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National & States Affairs

151. On August 11, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated “UMEED Market Place” under AVSAR Scheme of Airport Authority of India (AAI) at Srinagar International Airport in Jammu & Kashmir. A similar Marketplace was also opened at Jammu Airport and both the outlets will exhibit products of all 20 districts. This initiative will support local art and artisans of Self Help Groups of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, providing a platform to market local products directly to the customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha – inaugurated “UMEED Market Place” under AVSAR Scheme at Srinagar International Airport in J&K
- AVSAR Scheme – introduced by Airport Authority of India (AAI)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar

152. Rameswar Teli, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, announced that the Indian government has set a target to raise the share of Natural Gas in the Energy mix to 15% by 2030, from 6.3% at present. According to the data revealed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, a total of 95.21 lakh PNG (Domestic) connections have been provided and 4531 CNG (Transport) stations have been established by the authorized entities as on 31 May, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has set a target to raise the share of Natural Gas in the Energy mix to 15% by 2030 (from 6.3% currently)

153. As of August 2022, donations to political parties through Electoral Bonds (EBs) have crossed Rs 10,000 Crore mark, with parties getting another Rs 389.5 Crore through such bonds in the 21st sale of EBs conducted between July 1 and 10, according to data available from State Bank of India (SBI). As per the provisions of the EB Scheme, only the political parties registered under ‘Section 29A’ of the “Representation of the People Act, 1951” and have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds. Electoral bonds are purchased anonymously by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue. The bonds are issued by the SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Donations to political parties through Electoral Bonds crossed Rs 10,000 Crore mark in August 2022
- Electoral Bonds (EBs) issued by the SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh & Rs 1 Cr
- EBs are valid for 15 days from the date of issue

International Affairs

154. On August 10, Russia suspended inspection of strategic arms under the “New START” treaty. The “New START” treaty is a nuclear arms reduction pact between the US & Russia, and caps to 1,550 the number of nuclear warheads that can be deployed by Moscow and Washington. In 2021, the United States and Russia extended ‘New START’ treaty by the maximum allowed time of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Russia – suspended inspection of strategic arms under the “New START” treaty
- “New START” treaty – a nuclear arms reduction pact between the US & Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

155. On August 10, HDFC Bank partnered with M1xchange, promoted by Mynd Solutions Pvt Ltd, to make a debut in the Trade receivables Discounting System (TReDs) platform. This move aims to bring in high liquidity to buyer corporates and MSMEs at competitive interest rates. TReDS system, regulated by the RBI, enables MSMEs to auction their trade receivables online and borrow funds from the financial institution which offers loan at the lowest rate of interest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + M1xchange (promoted by Mynd Solutions) = partnered to make a debut in the ‘TReDs’ platform
- TReDS system is regulated by the RBI
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

156. On August 10, Kotak Mahindra Bank launched “Kotak Crème”, a lifestyle-focused Corporate Salary Account. Kotak Creme offers an upgraded banking experience to new-age professionals working with eminent corporates including MNCs, Consulting Firms, Law Firms, Non Retail FIs and Unicorn companies, among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – launched “Kotak Crème”, a lifestyle-focused Corporate Salary Account
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”

157. On August 10, State of Bank of India became India’s first bank to come up with a policy to fund makers of the lab-grown Diamonds (man-made stone). The policy formalisation comes at a time when jewellers have started setting up factories in Surat to produce synthetic/lab-grown diamonds. Surat has been the hub of diamond cutters and polishers for decades. Lab-grown diamonds come across as replicas of the natural diamonds and they are priced at 30-40% lower than the natural diamonds. These diamonds were first manufactured by General Electric in the 1950s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – India’s first bank to come up with a policy to fund makers of the lab-grown Diamonds (man-made stone)
- Lab-grown diamonds – replicas of the natural diamonds and are priced at 30-40% lower than the natural diamonds
- Lab-grown diamonds – first manufactured by General Electric in the 1950s
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



158. On August 11, Yes Bank and IBSFINtech, a treasury-tech solution provider, partnered to explore opportunities emerging out of digitisation of corporate finance. This partnership will empower the corporate treasury ecosystem with a robust decision-making tool and automated workflows backed by seamless bank connectivity. Due to the end-to-end and connected ecosystem, corporate finance function will become convenient. IBSFINtech's TreasuryTech platform connects with Yes Bank through APIs and provides real-time cash visibility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + IBSFINtech = partnered to explore opportunities emerging out of digitisation of Corporate Finance
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

159. Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) witnessed a net outflow of Rs 457 Cr in July 2022 as investors invested their money in other asset classes as part of their portfolio rebalancing strategy. This was in comparison to a net inflow of Rs 135 Cr in June 2022, as per the data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The outflow has pulled down the asset under management of the category to Rs 20,038 Cr in July. Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold which may be in paper or dematerialised form. One gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gold ETFs – witnessed a net outflow of Rs 457 Cr in July 2022 (Rs 135 Cr in June 2022)
- One gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold
- HQs of AMFI – Mumbai | Chairman – A. Balasubramanian | CEO – N. S. Venkatesh | Incorporated in – 1995

160. On August 10, Paytm tied up with Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd (PCHFL) to further expand its merchant loan business to small towns and villages. Through the partnership, merchant partners would be able to avail credit worth up to Rs 10 lakh, with terms ranging from 6-24 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + Piramal Capital & Housing Finance = tied up to expand its merchant loan business to small towns & villages
- Merchant partners would be able to avail credit worth up to Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

161. On August 11, Navi Mutual Fund launched its 6th fund for this year called “Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund”. This is India's first open-ended index fund that will seek to replicate the Nifty India Manufacturing Index, which tracks the performance of manufacturers among the top 300 companies in India. Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund aims to simplify investing in the Indian manufacturing sector. The index also has a minimum weight of 20% for certain manufacturing sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Navi Mutual Fund – launched its 6th fund for this year called “Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund”
- This is India's first open-ended index fund that will seek to replicate the ‘Nifty India Manufacturing Index’

Defence Affairs

162. In August 2022, the contingents of the Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman conducted the 4th edition of the India Oman Joint Military Exercise “Al Najah-IV” at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Bikaner, Rajasthan. The Indian Army was represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion. The joint exercise focused on Counter Terrorism Operations, Regional Security Operations and Peace Keeping Operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Oman = conducted the 4th edition of “Al Najah-IV” Military Exercise in Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

163. In August 2022, Indian Air Force (IAF) announced to join 16 other nations for “Exercise Pitch Black 2022”, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force. About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations arrived in the Northern Territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF announced to join 16 other nations for “Exercise Pitch Black 2022” – hosted by Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese

164. In August 2022, China and Thailand held “Falcon Strike 2022”, a Joint Air Force exercise. The Falcon Strike exercise was held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries took part in the exercise. The exercise included air support, strikes on ground targets and small and large-scale troop deployment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China + Thailand = held a Joint Air Force exercise, “Falcon Strike 2022”
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha

Sports & Games

165. The ICC awarded membership status to 3 countries during the ongoing “ICC Annual Conference” in Birmingham, England, UK. Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia, and Cote D’Ivoire from Africa, were awarded Associate membership status, taking ICC’s total members to 108 countries, including 96 Associates. A major criteria to gain ICC Membership is detailed in ‘Participation and domestic structures’ of Clause 2.1 (d) of the ICC Membership Criteria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC – awarded membership status to 3 countries during the ongoing “ICC Annual Conference” in Birmingham, UK
- Cambodia & Uzbekistan (Asia) + Cote D’Ivoire (Africa) – awarded Associate membership status
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 108 countries



166. On August 9, 41-year old Serena Williams, one of the greatest athletes of all time, announced her retirement from professional tennis. Serena is the one and only Tennis player in the history to have won 23 grand slam singles titles, followed by Rafael Nadal with 22 such titles in men's category. She has 73 career singles titles and 23 career doubles titles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Serena Williams – announced her retirement from professional Tennis
- Serena – 23 grand slam singles titles | Rafael Nadal – 22 grand slam singles titles

Science & Technology

167. On August 11, in another important milestone in the Gaganyaan project, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the test-firing of the Low Altitude Escape Motor (LEM) of Crew Escape System, from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The Crew Escape System (CES) takes away the Crew module of the Gaganyaan mission in case of any eventuality and rescues the astronauts. The LEM is a distinctive special purpose solid rocket motor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – successfully carried out the test-firing of the LEM of Crew Escape System – from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- CES – takes away the Crew module of the Gaganyaan mission in case of any eventuality
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

