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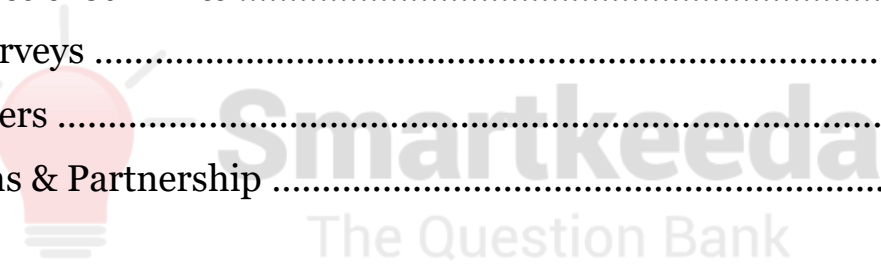
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National & States Affairs

551. On August 27, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated 4 new facilities at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), which has been rendering excellent services for more than 60 years under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Due to the new technologies and research achievements being developed by CAZRI from time to time, CAZRI bagged 8 out of 10 National Awards of ICAR in the last 6 years. The minister also inaugurated the newly constructed Auditorium, Agri-business Nurturing Centre, Environment Friendly Waste Water Treatment Plant and Indoor Sports Hall at CAZRI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated 4 new facilities at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI)
- CAZRI (Jodhpur,) – functions under the ICAR
- CAZRI bagged 8 out of 10 National Awards of ICAR in the last 6 years

552. On August 28, Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh, unveiled a dedicated website to give further boost to the ongoing 75-day Coastal Clean-Up campaign called “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (Clean Coast, Safe Sea)”. The portal will give a push to the cleaning mission. Besides, Dr. Singh also launched the campaign logo – “Vasuki”, dedicated to the youth of the country as they along with the school students are taking keen interest in joining the coastal and beach cleaning activities. The campaign was started on July 5, 2022 & was scheduled to culminate on “International Coastal Clean-up Day” on September 17, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – unveiled “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (Clean Coast, Safe Sea)”
- It is a dedicated website to give further boost to the ongoing 75-day Coastal Clean-Up campaign
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – also launched the campaign logo “Vasuki”
- September 17 – “International Coastal Clean-up Day”
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

553. On August 25, Bangladesh and India signed two contracts for the construction of a new 126-km long broad-gauge line between Khulna-Darsana and conversion of metre gauge line into a dual-gauge line between Parbatipur and Kaunia, which will cover a distance of 57 km. The two projects are being implemented with financing under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) and they will enhance rail connectivity in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh & India signed two contracts for the construction of two railway projects:
 - 126-km long Khulna-Darshana broad gauge rail line
 - 57-km long Parbatipur-Kaunia dual-gauge line
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

554. In August 2022, the Indian Railway along with the Railway Protection Force (RPF), have launched a pan-India operation known as “Operation Yatri Suraksha” to improve the security of passengers. Moreover, under “Sewa Hi Sankalp” initiative, RPF aims to keep passengers’ security intact via drives, quick responses to queries, or by taking the help of technology and utilising its many benefits. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Railway + RPF = launched “Operation Yatri Suraksha”, a pan-India operation to improve the security of passengers
- RPF aims to keep passengers’ security intact via drives under “Sewa Hi Sankalp” initiative
- HQs of RPF – New Delhi, India | Director General – Sanjay Chander
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

555. On August 25, the NITI Aayog declared Haridwar in Uttarakhand as the ‘Best Aspirational District’ on five parameters, and provided an additional allocation of Rs 3 Crore. The letter by NITI Aayog’s Aspirational Districts Programme director Rakesh Ranjan underlines that Haridwar has secured first rank in ‘Basic Infrastructure’ theme. The Haridwar district has been allocated to Union Commerce & Industries Minister Piyush Goyal who has been taking active interest in making it the No. 1 aspirational district in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haridwar (Uttarakhand) – declared as the ‘Best Aspirational District’ on five parameters
- Haridwar – secured first rank in ‘Basic Infrastructure’ theme | Haridwar has been allocated to – Piyush Goyal
- NITI Aayog’s Aspirational Districts Programme Director – Rakesh Ranjan
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

