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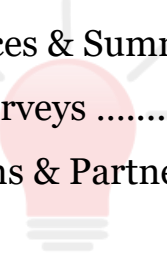
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# National & States Affairs

**501.** On August 24, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur launched “Azadi Quest”, a series of online educational games based on India’s freedom struggle, developed in collaboration with Zynga India. The information for these games was curated by the Indian Council of Historical Research’s Publications Division. The move was part of efforts being made by the government to acknowledge the contributions of freedom fighters and ‘unsung’ heroes. The “Azadi Quest” games would also bolster the capabilities of the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) sector in India.

[{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Anurag Thakur (I&B) – launched “Azadi Quest”, a series of online educational games based on India’s freedom struggle
- Developed in collaboration with – Zynga India | Info. for this game was curated by - Publications Division of ICHR

**502.** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs gave clearance for the construction India’s first 3D-printed Post Office in Bengaluru in the Halasuru area. The construction will be carried out by L&T. A 1000 square feet building will cost less than Rs 25 lakh by using 3D printing technology. L&T is the only company currently in India utilising 3D printing technology for construction. The project is being carried out in collaboration with IIT Madras. Earlier, India’s first 3D-printed house was built within the IIT-Madras campus. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Larsen & Toubro + IIT Madras – will construct India’s first 3D-printed Post Office in Bengaluru
- L&T is the only company currently in India utilising 3D printing technology for construction
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

**503.** On August 26, a ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivar’ for distribution of aids and assistive devices to ‘Senior Citizens’ under ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana’ (RVY Scheme) and to ‘Divyangjan’ under the ‘ADIP Scheme’ of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was organized in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The first “Divyang Park” of Maharashtra will be established in Nagpur. Divyang Park will have different kind of facilities for Divyangjans like sensory garden, textile Pathway touch and smell garden, skill training facility, rehabilitation facility, Sports & infotainment etc. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivar’ was organized in Nagpur, Maharashtra for distribution of aids and assistive devices to:
  - ‘Senior Citizens’ under ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana’
  - ‘Divyangjan’ under the ‘ADIP Scheme’
- First “Divyang Park” of Maharashtra will be established in Nagpur
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**504.** In August 2022, the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) launched the “Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100” that will guide the path of India to become a higher-income economy by 2047, when the country will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Independence. The roadmap is created in collaboration with EAC-PM, the Institute for Competitiveness and Dr. Christian Ketels from Harvard Business School. The report was released in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- EAC-PM – launched the “Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100”
- The roadmap will guide the path of India to become a higher-income economy by 2047
- The roadmap is created by = EAC-PM + the Institute for Competitiveness + Dr. Christian Ketels (Harvard Business School)
- [The EAC-PM is chaired by – Dr. Bibek Debroy](#)

**505.** On August 25, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) announced to invest Rs 2 trillion (Rs 2 lakh Crore) in phases to meet its target of achieving Net Zero Carbon Emission target by 2046. The IOCL plans to achieve two-third of the targeted emission reduction through energy efficiency, electrification and fuel replacement efforts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOCL – announced to invest Rs 2 trillion (Rs 2 lakh Crore) to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission target by 2046
- [HQs of IOCL – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya](#) | [Founded in – 1959](#)

**506.** As on August 25, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) plans to replace toll plazas with Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras as the congestion at toll plazas on National Highways continues to impact commuters despite 97% of tolling happening through FASTags. These cameras will read vehicle number plates and automatically deduct toll from the linked bank accounts of vehicle owners. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoRTH – plans to replace toll plazas with Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras
- [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari](#) | [Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh](#)

**507.** On August 26, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a national procurement portal, aims annual procurement worth Rs 2 lakh Crore during FY23. In the first four months of the current fiscal FY23, GeM did a gross merchandise value (GMV) of Rs 60,000 Crore. The cumulative GMV till date is Rs 2.86 lakh Crore. Uttar Pradesh topped the list in procurement with Rs 11,000 Crore, followed by Gujarat & Maharashtra. Moreover, However, GeM registered highest vendors from Maharashtra followed by Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GeM aims annual procurement worth Rs 2 lakh Crore during FY23
- GMV in the first 4 months of FY23 (by July 2022) – Rs 60,000 Cr | Cumulative GMV till date – Rs 2.86 lakh Cr
- Uttar Pradesh (Rs 11,000 Cr) – topped the list in Procurement | Maharashtra – registered highest vendors on GeM