168. On August 11, Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched an indigenous vaccine called “Lumpi-ProVaInd” for lumpy skin disease (LSD), which has spread among cattle across states, causing deaths of hundreds of cattle since 2019. The vaccine has been developed by two institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar (Haryana) in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izzatnagar (Bareilly). The vaccine is 100% effective, complying with all standards. The LSD disease was reported for the first time in India in 2019 from Odisha. The Centre has also authorised the use of goatpox vaccine to control LSD in cattle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched an indigenous vaccine “Lumpi-ProVaInd” for lumpy skin disease among cattle
- LSD disease was reported for the first time in India in 2019 – from Odisha
- The vaccine is developed by = ICAR-NRCE (Hisar, Haryana) + ICAR-IVRI (Izzatnagar, Bareilly, UP)
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Himanshu Pathak | Established in – 1929

169. On August 12, the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled a virtual space technology museum called “SPARK” as part of the celebrations of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ commemorating India’s 75th year of Independence. The virtual space museum hosts several documents, images, and videos related to ISRO launch vehicles, satellites, and scientific missions as well as pioneers of India's space sector. SPARK is the first 3D virtual space tech park ever created by ISRO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – unveiled a virtual space technology museum called “SPARK”
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969



170. On August 11, Ministry of Heavy Industries launched 'Automated Online Data Transfer' for capturing critical data related to Domestic Value Addition (DVA) from the approved applicants of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile and auto component makers, with an aim to bring in ease of doing business. Under the newly launched system, the critical data would be transferred from the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to PLI auto portal of the ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Heavy Industries – launched 'Automated Online Data Transfer' for capturing critical data related to DVA from the approved applicants of the PLI scheme for automobile and auto component makers
- Critical data would be transferred from the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to PLI auto portal of the ministry
- [Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey](#) | [Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal](#)

Appointments & Resignations

171. On August 10, JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, who recently tendered his resignation, took oath as the Bihar Chief Minister for the 8th time after he announced a new alliance with RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and other opposition parties. Tejashwi Yadav was also administered the oath of office as Deputy CM of Bihar. Kumar was first sworn in as CM in 2000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitish Kumar – took oath as the Bihar Chief Minister for the 8th time (First time - in 2000)
- Tejashwi Yadav – took oath as Deputy CM of Bihar
- [Bihar: Capital – Patna](#) | [CM – Nitish Kumar](#) | [Governor – Phagu Chauhan](#)

172. In August 2022, C. B. Ananthkrishnan, Director (Finance) of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), took over the additional charge of the post of Chairman & Managing Director of the HAL, after the superannuation of R. Madhavan on July 31. Ananthkrishnan will hold this post for 3 months or till the post is vacant, whichever is earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. B. Ananthkrishnan – took over the additional charge as MD & Chairman of HAL (succeeding - R. Madhavan)
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#) | [Chairman & MD – C. B. Ananthkrishnan \(addi. charge\)](#)

173. On August 11, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres appointed Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Rios of Argentina as the Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Rear Admiral Rios will succeed Major General Jose Eladin Alcain of Uruguay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guillermo Pablo Rios ([Argentina](#)) – appointed as the Head of Mission & Chief Military Observer for the UN Military Observer Group in India & Pakistan
- [HQs of UN – New York, United States](#) | [Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres](#) | [Formed in – October 24, 1945](#)



174. On August 11, the central government announced reappointment of 4 Independent Directors on the RBI board for a term of 4 years. The central government re-nominated Satish Kashinath Marathe and Swaminathan Gurumurthy as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India. Meanwhile, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi were re-nominated as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India. Their current tenure ends on September 18, 2022. Non-official directors are appointed for a period of 4 years and are eligible for re-appointment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt announced reappointment of 4 Independent Directors on the RBI board for a term of 4 years
- 4 Directors: Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi
- Non-official directors are appointed for a period of 4 years
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