556. The “Temple of Vedic Planetarium” in West Bengal’s Mayapur in Nadia district, which will serve as the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), will open in 2024, following a two-year delay brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also have the world’s biggest dome. Once completed, it will be larger than the Taj Mahal and St. Paul’s Cathedral in the Vatican. The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada’s vision and is apparently inspired by the design of the Capitol building in the United States. The head of this massive undertaking is Alfred Ford (Ambarish Das), the great-grandson of renowned businessman Henry Ford. The temple’s construction began in 2010, and it is expected to cost \$100 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Temple of Vedic Planetarium” (Nadia district, West Bengal) – will serve as the headquarters of the ISKCON
- It will have the world’s biggest dome | It will be opened in 2024
- The temple’s construction began in 2010, and it is expected to cost \$100 million
- Its head is Alfred Ford (Ambarish Das), the great-grandson of Henry Ford
- HQs of ISKCON – Mayapur, West Bengal | Founder – Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – La. Ganesan

557. On August 26, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, the 49th Chief Justice of India, assured that the Supreme Court will have to have at least one Constitution Bench functioning throughout the year. Justice Lalit’s initiative comes at a time when the Supreme Court’s pendency has crossed over 71,000 from a little over 55,000 in 2017. This is despite the fact that the sanctioned judicial strength of the court was increased to 34 judges in August 2019. Moreover, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court must have at least 5 judges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to CJI Uday Umesh Lalit: The SC must have at least one Constitution Bench functioning throughout the year
- Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court must have at least 5 judges
- Maximum strength of the Supreme Court – 34 judges (including Chief Justice of India)
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Uday Umesh Lalit (49th)



558. On August 27, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Khadi Utsav 2022' at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad and also inaugurated a 300m long & 14m wide foot overbridge named as "Atal Bridge" built over Sabarmati River connecting the eastern and western side of the city. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 'Khadi Utsav' was organised to pay tribute to khadi and its importance during the freedom struggle. Around 7,500 women khadi artisans from various districts of Gujarat participated in this 'Utsav' or 'Festival'. In Bhuj town of Kutch district of Gujarat, the PM inaugurated a "Smriti Van" that celebrates the spirit of resilience shown by people following the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat. He also inaugurated the Kachchh Branch Canal of Sardar Sarovar Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi inaugurated:
 - the 'Khadi Utsav 2022' at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad
 - a 300m long & 14m wide foot overbridge named as "Atal Bridge" built over Sabarmati River
 - a "Smriti Van" in Bhuj town, Kutch district, Gujarat
 - the Kachchh Branch Canal of Sardar Sarovar Project
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

559. On August 24, Asok Kumar, the Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, spoke about the sustainable development economic model, "Arth Ganga", during his virtual keynote address to the "Stockholm World Water Week 2022". Since 1991, the Stockholm International Water Institute has been organising the "World Water Week" every year to address global water concerns. PM Narendra Modi first introduced the concept during the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019, where he urged for a shift from 'Namami Gange' to the model of 'Arth Ganga'. Under 'Arth Ganga', the government is working on six verticals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stockholm International Water Institute has been organising the "World Water Week" every year since 1991
- First National Ganga Council meeting in 2019 – held in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Narendra Modi – first introduced the concept of the sustainable development economic model 'Arth Ganga' in 2019
- [NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar](#)

560. On August 26, the National Cancer Grid (NCG) established the "Koita Centre for Digital Oncology (KCDO)" to promote use of digital technologies and tools to improve cancer care across India. NCG established the Centre in partnership with Tata Memorial Centre and Koita Foundation at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. KCDO will also partner with academic and research organizations to promote research and development in cancer care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Cancer Grid + Tata Memorial Centre + Koita Foundation – established "Koita Centre for Digital Oncology"
- KCDO – is established at Tata Memorial Hospital (Mumbai) to improve Cancer Care

561. On August 28, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah attended the first convocation of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The minister also inaugurated the Training and Skill Development Centre, an International Guest house at NFSU, and three centres of Excellence in Cyber Security, DNA Forensic and Investigative and Forensic Psychology. He also laid the foundation stone for the new Southern Campus of the University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – attended the first convocation of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)



562. On August 29, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). At the inaugural session of the event, the “Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0 (IPDMS 2.0)” and “Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0” app were launched. IPDMS 2.0 is an integrated, responsive, cloud-based application developed by NPPA with technical support from Centre for Advance Computing (C-DAC). Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 app will have updated features like speech recognition, availability in Hindi and English, share button and medicine bookmarking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – addressed the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Delhi)
- ‘IPDMS 2.0’ & ‘Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0’ app were launched on this occasion | ‘IPDMS 2.0’ – developed by NPPA + C-DAC

