid Day' marks the 113th anniversary of the

largest 'asteroid event' that occurred near the Tunguska River in Siberia.

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution to organize 30 June every year as 'International Asteroid Day', with the aim of commemorating the 'Tunguska event' in Siberia annually.

Be aware that asteroids are small rocky materials that orbit the Sun. Asteroids revolve around the Sun in the same way as the planets, but their size is much smaller than the planets. They are also called minor planets. According to NASA, the number of known asteroids is about 10,97,106, which were formed during the formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago.

30 June : International Parliamentary Day

International Parliamentary Day is observed globally on 30 June every year. This day is celebrated to mark the processes of Parliament by which parliamentary systems of government improve the everyday lives of people around the world. At the same time, it is also an opportunity for the Parliament/MPs to discuss among themselves to face the challenges and deal with them effectively.

This day was started in the year 2018 by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Apart from this, the day also marks the date of the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a global organization of parliaments, which was established in the year 1889.

Inter-Parliamentary Union encourages coordination and exchange of experiences between parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries.

It contributes to the protection and promotion of human rights as well as to the strengthening and development of representative institutions.

**Current Affairs Quiz - 1****NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

1. Japan has participated in NATO Summit in Madrid for the first time in June 2022. Who is the present Secretary General of NATO?
(a) Robert Abela (b) Ian Fry
(c) Gilbert Houngbo (d) Jens Stoltenberg
2. 47th meeting of GST Council will be held on June 28-29 in _____.
(a) Kolkata (b) Kanpur
(c) Ahmedabad (d) Srinagar
3. RBI has raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit of e-mandates for transactions from Rs. 5,000 to _____.
(a) Rs 10,000 (b) Rs 15,000
(c) Rs 20,000 (d) Rs 25,000
4. Hamza Abdi Barre has been appointed as the prime minister of which country?
(a) Kenya (b) Sudan
(c) Somalia (d) Zimbabwe
5. Which company has partnered with Jio-bp to accelerate EV adoption?
(a) Foodpanda (b) Swiggy
(c) Fasoos (d) Zomato
6. Where was the largest known plant on Earth recently discovered?
(a) Off the coast of Russia (b) Off the coast of Australia
(c) Off the coast of North America (d) Off the coast of Japan

7. NPCI International has signed an MoU with which country's Lyra network for acceptance of UPI & Rupay Card?
(a) France (b) Japan
(c) USA (d) South Korea
8. Which country has conducted its first successful satellite launch using domestic rocket 'Nuri'?
(a) France (b) Japan
(c) Brazil (d) South Korea
9. Which country has launched new batch of 3 Yagon-35 remote sensing satellites recently?
(a) China (b) Japan
(c) South Korea (d) Vietnam
10. Chennai based drone start up Garuda Aerospace has partnered with which country's Drone Solution Company to set up first international drone factory?
(a) Indonesia (b) Switzerland
(c) Malaysia (d) Philippines
11. Which bank launched a digital platform 'Campus Power', first-of-its-kind to address the needs of the students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Axis Bank
(c) Punjab National Bank (d) ICICI Bank
12. Former Drinking and Water Sanitation Secretary _____ has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog.
(a) Parameswaren Iyer (b) Ranjit Bajaj
(c) Dr Manoj Soni (d) P Udayakumar
13. Which of the following Indian state-based public transport services has been honored with a prestigious UN Public Service Award 2022?
(a) Delhi Transport Corporation
(b) Haryana State Road Transport Corporation
(c) Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation
(d) Mo Bus, Odisha
14. BOB Financial has launched a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card with which bank?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Axis Bank
(c) Karnataka Bank (d) Nainital Bank