175. On August 9, Indian men’s football team captain Sunil Chhetri was named the “AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year 2021-22” for the seventh time, while Manisha Kalyan won the “AIFF Women’s Footballer of the Year 2021-22”. The winners of the AIFF Player of the Year Awards were nominated by Igor Stimac and Thomas Dennerby, the Indian men’s and women’s national team coaches, respectively. Meanwhile, Vikram Pratap Singh and Martina Thokchom were named the “AIFF Men’s and Women’s Emerging Footballer of the Year 2021-22”, respectively. Crystal John named “AIFF Best Referee of the Year 2021-222”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Chhetri – was named the “AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year 2021-22” for the 7th time
- Manisha Kalyan – was named the “AIFF Women’s Footballer of the Year 2021-22”
- Vikram Pratap Singh – was named the “AIFF Men’s Emerging Footballer of the Year 2021-22”
- Martina Thokchom – was named the “Women’s Emerging Footballer of the Year 2021-22”
- Crystal John – was named the “AIFF Best Referee of the Year 2021-222”
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das

176. On August 8, Sangeetha Abhayan, a Kerala-based Entrepreneur, won the “World Women Entrepreneurs’ Award 2022” instituted by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK) for her handloom and handicrafts start-up’s performance in tune with the United Nation’s sustainable development goals (SDGs). JCIHK, which provides development opportunities for youngsters, chose Ms. Abhayan (CEO of eweworld.com), from among 225 female Entrepreneurs across the world. ‘ewe’ stands for ‘empowering women entrepreneurs’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sangeetha Abhayan (Kerala-based Entrepreneur) – won the “World Women Entrepreneurs’ Award 2022”
- This award is instituted by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong





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Schemes & Initiatives

177. On August 8, Government has modified the earlier scheme of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme' with nomenclature 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)', for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26. It aims at mitigating gaps and providing basic infrastructure in villages with significant tribal population in convergence with funds available under different schemes in Central Scheduled Tribe Component. It is envisaged to cover 36,428 villages having at least 50% ST population. An amount of Rs 7,276 Cr has been approved by the Cabinet for the scheme in next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme' renamed as 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna' for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26
- It is envisaged to cover 36,428 villages having at least 50% ST population | Scheme outlay – Rs 7,276 Cr for 5 years

178. On August 11, the Union Cabinet approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) till December, 2024. Launched in June, 2015, the original deadline for the scheme - 'Housing for All' Mission (aimed at providing pucca houses to all eligible urban beneficiaries) was March 2022. According to the government, financial assistance will be provided for the completion of already sanctioned 122.69 lakh houses till March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved continuation of 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)' till December, 2024
- 'PMAY' scheme – launched in June, 2015 | Theme of the scheme – 'Housing for All'

179. On August 12, the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities as a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence. The initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing SMILE project (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) for which Rs 100 Crore has been allocated till 2025-2026. The aim of the initiative was to make the 75 municipalities "begging-free". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities
- The initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing 'SMILE' project
- SMILE – Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise | Project Outlay – Rs 100 Cr
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

Important Days & Dates

180. International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August every year to mark the contribution of youth to the development of the society. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), youth account for 66% of India's total population, which is the largest number of youths in the world. In 2022, the theme is "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- August 12 – International Youth Day (since 2000)
- 2022's Theme – “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”

181. The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is celebrated during the first week of August every year. The WBW 2022 was observed from August 1 to 7, 2022 with the theme of “Step up for Breastfeeding: Educated and Support”. The WBW was first observed in 1992. The week is an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders’ actions on protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding across different levels of society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 1 to 7 – World Breastfeeding Week (first week of August)
- 2022's Theme – “Step up for Breastfeeding: Educated and Support”

182. Muslim Women’s Rights Day is observed all over the country on 1 August to mark the enactment of the triple talaq law. This law, which made the practice of triple talaq a criminal offence, came into force on 1 August 2019. The day was first observed in 2020 & this year marks the 3rd edition of Muslim Women’s Rights Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 1 – 3rd Muslim Women’s Rights Day (since 2019)



Books & Authors

183. On August 8, Deepak Singh recently penned a book ‘Bravo Yadav’. The newly launched book is a biography of Kargil hero and Param Vir Chakra recipient Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav. The biography of Kargil Hero Yogendra Singh Yadav honors the brave and indomitable spirit of the soldiers who refused to surrender before adversities in the Kargil War, in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Bravo Yadav’ book – authored by Deepak Singh
- The book is biography of Kargil hero and Param Vir Chakra recipient ‘Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav’