563. On August 31, Uttarakhand Education Department launched an e-governance portal “Samarth” which will provide all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structures, appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools. The initiative has been taken in a bid to make the education system more transparent in the state. The portal will also provide access to 40 academic study modules. Moreover, 200 assistant professors of science subjects will be sent to IISc, Bengaluru for special training, while teachers of state universities will be given training at IIM Kashipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand Education Department – launched an e-governance portal “Samarth”
- 200 Science Professors will be trained at IISc, Bengaluru | Teachers of State Universities will be trained at IIM Kashipur
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

564. On August 31, Indian Railways have set up Atmospheric Water Generator Kiosks called “Meghdoot” machines at Dadar, Thane and other stations of Mumbai Division, Maharashtra. The unique ‘Meghdoot’ machines use innovative technology to convert water vapour in the air into potable water. The contract for setting up 17 ‘MEGHDOOT’, in Mumbai Division of Central Railway for a period of 5 years, has been awarded to Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways have set up “Meghdoot” machines at stations of Mumbai Division, Maharashtra
- The contract for setting up 17 ‘MEGHDOOT’ in Mumbai Division – is given to Maithri Aquatech
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

International Affairs

565. In August 2022, Dugong, also known as the sea cow, is now declared extinct in China. With the destruction of their natural habitat and historical hunting, no Dugong has been sighted in China since 2008. This is the first functional extinction of a large mammal in China’s coastal waters. Part of Sirenia family, Dugong, weighs half a tonne, and is the only vegetarian marine mammal. The marine mammal has been declared ‘Vulnerable’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The marine mammals have a life expectancy of around 70 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Dugong’, also known as the sea cow, is now declared extinct in China (it has not been sighted in China since 2008)
- Dugong is part of ‘Sirenia family’ & it is the only vegetarian marine mammal | Declared ‘Vulnerable’ by the IUCN
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

566. On August 26, the Karnataka State Cabinet has taken a decision to extend the “Vidyanidhi” scheme to the children of agricultural labourers. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai mentioned that 4,000 Anganwadi centres have been established specially to provide nutritious food for the kids of agricultural labourers. Besides, Rs 50,000 scheme was formulated for the Rural Artisans. Vidyanidhi Scheme is an educational loan facility offered by State Bank of India (SBI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – decided to extend the “Vidyanidhi” scheme to the children of agricultural labourers
- Vidyanidhi Scheme – an educational loan facility offered by SBI
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

567. On August 29, PGIM India Mutual Fund launched a new investor education and awareness website “MoneyAndMe”. This website contains exhaustive content on various aspects of personal finance including household budgeting, protection, savings and investing. The MF company also announced the launch of a consumer awareness campaign – ‘Aapka HappinessPlanned’ to promote the MoneyAndMe Initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PGIM India Mutual Fund – launched “MoneyAndMe”, a new investor education & awareness website
- PGIM India MF – launched a consumer awareness campaign ‘Aapka HappinessPlanned’ to promote ‘MoneyAndMe’
- HQs of PGIM India Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ajit Menon



Sports & Games

568. In August 2022, Indian Wrestling Team won a total of 16 medals (1 Gold, 4 Silver & 11 Bronze) at the “U-20 World Championships” in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the Championships, Haryana’s 17-year old Antim Panghal became the first ever Indian woman to win a Gold medal in the “U-20 World Wrestling Championships”. Sumit and Rohit Dahiya won bronze medals on the final day. India finished 2nd in the overall women’s team ranking while finishing 3rd in the Men’s Freestyle Team event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “U-20 World Wrestling Championships” – held in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Indian Wrestling Team won a total of 16 medals (1 Gold, 4 Silver & 11 Bronze)
- India’s rank: 2nd in the Overall Women’s Team | 3rd in the Men’s Freestyle Team
- Antim Panghal (Haryana) – the first ever Indian woman to win a Gold medal in “U-20 World Wrestling Championships”

569. The 4th edition of “Tata Steel Chess India Tournament” will be held in Kolkata from November 29 to December 4, 2022. For the first time, the prize fund for both the men’s and women’ categories will be equal. Like the men’s event at the tournament, the women’s section would have the same format - rapid and blitz. Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand would be the brand ambassador and advisor of the tournament. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 4th edition of “Tata Steel Chess India Tournament” – to be held in Kolkata (in Nov 2022)
- Viswanathan Anand – the Brand Ambassador & Advisor of the tournament
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