15. Which company signed an MoU with a Belarusian Company and its subsidiary for the supply of Airborne Defence Suite (ADS) for helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF)?
(a) Bharat Dynamics (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(c) Bharat Electronics Limited (d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
16. What is the peak capacity of India's largest floating solar power project commissioned by Tata Power Solar Systems Limited in Kerala recently?
(a) 99.3 Megawatt (b) 100.5 Megawatt
(c) 102.1 Megawatt (d) 101.6 Megawatt
17. *Thiomargarita magnifica*, in news recently, is world's biggest____ found in Caribbean mangrove swamp.
(a) Fungi (b) Insectivorous plant
(c) Freshwater fish (d) Bacterium
18. M. Krishna was one among the chosen recipients of the first edition of 'Kempegowda International Award' given by Karnataka state government. He is a _____.
(a) Former Chief Minister of the state
(b) Chief Justice of the state High Court
(c) Co-founder of Syndicate Bank and Manipal Academy of Higher Education
(d) Former Defense Minister
19. 'CAPSTONE', which was in news recently, is a satellite launched by which space agency?
(a) NASA (b) Cosmos
(c) ISRO (d) none of these
20. In PSLV-C53 mission, ISRO launched three satellites of which country?
(a) America (b) Japan
(c) Russia (d) Singapore
21. What is the budgetary outlay for computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)?
(a) Rs 2516 crore (b) Rs 3516 crore
(c) Rs 4516 crore (d) Rs 5516 crore

22. Which is the venue of the 11th World Urban Forum held in 2022?
(a) India (b) Poland
(c) Sweden (d) Russia
23. '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement' is associated with which global association?
(a) G-7 (b) G-20
(c) BRICS (d) SCO
24. Ashok Soota has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021. He is the founder and Executive Chairman of which company?
(a) Happiest Minds Technologies (b) Mphasis
(c) Wipro Limited (d) Hexaware Tech Ltd
25. The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, is celebrating its ____ year on 1st July.
(a) 63rd (b) 64th
(c) 65th (d) 67th

Current Affairs Quiz - 2**SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE**

1. Who has been appointed as the new chief of Press Council of India?
(a) Ranjana Prakash Desai (b) Ranjan Gogoi
(c) P N Vasudevan (d) Swarup Kumar Saha
2. When is the International Day for Countering Hate Speech celebrated globally?
(a) June 15 (b) June 16
(c) June 17 (d) June 18
3. Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on _____.
(a) 11 June (b) 13 June
(c) 18 June (d) 16 June
4. Who has been appointed as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB)?
(a) Dr Manoj Soni (b) Dinkar Gupta
(c) Tapan Kumar Deka (d) Rohan Pratap Singh

5. Who has been re-appointed as chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)?
(a) Samant Kumar Goel (b) Dr. Suman K Bery
(c) Rakesh Sharma (d) Vipin Sharma
6. Who has been appointed as acting president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?
(a) Narender Batra (b) Anil Khanna
(c) Sourav Ganguly (d) Janardhan Singh Gehlot
7. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022 is celebrated on which of the following days?
(a) June 22 (b) June 23
(c) June 24 (d) June 26
8. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT)?
(a) J B Mohapatra (b) Nitin Gupta
(c) S. K. Mohanty (d) Sanjeev Kaushik
9. Who has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation?
(a) R J Umar Nisar (b) Rashmi Sahoo
(c) Wesley Morgan (d) Vijay Amritraj
10. Who was selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) recently?
(a) Soniya Dixit (b) Vijay Tripathi
(c) Randeep Singh (d) Avinash Kulkarni
11. Navjeet Dhillon is associated with which of the following sport?
(a) Racewalking (b) Jumping
(c) Discus throw (d) Walking
12. Dhanalakshmi Sekar clocked her personal best time of 22.89s to win the 200m sprint at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet recently. With this she became the ____ fastest Indian woman in 200m.
(a) 2nd (b) 3rd
(c) 4th (d) 5th

13. International Day of Cooperatives is marked annually on the first Saturday of July. This year, the day will be observed on which day?
(a) 1 July (b) 2 July
(c) 3 July (d) 4 July
14. World Sports Journalists Day is observed on _____ every year to celebrate the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.
(a) July 4 (b) July 3
(c) July 2 (d) July 1
15. What is the theme of International Day of Cooperatives 2022?
(a) Sustainable consumption and production
(b) COOPS 4 DECENT WORK
(c) COOPS 4 CLIMATE ACTION
(d) Cooperatives Build a Better World
16. The World UFO Day (WUD) is held on _____ every year globally. It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization.
(a) July 1 (b) July 2
(c) July 3 (d) July 4
17. Which day is celebrated as International Plastic Bag Free Day?
(a) 29 June (b) 26 June
(c) 3 July (d) 1 July
18. Who has been appointed the new brand ambassador for FanCode, a live content, sports statistics and e-commerce marketplace?
(a) Jasprit Bumrah (b) Ravi Shastri
(c) Rahul Dravid (d) Virat Kohli
19. Jasprit Bumrah broke Brian Lara's world record for most runs in a single over in test match. Bumrah scored ____ runs against ____ to break this 19-year-old record of Brian Lara.
(a) 29, James Anderson (b) 34, James Anderson
(c) 29, Stuart Broad (d) 34, Stuart Broad