**508.** On August 25, Narendra Modi addressed the grand finale of “Smart India Hackathon 2022” organised by the ISRO. More than 15,000 students and mentors travelled to the 75 nodal centres to take part in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2022 grand finale. The SIH was started in the year 2017 with the vision of promoting the spirit of innovation in the country, especially among the youth. This year a new Smart India Hackathon - Junior category was also introduced as a pilot for school students. IIT Guwahati successfully hosted the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2022 grand finale which was organised by Ministry of Education Innovation Cell. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – addressed the grand finale of ‘Smart India Hackathon 2022’ (started in 2017)
- ‘SIH 2022’ was hosted by – IIT Guwahati | Organised by – Ministry of Education



**509.** On August 27, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) have identified 75 tribal districts, where focused interventions will be run over the next few months with the aim to make them TB-free. The campaign to detect TB cases across 174 tribal districts started this January under the “Aashwasan Campaign”, under which door-to-door screening was done in over 68,000 villages. The Aashwasan Campaign was undertaken by the Tribal Affairs and Health Ministries and supported by USAID as a technical partner and Piramal Swasthya as the implementing partner. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoTA + Central TB Division (MoHFW) = identified 75 tribal districts to make them TB-free
- MoTA + MoHFW = also conducted “Aashwasan Campaign”
- Aashwasan Campaign: Technical partner – USAID | Implementing partner – Piramal Swasthya
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

**510.** On August 26, Nagaland got its second Railway station on Dhansari-Shokhuvi railway line after a gap of more than 100 years, since Dimapur station was opened in 1903. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially flagged off the first passenger train service on this route - Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway station. Shokhuvi Railway station is part of the Dimapur-Zubza Railway project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagaland – got its second Railway station on Dhansari-Shokhuvi railway line
- 1<sup>st</sup> railway station – Dimapur station (opened in 1903)
- Shokhuvi Railway station is part of the ‘Dimapur-Zubza Railway Project’
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

**511.** On August 25, Lt Gen Nav K. Khanduri, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of (GOC-in-C) of Western Command, inaugurated the first of its kind “Taurus Sainik Aramgrah” in Delhi. This 148 bed state of the art facility is constructed by Indian Army in collaboration with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as an Equal Value Infrastructure Project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lt Gen Nav K. Khanduri (GOC-in-C of WC) – inaugurated the first of its kind “Taurus Sainik Aramgrah” in Delhi
- The state of the art facility is constructed by = Indian Army + DMRC
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

**512.** In order to cut dependence on oil imports as well as address Environmental causes, India will start supplying petrol with 20% ethanol blending at select petrol pumps from April, 2023. The government will ramp up the supplies gradually thereafter. India had achieved its target of supplying petrol mixed with 10% ethanol in June 2022, five months before the set deadline. India has set the target of mixing petrol with 20% ethanol across India by 2025. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- India will start supplying petrol with 20% ethanol blending at select petrol pumps from April, 2023
- India has set the target of mixing petrol with 20% ethanol across India by 2025