570. On August 29, Athletics Federation of India (AFI) partnered with HSBC India to support women athletes of the country, especially the youngsters. Under the partnership, promising girls will be picked from the National Inter District Championships for Under-14 and Under-16 categories and would be nurtured to perform on the global stage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AFI + HSBC India = partnered to support young women athletes of India
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla | Secretary General – Ravinder Chaudhry
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Hitendra Dave

571. On August 28, Red Bull’s Max Verstappen won the “F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2022”. Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez finished second, while Ferrari’s Carlos Sainz stood at third position. Verstappen’s win is his 9th of this season and 29th overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch - Red Bull) – won the “F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2022”
- 2nd – Sergio Perez (Red Bull) | 3rd – Carlos Sainz (Ferrari)

572. On August 27, Indian Judoka Linthoi Chanambam made history by clinching India’s first-ever Gold across any age group at the “Cadet World Championships” held in Sarajevo by defeating Brazil’s Bianca Reis in the women’s 57 kg category. Linthoi is a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) scheme beneficiaries as a development group athlete. The TOPS was launched in September 2014 to improve India’s performance at the Olympics and Paralympics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Linthoi Chanambam (Judoka) – won India’s first-ever Gold at the “Cadet World Championships” held in Sarajevo
- TOPS scheme – launched in September 2014 to improve India’s performance at the Olympics & Paralympics
- HQs of JFI – New Delhi | Administrator – Pankaj Naqvi
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo – Convertible Marka | President – Sefik Dzaferovic

573. The 1st “Khelo India Women’s Judo Tournament” began from August 27 across 4 zones in India. The Judo tournament is another initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to support sports competitions for Women via the Government of India’s flagship program, “Khelo India”. The National Round is scheduled for October 20-23 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the events in the 4 zones were scheduled from August 27 to September 15. India has now won a total of 11 medals in judo at the Commonwealth Games - 5 silver and 6 bronze medals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st “Khelo India Women’s Judo Tournament” began across 4 zones in India
- The National Round will be held from October 20-23 – at KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium, New Delhi
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Nisith Pramanik





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Science & Technology

574. India is all set to join the elite global club, with the Indian Army will soon possess indigenous and more advanced Quantum Communication Technology, equipping troops with a high-end secured defence system. Under the aegis of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX), a Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), the QNu Labs, a Bengaluru-based deep tech start-up, has developed this advanced secured communication through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) systems. China, the US, Canada and other European countries are global leaders in the QKD systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – will possess ‘Quantum Communication Technology’, a high-end secured defence system
- The technology is developed by – QNu Labs (Bengaluru) through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) systems
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

Appointments & Resignations

575. On August 27, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) co-opted Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Adille Sumariwalla as Interim President. IOA president Narinder Dhruv Batra resigned on July 18 after Delhi high court, in a June 24 order, had removed him and appointed Khanna as acting President. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adille Sumariwalla (AFI President) – appointed as Interim President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – Adille Sumariwalla (interim) | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla | Secretary General – Ravinder Chaudhry

576. On August 30, Acefour Accessories, a travel accessories company, appointed Jasprit Bumrah as brand ambassador for its eco-friendly luggage brand “uppercase” for two years. Jasprit Bumrah will lead the D2C brand’s ‘Never Ordinary’ campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jasprit Bumrah – appointed as brand ambassador of Acefour Accessories, a travel accessories company (Mumbai)

577. On August 29, German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz appointed Santosh Iyer as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Mercedes-Benz India. He will replace Martin Schwenk who will assume the responsibility as the President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Thailand. Santosh Iyer would be the first Indian to lead Mercedes-Benz India operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Santosh Iyer – appointed as MD & CEO of Mercedes-Benz India (succeeding - Martin Schwenk)
- Mercedes-Benz – a luxury carmaker based in Germany



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

578. On August 28, Divita Rai was crowned “LIVA Miss Diva 2022” at the 10th anniversary of the “Miss Diva Universe Pageant” held at the Famous Studios, Mahalaxmi, in Mumbai. The model, who hails from Karnataka, was crowned by Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu. Pragnya Ayyagari of Telangana was declared “LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2022”, while Delhi’s Ojasvi Sharma won “LIVA Miss Popular Choice 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th anniversary of the “Miss Diva Universe Pageant” – held at the Famous Studios, in Mumbai
- LIVA Miss Diva 2022 – Divita Rai (Karnataka)
- LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2022 – Pragnya Ayyagari (Telangana)
- LIVA Miss Popular Choice 2022 – Ojasvi Sharma (Delhi)