20. Who has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?
(a) Vijay Ram (b) Sanjay Tripathi
(c) Vivek Dasgupta (d) T. Raja Kumar
21. Who has been appointed as a part-time non-official director on the central board of RBI?
(a) Anand Mahindra (b) Venu Srinivasani
(c) Pankaj Patel (d) All of the above
22. The International Day of Family Families (IDFR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on _____.
(a) 13 June (b) 14 June
(c) 15 June (d) 16 June
23. Who has won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022?
(a) Sebastian Vettel (b) Max Verstappen
(c) Charles Leclerc (d) Lewis Hamilton
24. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is celebrating Elimination of Child Labour Week from _____ 2022.
(a) 11-19 June (b) 12-20 June
(c) 13-21 June (d) 14-22 June
25. World Blood Donor Day is observed globally on _____ every year.
(a) 12 June (b) 13 June
(c) 14 June (d) 15 June



ANSWERS



Current Affairs Quiz - 1

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.(d) Jens Stoltenberg

Exp Jens Stoltenberg is a Norwegian politician serving since 2014 as the 13th secretary general of NATO.

2.(d) Srinagar

Exp The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28 and 29, 2022 in Srinagar. The GST Council is chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

3.(b) 15000

Exp The Reserve Bank of India raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and UPI for recurring transactions.

4.(c) Somalia

Exp Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud appointed a former chairman of the Jubbaland state election commission, Hamza Abdi Barre as the Prime Minister.

5.(d) Zomato

Exp Zomato has collaborated with the Jio-bp to support Zomato's commitment towards "The Climate Group's EV100 initiative of 100% EV fleet by 2030".

6.(b) Off the coast of Australia

Exp The world's largest living plant has been identified in the shallow waters off the coast of Western Australia.

- 7.(a)** France
Exp NPCI International signed an MoU with France's Lyra Network for acceptance of UPI & Rupay Card in France
- 8.(d)** South Korea
Exp South Korea has successfully launched satellites into orbit with its homegrown Nuri rocket.
- 9.(a)** China
Exp China successfully launched 3 new remote satellite from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in China's Sichuan Province.
- 10.(c)** Malaysia
Exp Chennai based drone start up Garuda Aerospace has partnered with Malaysian Drone Solution Company to set up first international drone factory in Malaysia.
- 11.(d)** ICICI Bank
Exp ICICI Bank launched a digital platform 'Campus Power', first-of-its-kind to address the needs of the students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad.
- 12.(a)** Parameswaren Iyer
Exp P Udayakumar has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC).
- 13.(d)** Mo Bus, Odisha
Exp Mo Bus, Odisha based public transport service has been honoured with a prestigious United Nations award, for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid19.
- 14.(d)** Nainital Bank
Exp BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and Nainital Bank, announced the launch of Nainital bank- BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card.
- 15.(c)** Bharat Electronics Limited
Exp Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU with a Belarusian Company and its subsidiary for supply of Airborne Defence Suite (ADS) for helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- 16.(d)** 101.6 Megawatt
Exp Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (Tata Power Solar), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has accomplished a remarkable feat by commissioning India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak.
- 17.(d)** Bacterium
Exp World's biggest bacterium was found in Caribbean mangrove swamp. The bacterium is named *Thiomargarita magnifica* or "magnificent sulfur pearl" and can reach a length of 2 m
- 18.(a)** Former Chief Minister of the state
Exp Karnataka State Government has chosen former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, N.R. Narayana Murthy of Infosys and former Indian badminton player Prakash Padukone for the first edition of 'Kempegowda International Award'.
- 19.(a)** NASA
Exp NASA has recently launched a 25 kg satellite 'CAPSTONE' (Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment). This satellite is designed to test a unique and elliptical lunar orbit.
- 20.(d)** Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
Exp ISRO has launched three satellites from Singapore in its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C53) mission. It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a corporate arm of the Department of Space.
- 21.(a)** Rs 2516 crore
Exp The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with a budgetary outlay of Rs 2,516 crore. It aims to enhance the efficiency of PACS, bring transparency and accountability in their operations.
- 22.(b)** Poland
Exp The 11th World Urban Forum was held in Poland. National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Center for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resource Institute India (WRI India) and their partners launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions.