**513.** In August 2022, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, laid the foundation stone of the “Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables” in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh. Nursery of other agricultural produce including vegetables will be prepared at this Center of excellence to promote the Agriculture sector globally. Chandauli district, which is known as the rice bowl of Uttar Pradesh, will be known globally in the field of vegetables and agriculture. The technology for the Center is provided by Israeli experts under the India-Israel Action Plan (IIAP) with funds for building infrastructure for demonstration purposes from Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – laid foundation stone of the “Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables” in Chandauli, UP
- Chandauli district – known as the rice bowl of Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**514.** In August 2022, Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the first Tiranga Park was set up in Gurugram, Haryana by the district administration. This park was constructed with the support of the M3M Foundation at the Swatantrata Senani Bhawan located at the Civil Lines, Gurugram. In the park, 75 national flags of 12-ft height were installed on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence. The park was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State, Rao Inderjit Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Under the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan’, the first Tiranga Park was set up in – Gurugram, Haryana
- The park is constructed with the support of the M3M Foundation | Inaugurated by – Rao Inderjit Singh
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**515.** On August 25, NITI Aayog announced to replicate the J&K model of Atal Tinkering Lab to rest of the parts across India on 50:50 cost sharing basis. Jammu and Kashmir became the first amongst States/UTs to establish an Atal Tinkering Lab in partnership with NITI Aayog. An Atal Tinkering Lab provides a space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode and learn innovation skills. ATL was started with an aim to build 10,000 labs and the target has been achieved in July 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – announced to replicate the J&K model of ‘Atal Tinkering Lab’ to rest of the parts across India
- J & K – became the first amongst States/UTs to establish an Atal Tinkering Lab in partnership with NITI Aayog
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**516.** On August 24, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India published the “Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022” to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. New rules replace “Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001”. The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- “Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022” – published by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- The new rules replace “Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001”
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

## International Affairs

**517.** On August 27, Germany launched the world’s first fleet of Hydrogen-powered Passenger Trains in the state of Lower Saxony. According to reports, 14 trains with hydrogen fuel cell drive - produced by French manufacturer Alstom - are to replace diesel trains. The total cost of the project is around \$92 million. These trains will save 1.6 million litres of diesel fuel a year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Germany – launched the world’s first fleet of Hydrogen-powered Passenger Trains
- These trains are manufactured by – Alstom (France)
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

**518.** On August 24, Africa has adopted a new strategy called “PEN-PLUS” to boost access to the diagnosis, treatment and care of severe non-communicable diseases (NCD). It is a regional strategy to address severe Non-communicable Diseases at first-level referral health facilities. Health ministers of African countries endorsed the plan at the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Lome, Togo to reduce premature mortality from NCDs. NCDs include heart diseases, cancers, diabetes, asthma among others. Globally, NCDs are the main cause of morbidity and mortality. They account for 71% of global mortality, according to WHO. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Africa – adopted a new strategy called “PEN-PLUS” to boost access to the diagnosis, treatment & care of severe NCDs
- The plan was endorsed at 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa – in Lome, Togo
- WHO: NCDs account for 71% of global mortality
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**519.** On August 25, Axis Bank, which partnered with Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) in 2016 to enable cashless commute in the metro, has announced offers for Kochi-1 Smart Card holders in connection with Onam. The bank has partnered with Amazon Pay to offer discounts on recharges, utility, and bill payments. Furthermore, Axis Bank’s ‘Dining Delights’ offer has been extended to Kochi-1 card holders. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Axis Bank – announced offers for Kochi-1 Smart Card holders in connection with Onam
- Axis Bank + Kochi Metro Rail = partnered in 2016 to enable cashless commute in the metro
- ‘Dining Delights’ offer – belongs to Axis Bank
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**520.** In August 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.33 Cr on Hyderabad-based Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd for its failure to adhere to pricing of credit guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company - Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs). The pricing of credit guidelines are part of RBI’s ‘Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of ₹2.33 Cr on Spandana Sphoorty Financial (Hyderabad)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**521.** On August 25, the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) signed an MoU with ICICI Bank for the development of financial accounting software and mobile application. ICICI Bank will design, develop and deploy the application for NMDFC, provide source code and executable database information among others. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NMDFC + ICICI Bank = an MoU for the development of financial accounting software & mobile app
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

**522.** Bank credit growth accelerated to 14.2% in the quarter ended June 2022 (Q1 FY23), from 6% in Q1 FY22, according to the “Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs for June 2022” released by the RBI. This data was collected from all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), which include regional rural banks (RRBs), small finance banks (SFBs) and payments banks (PBs). The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits, which is 44.5% in June 2022, has been increasing over the last 3 years. In June 2022, C-D ratio stood at 73.5% at all-India level. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs for June 2022” – released by the RBI
- Bank credit growth accelerated to 14.2% in the Q1 FY23 (from 6% in Q1 FY22)
- CASA deposits in total deposits in June 2022 – 44.5% | C-D ratio in June 2022 – 73.5%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao





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## Defence Affairs

**523.** On August 24, trials of the Pinaka extended range rocket, developed by DRDO, were carried out in the Pokhran firing ranges in Rajasthan. Developed by DRDO, the rockets are produced by private sector firm. The Guided Extended Range Rocket Ammunition has a range of 75 km with an accuracy of 40 meters. This year in April, the DRDO and the Indian Army had successfully test fired Pinaka MK-1 (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems from the same Pokhran Firing Ranges. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Pinaka extended range rocket trials – were carried out in the Pokhran firing ranges in Rajasthan
- Pinaka rocket – developed by DRDO
- Range of Guided Extended Range Rocket – 75 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**524.** On August 24, Indian Army launched “Project Zorawar” for the induction of indigenous light tanks for quicker deployment and movement in high altitude areas. These tanks will be used to counter Chinese deployment of a large number of similar armoured columns along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The project has been named ‘Zorawar’ after Zorawar Singh Kahluria, a military general. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Army – launched “Project Zorawar” for the induction of indigenous light tanks in high altitude areas
- The project has been named ‘Zorawar’ after – Zorawar Singh Kahluria, a military general
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

## Sports & Games

**525.** On August 25, Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi clinched the 28<sup>th</sup> Abu Dhabi Masters chess tournament with 7.5 points, beating Spain’s David Anton Guijjarro. Arjun remained unbeaten through all the nine rounds. Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov beat Iran’s M Amin Tabatabaei to claim the second position. Dutchman Jordan van Foreest took the third place. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Arjun Erigaisi – won the 28<sup>th</sup> “Abu Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament” (beating - Spain’s David Anton Guijjarro)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> position – Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan) | 3<sup>rd</sup> position – Jordan van Foreest (Netherlands)

**526.** On August 27, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra scripted history as he became the first Indian to clinch a “Diamond League” title by winning the “2022 Athletissima Lausanne” in Switzerland with the massive throw to 89.08m in his first attempt. Czech Republic’s Jakub Vadlejch finished second with a best throw of 85.88m while Curtis Thompson of USA was third with a best effort of 83.72m. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – became the first Indian to clinch a “Diamond League” title by winning the “2022 Athletissima Lausanne”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Neeraj Chopra (89.08m) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Curtis Thompson (US)



## Persons in News

**527.** In August 2022, Chief of Royal Navy of Malaysia Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza Bin Mohd Sany was on a four-day visit to India. Indian Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar and his visiting Malaysian counterpart Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza Bin Mohd Sany agreed to uphold the principle of collective responsibility for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. Both navies had carried out the bilateral exercise “Samudra Laksamana” in May 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Malaysia = agreed to uphold the principle of collective responsibility for maritime security in the IOR
- Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza Bin Mohd Sany – Chief of Royal Navy of Malaysia
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

**528.** On August 27, Mack Rutherford, a 17-year-old teenager from Belgium, has become the youngest person to fly solo around the world in a small aircraft. After a five-month trip across 52 countries, Rutherford landed at Sofia in Bulgaria. He traversed through Africa and the Gulf region to India, China, South Korea and Japan as well as the northern Pacific. Rutherford has now officially broken 2 Guinness World records - Youngest person to fly around the world solo & Youngest person to fly around the world solo in an Ultra Light aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mack Rutherford (17-year - Belgium) – became the youngest person to fly solo around the world in a small aircraft
- Belgium – Brussels – Euro | PM – Alexander De Croo