Obituaries

184. On August 9, former International Athlete P. V. Kamaraj passed away at the age of 68 after a massive heart attack. His major achievement was that he was part of the Indian 4x400m relay team that won bronze in the 1979 Asian championships in Tokyo. Kamaraj has won a host of medals (including gold, silver and bronze) in 400mH in National inter-state meets and Open Nationals from 1977-80. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. V. Kamaraj – former International Athlete – passed away
- He was part of the Indian 4x400m relay team that won bronze in the 1979 Asian championships in Tokyo



185. On August 9, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced that former International Cricket Umpire Rudi Koertzen passed away at the age of 73, after succumbing to injuries sustained in a car accident. Koertzen announced his decision to retire from umpiring in June 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rudi Koertzen ([South Africa](#)) – Former International Cricket Umpire – passed away

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

186. On August 9, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, addressed the ‘Vishwa Sadbhavana’ event organised by the NID Foundation at Melbourne in Australia, where she internationally unveiled two books “Heartfelt - The Legacy of Faith” and “Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery”. Brought out by NID Foundation, the book ‘Heartfelt-The Legacy of Faith’ documents PM Modi’s belief in the Sikh Gurus and their teachings. The other book, ‘Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery’, by Dr. Bharat Barai, PM Modi’s unique and hugely successful governance, and his love and affection for humanity in general and Indians in particular, irrespective of region or religion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Vishwa Sadbhavana’ event – organised by the NID Foundation at Melbourne, Australia
- Meenakshi Lekhi launched 2 books at the event – “Heartfelt - The Legacy of Faith” & “Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery”
- ‘Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery’ book – authored by Dr. Bharat Barai
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

187. India hosted the pre-summit meeting of the “Tiger Range Countries Summit” at New Delhi. The summit is scheduled to be held at Valadivostak, Russia on September 5, 2022. The previous Tiger Range Countries Summit was held in 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia. India is home to 52 Tiger Reserves with approximately 75% population of the wild tiger at global level. India achieved the goal of doubling the tiger numbers in 2018 itself, 4 years in advance from the targeted year 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the pre-summit meeting of the “Tiger Range Countries Summit” at New Delhi
- ‘Tiger Range Countries Summit’ is scheduled to be held at – Valadivostak, Russia (in Sep 2022)
- India is home to 52 Tiger Reserves with approximately 75% population of the world’s tiger population

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

188. According to Morgan Stanley’s economists, India could emerge as Asia’s strongest economy in 2022-2023 as it is best-positioned to generate robust domestic demand, helped by economic policy reforms, a young workforce and business investments. Morgan Stanley expects India’s growth to average 7% for 2022-2023 and contribute 28% and 22% to Asian and global growth, respectively. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Morgan Stanley: India could emerge as Asia's strongest economy in 2022-2023
- India's expected growth is average 7% for 2022-2023 and contribute 28% and 22% to Asian and global growth, respectively

189. On August 11, 7.3% of India's population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking 7th in the world in the list of "Top 20 Global Economies for Digital Currency Ownership", by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns cryptocurrencies or digital currencies. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7%, followed by Russia (11.9%) & Venezuela (10.3%).

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Top 20 Global Economies for Digital Currency Ownership" – by the UNCTAD
- India – 7th with 7.3% of India's population owned digital currency in 2021 | 1st - Ukraine (12.7%), 2nd - Russia (11.9%)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebeca Grynspan

190. On August 8, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) released a book titled "Fauna of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary" and a report on the "Threatened Animals of Kerala" as part of efforts to promote sustainable management and conservation of various animal species in the State. An MoU was also be signed on the occasion by ZSI with University of Calicut and Dr. Gafoor Memorial MES Mampad College to exchange scientific and academic knowledge with students and researchers for the promotion of zoological researches through advanced pedagogical techniques. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A book titled "Fauna of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary" – released by ZSI
- A report on the "Threatened Animals of Kerala" – released by ZSI
- ZSI + University of Calicut + Dr. Gafoor Memorial MES Mampad College = an MoU to exchange Scientific & Academic knowledge with Students & Researchers

191. On August 8, University of Hyderabad was ranked first among Indian Universities and 16th among all institutions in the academic sector, as per the latest "Nature Index 2022" ranking. The Nature Index is an indicator of high quality research in natural and physical sciences. The rankings are based on the Nature Index data from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- University of Hyderabad – ranked first among Indian Universities in the latest "Nature Index 2022" ranking
- University of Hyderabad – ranked 16th among all institutions in the Academic Sector

Amount & Agreements

192. On August 10, Airtel Africa signed up for a USD 125 million revolving facility from American banking major Citigroup Inc. or Citi. The facility involves borrowing both in local currencies and US dollar. The facility has a tenor up to September 2024. It provides interest rate savings in exchange for achieving social impact milestones relating to digital inclusion and gender diversity with a focus on rural areas and women. This is the first performance-indicator based deal executed by Citi India in the area of telecommunications. [{Read more}](#).