Schemes & Initiatives

579. On August 29, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched “CM Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana”, in the program organized on the occasion of ‘National Sports Day’. Under the scheme, the emerging players of 8 to 14 years will be given a game scholarship of Rs 1500 per month. Every year a total of 3900 emerging sports persons will be given scholarships. On this occasion, many announcements were made to upgrade the players of the state. 08-08 departmental sports trainers will be appointed for each district. Chief Minister Sports Development Fund will be established to be given financial benefits to the students according to accelerated rules. Malchang game will also be included in the game policy.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched “CM Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana”
- Under the scheme, emerging players of 8 to 14 years will be given a game scholarship of Rs 1500 per month
- Every year a total of 3900 emerging sports persons will be given scholarships
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

580. On August 28, 2022, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed 8 years of its successful implementation. As on 10th August, 2022, the number of total PMJDY Accounts is 46.25 Cr of which 55.59% Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.79% Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas. The PMJDY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on 15th August, 2014. The PMJDY provides overdraft facility of maximum Rs 10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘PMJDY’, National Mission for Financial Inclusion – completed 8 years of its successful implementation
- PMJDY was launched by PM Narendra Modi – on 15th August, 2014 | Maximum Overdraft Facility – Rs 10,000



Important Days & Dates

581. On August 30, Delhi-based non-profit, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) launched 'Save the Whale Shark Campaign' along Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep in Mangaluru on the occasion of International Whale Shark Day. The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is the largest fish on Earth and a keystone species in marine ecosystems. The theme of the day is "The Future of Sharks: Guardians of Our Seas". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 30 – International Whale Shark Day
- 2022's Theme – "The Future of Sharks: Guardians of Our Seas"
- WTI – launched 'Save the Whale Shark Campaign'

582. India's "National Sports Day" or "Rashtriya Khel Divas" is celebrated on August 29 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players in history. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of physical activity and healthy lifestyles. It also honors the country's sports heroes and champions. The day was first observed in 2012. Known as the "Hockey Wizard" or the "The Magician", Major Dhyan Chand was born on this date in 1905. 2022 marks his 117th birth anniversary. India's highest sporting honour, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is named after him. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 29 – "National Sports Day" or "Rashtriya Khel Divas" (Birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand)
- Major Dhyan Chand – one of the greatest field hockey players (also known as "Hockey Wizard" or "The Magician")
- 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award' – India's highest sporting honour is named after him

583. On August 30, the United States marks the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, as established by the UN General Assembly in 2010. The day is observed to create awareness about enforced disappearances in various regions globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 30 – International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (since 2010)

584. The "International Day against Nuclear Tests" is observed every year on August 29 to inform, educate and advocate the necessity of ending nuclear weapon tests as a valuable step towards achieving a safer world. 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of this day. The initiation for this day was by the Republic of Kazakhstan, selecting August 29 as the date of the observance to align with the shutdown of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on the same date in 1991. An international treaty called Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) came into being in 1996 to put an end to all sorts of nuclear weapons testing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 29 – "International Day against Nuclear Tests" (since 2010)
- This day aligns with the shutdown of the 'Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site' in 1991



Books & Authors

585. A new book “The Hero of Tiger Hill” tells the inspiring story of Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav, the youngest Param Vir Chakra awardee (India’s highest gallantry award), at the age of 19 for his actions in the 1999 Kargil conflict. The autobiography was published by Srishti Publishers & Distributors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Hero of Tiger Hill” autobiography – by/about Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav

586. On August 29, Minister of State for AYUSH, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, released a book titled “Science behind Suryanamaskar”, a collection of evidence-based research on one of the most well-known Yoga Asanas at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). The Minister was invited as the Chief Guest to felicitate the organisers of the “Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme 2022” that was held at the Institute from 22nd-27th August 2022. It was organised by the Departments of Swasthavritta, Panchakarma, and Dravyaguna, in association with Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV), New Delhi. The book “Science behind Suryanamaskar” has been compiled by the AIIA’s Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Munjpara (MoS for AYUSH) – released a book titled “Science behind Suryanamaskar”
- The book is compiled by the AIIA’s Department of Swasthavritta & Yoga
- Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV) – New Delhi
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjpara Mahendrabhai