## Science & Technology

**529.** On August 25, Chinese search engine giant Baidu Inc revealed its first quantum computer namely “Qianshi” and is ready to make it available to external users. The Baidu-developed quantum computer has a 10-quantum-bit (qubit) processor. The Beijing-based company has also developed a 36-qubit quantum chip. According to market researcher IDC, Global governments and companies will invest around \$16.4 billion in quantum development by the end of 2027. Moreover, U.S. tech giant IBM plans to make a quantum computer ready for commercial use in 2025 with a more-than-4,000 qubit processor. IBM has so far released quantum processors with 127 qubits. Google is also aiming to develop a computer with 10,00,000 qubits by the end of this decade. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Baidu Inc (China) – revealed its first quantum computer namely “Qianshi” with 10 qubit processor
- IBM (US) – plans to develop a quantum computer with a more-than-4,000 qubit processor by 2025
- Google (US) – also plans to develop a quantum computer with 10,00,000 qubits by 2030

# Appointments & Resignations

**530.** On August 25, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved former Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian for the post of Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund for a period of three years starting November 1, 2022. Mr. Subramanian, who is currently a Finance Professor at the Indian School of Business, will replace Surjit S. Bhalla whose tenure ends on October 30, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- K. Subramanian – appointed for the post of Executive Director (India) at the IMF (succeeding - Surjit S. Bhalla)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**531.** On August 28, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan, an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), as a whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). With this appointment, Gopalakrishnan becomes the fourth whole-time member of SEBI and he will hold office for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan – appointed as 4<sup>th</sup> whole-time member of the SEBI
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**532.** On August 25, Ministry of Defence (MoD) appointed Dr. Samir V Kamat as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development. Kamat, who is Director-General, Naval Systems and Materials (NS&M), will succeed G Satheesh Reddy, who has been named as Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, according to a Personnel Ministry order. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Dr. Samir V Kamat – appointed as Chairman of DRDO & Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D
- Samir V. Kamat succeeds G. Satheesh Reddy
- G. Satheesh Reddy – named as Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

**533.** On August 26, Japanese automaker Nissan announced the appointment of Keerthi Prakash as Managing Director of Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) to lead operations at the company's alliance plant in Chennai, from September 1. He replaces Biju Balendran. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Keerthi Prakash – appointed as the MD of Renault Nissan Automotive India (succeeding - Biju Balendran)
- HQs of Renault India – New Delhi | MD – Venkatram Mamillapalle
- HQs Nissan India – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Frank Torres

**534.** In August 2022, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Grenada's Simon Stiell as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany. The appointment was endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mr. Stiell succeeds Patricia Espinosa of Mexico. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Simon Stiell (Grenada) – appointed as new Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change Secretariat (Bonn, Germany)
- He succeeded – Patricia Espinosa (Mexico)
- HQs of UN – New York, US | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**535.** In August 2022, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) cleared the appointment of senior Nagaland cadre IAS officer Piyush Goyal as the CEO of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). Goyal is currently posted as Additional Secretary (AS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). IPS officer Ashish Gupta, was appointed as an Additional Director General in the Border Security Force (BSF). Moreover, IAS officer Ashok K. K. Meena is named the new CMD of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the rank of additional secretary. IAS officer Archana Varma has been appointed as Director of the National Water Mission under the Ministry of Water Resources. Gitanjali Gupta has been appointed as the MD of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – appointed as the CEO of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
- Ashish Gupta – appointed as an Additional Director General in the Border Security Force (BSF)
- Ashok K. K. Meena – appointed as new CMD of the Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- Archana Varma – appointed as Director of the National Water Mission
- Gitanjali Gupta – appointed as the MD of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**536.** On August 25, the 31<sup>st</sup> Vyas Samman was conferred on to well-known Hindi writer Dr. Asghar Wajahat at a function in New Delhi. Wajahat has been chosen for the prestigious award for his play 'Mahabali'. In his play Mahabali, Dr. Wajahat focuses on Mughal emperor Akbar and poet Tulsidas. The Vyas Samman is given by K. K. Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of Rs 4 lakh along with a citation and plaque. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dr. Asghar Wajahat – conferred with the 31<sup>st</sup> Vyas Samman for his play 'Mahabali' – by K. K. Birla Foundation
- In his play Mahabali, Dr. Wajahat focuses on Mughal emperor Akbar & poet Tulsidas