23.(a) G-7

Exp The leaders of the powerful G7 grouping and its five allies including India issued a joint statement titled '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement'. The leaders reaffirmed that they were committed to opening up public debate and free flow of information online and offline, while protecting the freedoms, freedoms and diversity of civil society.

24.(a) Happiest Minds Technologies

Exp Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.

25.(d) 67th

Exp The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, is celebrating its 67th year on 1st July. SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.

Current Affairs Quiz - 2

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1.(a) Ranjana Prakash Desai

Exp Former Supreme Court judge Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai has been appointed as chairperson of the Press Council of India, the self-regulatory watchdog for print media.

2.(d) June 18

Exp International Day for Countering Hate Speech falls on June 18.

3.(c) 18 June

Exp Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on 18 June. The objective of this day is to recognise the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat.

4.(c) Tapan Kumar Deka

Exp The Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB).

- 5.(a)** Samant Kumar Goel
Exp Government extended the tenure of current Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Kumar Goel for another one year, till June 2023.
- 6.(b)** Anil Khanna
Exp The Delhi high court appointed as the acting president of the Indian Olympic Association.
- 7.(d)** June 26
Exp International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is conducted by the United Nations. It is observed on June 26 annually.
- 8.(b)** Nitin Gupta
Exp The government has appointed Nitin Gupta as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- 9.(d)** Vijay Amritraj
Exp Indian tennis great, Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.
- 10.(d)** Avinash Kukarni
Exp Avinash Kulkarni was selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) recently.
- 11.(c)** Discuss Throw
Exp India's female discus thrower Navjeet Dhillon clinched the gold medal at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet in Kazakhstan.
- 12.(b)** 3rd
Exp Tokyo Olympian Dhanalakshmi Sekar clocked her personal best time of 22.89s to win the 200m sprint at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She became 3rd fastest Indian woman in 200m.
- 13.(b)** 2 July
Exp International Day of Cooperatives is marked annually on the first Saturday of July. This year, the day will be observed on 2 July to highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement.

14.(c) July 2

Exp World Sports Journalists Day is observed on July 2 every year to celebrate the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.

15.(d) Cooperatives Build a Better World

Exp The UN International Year of Cooperatives, which showcased the unique contribution of cooperatives to making the world a better place, this year's #CoopsDay slogan — "Cooperatives Build a Better World"— echoes the theme

16.(b) July 2

Exp The World UFO Day (WUD) is held on July 2 every year globally. It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO).

17.(c) 3rd July

Exp International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 3 all over the world.

18.(b) Ravi Shastri

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

19.(c) 29, Stuart Broad

Exp India captain Jasprit Bumrah bludgeoned a hapless Stuart Broad for 29 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket, beating the legendary Brian Lara's feat by one run.

20.(d) T. Raja Kumar

Exp T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog.

21.(d) All of the above

Exp The government has nominated Anand Gopal Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia as part-time non-official directors on the central board of RBI for a term of 4 years.

- 22.(d)** 16 June
Exp The International Day of Family Families (IDFR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on 16 June.
- 23.(b)** Max Verstappen
Exp Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022 (his fifth victory of the season).
- 24.(b)** 12-20 June
Exp National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is celebrating Elimination of Child Labour Week from 12-20 June 2022.
- 25.(c)** 14 June
Exp World Blood Donor Day is observed globally on 14 June every year. The day is celebrated to promote awareness about the need for blood donation and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
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