587. Dr. Ashutosh Ravikar, Director in the Department of Economic & Policy Research (DEPR) of RBI, has authored a book titled “Indian Banking in Retrospect - 75 years of Independence”. The book was published by Aswad Prakashan Private Limited. Dr. Ashutosh attempts to capture developments in the Indian banking sector over the last 75 years in this slim volume. Bibek Debroy wrote the foreword of the book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indian Banking in Retrospect - 75 years of Independence” book – written by Dr. Ashutosh Ravikar

588. Acclaimed classical dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai wrote her self-help memoir, “Free Fall: My Experiments with Living”, which was published on August 30. It was published by Speaking Tiger. Born to renowned Indian classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai and the legendary space scientist Vikram Sarabhai, Mallika is an accomplished Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dancer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Free Fall: My Experiments with Living” memoir – authored by Mallika Sarabhai (Classical Dancer & Activist)



Obituaries

589. On August 30, Abhijit Sen, renowned Agriculture Economist and Former member of the Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014, when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister, passed away at the age of 72. Abhijit Sen was also the Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) in the first Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government. He was awarded Padma Bhushan for Public Service in 2010. In 2014, the Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhijit Sen – Agriculture Economist & Former member of the Planning Commission – passed away
- Awards: Padma Bhushan (2010) for Public Service

590. On August 30, the last leader of the Soviet Union, former President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, died at the age of 91. Gorbachev was in power between 1985 and 1991 and was the last surviving Cold War leader. Gorbachev won a 'Nobel Peace Prize' in 1990 for negotiating a nuclear arms pact with then US President Ronald Reagan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mikhail Gorbachev – Last leader of the Soviet Union (former President) – passed away
- He received 'Nobel Peace Prize' in 1990

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

591. Union Minister of Education & Skill Development, Dharmendra Pradhan participated in the 4th Group of 20 (G20) Education Working Group Meeting and Education Ministers' Meeting in Bali from August 31 to September 1 under Indonesia's presidency. The G20 forum was established on September 26, 1999 by Group of Seven. Its current chairman is Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia. It comprises of 19 countries and the European Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – participated in the 4th "G20 Education Working Group Meeting" in Bali, Indonesia
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

592. On August 28, the millets farmer producers associations (FPOs), processors and startups participated in the two-day "Millet Conclave 2022" organised jointly by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), University of Agricultural Science (UAS), Raichur and the NABARD. The conclave was organised as a curtain raiser prior to the "International Year of Millet – 2023". Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced providing Rs 25 Cr to University of Agricultural Science (UAS), Raichur, Karnataka, under the NABARD's "Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)" for establishment of incubation centre for processing and value addition for promotion of millets. Nirmala Sitharaman also made announcements about the "Millet Challenge" to be organised by NITI Aayog. By December 2022, three winners of the startups will be announced and will receive Rs 1 Cr each under this challenge. Besides, 15 participants for the millet challenge will received Rs 20 lakh each and another 15 participants will receive Rs 10 lakh each besides the handholding support. Moreover, India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of around 41% in the global production. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Millet Conclave 2022” – organised by NITI Aayog’s AIM + University of Agricultural Science (UAS) + NABARD
- Nirmala Sitharaman – announced providing Rs 25 Cr to UAS under the NABARD’s “RIDF”
- “Millet Challenge” – to be organised by NITI Aayog
- India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world (with 41% share globally)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

593. On August 23, the 4th edition of the “India Clean Air Summit (ICAS)” began in Bengaluru with global experts set to discuss an integrated approach to resolving air pollution and climate change. The summit was organised by think-tanks Centre for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP). The 4-day event saw policymakers, scientists, technologists and people affected by climate change sharing experiences and statistics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th edition of the “India Clean Air Summit (ICAS)” – held in Bengaluru
- The summit was organised by – Centre for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) + CSTEP
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

594. As of August 2022, South Korea is the world’s fastest-aging nation among Economies with per capita GDP of at least \$30,000, according to United Nations Global Population Projections and World Bank data. As per the data, South Korea has the world’s lowest fertility rate. Based on 2021 data, Korean women were estimated to have an average of just 0.81 children over their lifetimes, down from 0.84 a year earlier. A shrinking workforce is a major factor in the decline of Korea’s potential growth rate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Korea – the world’s fastest-aging nation among Economies with per capita GDP of at least \$30,000
- South Korea – has the world’s Lowest Fertility Rate
- 2021 Data: Korean women were estimated to have an average of just 0.81 children over their lifetimes
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