**537.** On August 24, Former German chancellor Angela Merkel was awarded the “UNESCO Peace Prize 2022” for her efforts to welcome refugees. All the members of the jury were touched by her courageous decision in 2015 to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea. The honour, which is officially called “Felix Houphouet-Boigny-Unesco Peace Prize”, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast. It has been awarded each year since 1989 to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Angela Merkel – was awarded the “UNESCO Peace Prize 2022” for her efforts to welcome refugees
- The award was started in – 1989
- Prize is officially called – “Felix Houphouet-Boigny-Unesco Peace Prize” (named after former President of Ivory Coast)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries



**538.** On August 25, Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema was named “UEFA Player of the Year 2022” and Carlo Ancelotti took the coaching honours, both in Men’s category. Ancelotti became the first coach to win Europe’s most prestigious club trophy four times. Barcelona women’s Alexia Putellas won the women’s “UEFA Player of the Year 2022” and Sarina Wiegman took the coaching honours in women’s category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “UEFA Player of the Year 2022” (Men’s) – Karim Benzema
- “UEFA Player of the Year 2022” (Women’s) – Alexia Putellas
- “UEFA Coach of the Year 2022” (Men’s) – Carlo Ancelotti
- “UEFA Coach of the Year 2022” (Women’s) – Sarina Wiegman

## Schemes & Initiatives

**539.** On August 23, the Union Minister, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman and Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio jointly launched the “Chief Minister’s Micro Finance Initiative” at Kohima. The scheme aims to enhance farmers’ income by increasing investment in agri and allied sector, improve agri-marketing network and infrastructure, promote credit discipline and boost private enterprise. The funding pattern is as follows, beneficiaries’ contribution - 10%, bank loan - 60%, and back ended subsidy by Government of Nagaland - 30%. In addition, the State Government shall also provide interest subvention of 4% to KCC loans and credit linkage to farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman + Neiphiu Rio = jointly launched the “Chief Minister’s Micro Finance Initiative” at Kohima
- Funding pattern: Beneficiaries’ contribution – 10%, Bank loan – 60%, Nagaland Govt – 30%
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

## Important Days & Dates

**540.** Women’s Equality Day is celebrated every year on August 26 in the United States in order to honour the women of America for gaining the constitutional right to vote. The day honours the ‘Nineteenth Amendment’ made to the US constitution in 1920 to give equal voting rights to women. In 2022, the theme of the day is “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 26 – Women’s Equality Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”
- The day honours the ‘Nineteenth Amendment 1920’ made to the US constitution

**541.** On August 23, the 56<sup>th</sup> Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) Day was marked by its Southern Command regional chapter. Various cultural activities and competitions were organised on the occasion. As many as 25 “Veer Naris” were felicitated along with the winners of AWWA Awards of Excellence on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- August 23 – 56<sup>th</sup> Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) Day
- 25 “Veer Naris” were felicitated along with the winners of ‘AWWA Awards of Excellence’

**542.** August 26 is observed as International Dog Day. The day is celebrated annually and was founded in 2004 by Pet & Family Lifestyle Expert, Animal Rescue Advocate, Colleen Paige. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 26 – International Dog Day (founded in 2004 by Animal Rescue Advocate, Colleen Paige)

## Books & Authors

**543.** On August 27, Pulapre Balakrishnan authored a new book titled “India’s Economy From Nehru to Modi: A Brief History”. The book was published by Permanent Black. Pulapre Balakrishnan is a professor of Economics at Ashoka University. The book describes India’s economic conditions during the British Raj, Nehruvian period & Modi period (at present). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India’s Economy From Nehru to Modi: A Brief History” book – authored by Pulapre Balakrishnan
- Publisher – Permanent Black



## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**544.** On August 25, the 8<sup>th</sup> “India International MSME Start-up Expo 2022” was held in New Delhi. The Expo/Summit gives SMEs, startups, business, industry, and service providers a much-needed platform to discover new prospects, connect with buyers and sellers. It was officially opened by Jammu & Kashmir’s Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Currently, the Indian MSME sector accounts for almost 45% of all exports from India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> “India International MSME Start-up Expo 2022” – held in New Delhi
- It was officially opened by – Manoj Sinha (J&K’s Lieutenant Governor)
- Indian MSME sector accounts for almost 45% of all exports from India