Key Points:

- Airtel Africa signed up for a USD 125 million revolving facility from Citigroup till Sep, 2024
- This is the first performance-indicator based deal executed by Citi India in the area of telecommunications
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

Ordinance, Bills & Acts

193. The committee, led by Bharatiya Janata Party member Sanjay Jaiswal placed its report on the “Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021”, in the Lok Sabha. The draft legislation was referred to the 21-member joint parliamentary panel following widespread criticism of several of its provisions. The amendments aim to reduce the pressure on wild medicinal plants by encouraging cultivation, and fast-tracking research, patent application and transfer of research result. The amendments are completely contrary to the aim and objective of the “Biological Diversity Act, 2002”. The main focus of the bill is to facilitate the trade in biodiversity as opposed to conservation and protection of biodiversity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Jaiswal committee – placed its report on the “Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021” in the Lok Sabha
- The amendments are done in the “Biological Diversity Act, 2002”

Acquisitions & Mergers

194. As on August 10, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has sold 2% of its shareholding in automaker Mahindra & Mahindra for about Rs 2,222.49 Cr. The shares were sold through open market transactions during the period from December 21, 2020, to August 8, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – sold 2% of its shareholding in Mahindra & Mahindra
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

195. On August 10, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform signed an MoU with SIDBI for coordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. The partnership is aimed to change the landscape of MSMEs by bringing them into the ONDC network and accelerating their participation in e-commerce. SIDBI will also facilitate engagement of ONDC with its network of partner grassroots agencies. Three partners being introduced to ONDC are Annapurna Finance Pvt Ltd, Access Livelihoods Group and the women co-operative ‘Looms of Ladakh’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ONDC platform + SIDBI = an MoU to change the landscape of MSMEs by bringing them into the ONDC network
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990



196. On August 10, Microsoft partnered with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Capacity Building Commission (CBC) to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants of Government of India (GoI). As part of the collaboration, Microsoft will develop an online, self-paced learning course on Microsoft Office 365 digital productivity suite offerings for MSDE. Microsoft would host the course content on 'Microsoft Community Training' portal (MCT) which the learner can easily access. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + MSDE + CBC = partnership to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

197. On August 10, NLC India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Coal, signed an MoU with Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) to develop 1,000 MW of solar power projects in Assam. The MoU is for setting up a joint venture company with equity participation of 51% by NLCIL and 49% by APDCL. The initiative would be a development opportunity for the State of Assam while simultaneously contributing to the renewable energy needs of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NLC India + Assam Power Distribution Company = an MoU to develop 1,000 MW of solar power projects in Assam
- A joint venture company will be set up with equity participation of 51% by NLCIL & 49% by APDCL
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of NLC India Ltd – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CMD – Rakesh Kumar

198. On August 10, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in partnership with the Cuban government signed tender for setting up a 1150 MW solar project in Cuba. NTPC is the project management consultant for ISA to set up this project. The project is part of Cuba's plan to implement 2100 MW of solar projects. This project is the first in ISA's broader solar park programme, which seeks to support developing markets in structuring bankable and economic solar parks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISA + Cuba = signed a tender for setting up a 1150 MW solar project in Cuba
- NTPC is the project management consultant for ISA to set up this project
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 108 | Member countries – 88

199. On August 10, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of an "Audio Visual Co-production Treaty" between India and Australia, which is aimed at facilitating joint production of films between the two countries. India has so far signed 15 audio visual co-production treaties with other countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved the signing of an "Audio Visual Co-production Treaty" between India & Australia
- India has so far signed 15 audio visual co-production treaties with other countries
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese

200. On August 11, Odisha government signed an MoU with National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) for protection of its coasts. National Institute of Ocean Technology, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is a premier institute in the country specialising in the field of ocean engineering and coastline protection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + NIOT = an MoU for protection of Odisha's coasts
- NIOT – works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udampur, J&K





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