595. As on August 26, the life insurance sector has grown at a CAGR of 11% from 2017-2022 and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 9% in the next 5 years, as per the latest report by Benori Knowledge. The finding of the report shows that the life insurance penetration rate in India has grown to 3.2% in December 2021 from 2.8% in December 2019, almost at par with the global average of 3.3% and makes India the 10th largest life insurance market globally, ahead of China (at 2.4%) and the UK (at 3%). Bancassurance is the primary avenue for consumers to discover and purchase life insurance, making up 55% of the distribution share in 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- According to the latest report by Benori Knowledge:
 - Life insurance sector – grown at a CAGR of 11% from 2017-2022
 - The sector is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 9% in the next 5 years
 - Life insurance penetration in India in December 2021 – 3.2% | Global average - 3.3%
 - India is the 10th largest life insurance market globally

596. The highest proportion of households covered under health insurance or financial schemes across India is in Rajasthan, as per the latest data on health insurance coverage - collected in 2019-21 through the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). In the state, 88% of its households with at least one member is covered by a health scheme or health insurance. Andhra Pradesh is second with 80%, followed by Goa (73%). While overall in India, 41% of the households have at least one usual member covered under health insurance or financing scheme. The percentage of households that do not use government health facilities is highest in Bihar (80%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to latest data on health insurance coverage collected in 2019-21 through NFHS:
 - Rajasthan – has the highest proportion of households (88%) covered under health insurance or financial schemes
 - 2nd – Andhra Pradesh (80%) | 3rd – Goa (73%) | Overall in India – 41%
 - The Percentage of households that do not use government health facilities is highest in – Bihar (80%)



Acquisitions & Mergers

597. On August 30, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Caladium Investment Pte. Ltd's acquisition of about 7.49% shareholding in Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd on a fully diluted basis. Caladium Investment is wholly-owned by Lathe Investment Pvt Ltd, which is, in turn, wholly-owned by GIC Ventures. The CCI also approved acquisition of 35.43% stake in Olam Agri Holdings Pte. Ltd. by SALIC International Investment Company. SALIC is a Saudi Arabian investment company. The CCI approved the merger of Aditya Marketing & Manufacturing Pvt Ltd into Umang Commercial Company Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 7.49% stake in Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd – by Caladium Investment Pte Ltd
- CCI approved acquisition of 35.43% stake in Olam Agri Holdings Pte Ltd – by SALIC (Saudi Arabia)
- CCI approved the merger of Aditya Marketing & Manufacturing Pvt Ltd – into Umang Commercial Company (Kolkata)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

598. On August 27, State-owned hydro power giant NHPC Ltd signed a pact with the Himachal Pradesh government for the implementation of 500 MW Dugar Hydroelectric Project in Chamba district. Dugar Hydroelectric Project is expected to generate 1,759.85 million units in a year. The agreement was signed in the presence of Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, and A K Singh, CMD, NHPC Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC Ltd + Himachal Pradesh = an agreement to implement 500 MW Dugar Hydroelectric Project in Chamba
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Yamuna Kumar Chaubey
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

599. On August 26, Bharat Heavy Engineering Ltd (BHEL) and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) signed an MoU to jointly work in the field of infrastructure and project execution, in India and abroad, through synergy of their respective capabilities. This will pave the way for collaboration in both the present as well as future areas of operation towards the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' of Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL + RVNL = an MoU to jointly work in the field of infrastructure & project execution, in India & abroad
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- HQs of RVNL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Pradeep Gaur | Incorporated in – 2003

600. On August 29, Tata Steel signed an MoU with the Government of Punjab for setting up a 0.75 million tonne per annum (MnTPA) long products steel plant with a scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) in Ludhiana. It is a step aligned to the Company's goal of achieving Net Zero carbon emission by 2045. The state-of-the art EAF-based steel plant would produce construction grade steel rebar under the company's flagship retail brand 'Tata Tiscon'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Steel + Punjab = an MoU for setting up a 0.75 MnTPA long products steel plant with a scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) in Ludhiana
- Tata Steel's goal of achieving Net Zero carbon emission – by 2045
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran





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