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**545.** As on August 24, Honasa Consumer (Mamaearth), founded by Gazal Alagh, topped the “Practus Hurun India PE Performers 2022” ranking with an average growth of 491% over last year. Encube Ethicals, an integrated pharmaceutical company, is ranked second in this classification, reporting a growth of 343%. Ecom Express, a technology-enabled logistics solutions provider is ranked third with a growth of 283%. The ranking is a list of best-performing companies during 2020-21 and it was released by the Practus and Hurun India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Practus Hurun India PE Performers 2022” – released by Practus & Hurun India
- Best-performing companies: 1<sup>st</sup> – Honasa Consumer (Mamaearth) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Encube Ethicals | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ecom Express
- HQs of Honasa Consumer Pvt. Ltd. – New Delhi | CEO – Varun Alagh

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

**546.** On August 26, Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with the US-based “Parley for the Oceans” for plastic-waste management in the state. Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) will be partnering the project. As part of the MoU, around ₹16,000 Crore investment is expected for Andhra Pradesh in the next 6 years. Parley for the Oceans will be setting up “Parley Super Hub”, preferably in Visakhapatnam, where recycling and upcycling of plastic wastes will be done. The State government has tied up with Parley with an aim to develop and implement improved sanitation and waste-management system; deploy AIR (Avoid Intercept & Redesign) plastic stations in approximately 500 places; create 10 eco-innovation hubs; intercept plastic wastes along the coastline, drains, irrigation channels and rivers. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + Parley for the Oceans (US) = an MoU for plastic-waste management in the state
- Project partner – Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP)
- Parley for the Oceans will set up “Parley Super Hub”, preferably in Visakhapatnam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**547.** On August 26, India and Bangladesh held the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) in New Delhi where both sides signed an MoU on interim water of the Kushiara river. The meeting assumes significance as it was held after 12 years of long gap. Both sides also agreed to the finalization of the design and location of the water intake point on the Feni River to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura. The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in the year 1972. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Bangladesh = held the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) in New Delhi
- India + Bangladesh = an MoU on interim water of the Kushiara river
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**548.** On August 24, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited signed an agreement with Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd for the construction of a 220 KV D/C (direct current) single zebra transmission line for 210 MW Luhri Hydro Electric Project Stage-1. This Hydroelectric Project is spread over Shimla, Mandi and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh. Luhri Hydro Electric Project Stage-1 is designed to generate 758 MUs (million units) of energy per annum, which would be transmitted through this ISTS network line. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SJVN + Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd = an agreement for the construction of a 220 KV D/C single zebra transmission line for ‘210 MW Luhri Hydro Electric Project Stage-1’
- Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project – located in Himachal Pradesh (Over Satluj river)
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | CMD – Nand Lal Sharma



**549.** On August 26, RailTel, a CPSU of the Ministry of Railways and CloudExtel, a known Full Stack Network as a Service (NaaS) Provider, have partnered to launch India's first Shared Radio Access Network (RAN) solution for congested locations with the objective of enhancing telecom users' experience. For the implementation of this project, RailTel and CloudExtel carried out the successful pilot of this project in partnership with Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Nokia, and the Telecom Infra Project (TIP)'s NaaS Solutions Group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RailTel + CloudExtel = partnered to launch India's first Shared Radio Access Network (RAN) solution
- [HQs of RailTel – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Sanjay Kumar](#)

**550.** On August 25, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and LFV Air Navigation Services of Sweden (LUFTFARTSVERKET) signed an MoU at the Corporate Headquarters of AAI in New Delhi to explore Smart Aviation Solutions. The MoU paves the way for bi-lateral exchange of aviation expertise and technology between India and Sweden. Importantly, a Joint Working Group shall be organized to prioritize interest areas and drive collaboration between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AAI + LFV Air Navigation Services of Sweden = an MoU to explore Smart Aviation Solutions
- [Sweden – Stockholm – Krona](#) | [PM – Magdalena Andersson](#)





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