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National & States Affairs

401. On August 23, the government has awarded geographical indication (GI) tag to Bihar's 'Mithila Makhana', in a bid to help farmers get the maximum price for their produce. Mithila Makhana is also simply known as 'makhan'. Its botanical name is 'Euryale Ferox Salisb' and it is a special variety of aquatic fox nut. The GI Tag is valid for 10 years in India, and it can be renewed again. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Bihar's 'Mithila Makhana', a variety of aquatic fox nut received GI tag
- GI Tag is valid for 10 years in India
- Bihar: Capital Patna | CM Nitish Kumar | Governor Phagu Chauhan

402. On August 23, Tamil Nadu launched its "Footwear & Leather Products Policy 2022" with a vision to transform the State into a favoured destination for footwear and leather products manufacture in Asia. Tamil Nadu is a dominant player in the footwear industry at both the national and global levels. The policy will offer a special package for footwear and leather products (FLP) manufacturing and incentives for FLP Design Studios. Tamil Nadu accounts for 26% of national leather manufacturing output and 48% of exports. The foundation stone for a Rs 400 Cr Mega Footwear Manufacturing Park at Ranipet, was also laid at the conclave. The State government is targeting investment of Rs 20,000 Cr in footwear and leather products manufacturing. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu launched its "Footwear & Leather Products Policy 2022"
- Tamil Nadu accounts for 26% of national leather manufacturing output & 48% of exports
- The foundation stone for a Rs 400 Cr Mega Footwear Manufacturing Park was laid at Ranipet, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital Chennai | CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor Ravindra Narayan Ravi

403. On August 13, Rajasthan and Maharashtra launched the 'Digital Lok Adalat' and became the first states to use end-toend Digital Platforms during the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2022 that saw 74 lakh cases settled across India, including 16.45 lakh pending and 58.33 lakh pre-litigation cases. The Digital Lok Adalat was launched by Justice U. U. Lalit on 17th July 2022 during the '18th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet'. The third National Lok Adalat of the year for Delhi was scheduled on August 21. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Rajasthan & Maharashtra the first states to launch 'Digital Lok Adalat'
- The Digital Lok Adalat was launched by Justice U. U. Lalit in July 2022
- Rajasthan: Capital Jaipur | CM Ashok Gehlot | Governor Kalraj Mishra
- Maharashtra: CM Eknath Shinde | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

404. On August 17, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Make India No. 1', a national mission to make India the number one country in the world and called on all citizens and political parties to join it. Providing free education and healthcare to citizens, employment to youths, equal rights and dignity to women and fair price to farmers for their produce are needed to achieve the goal. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Make India No. 1', a national mission to make India the number one country in the world
- Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar



405. As on August 22, Uttar Pradesh government plans to build India's first Education Township in the state. Built on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit' (come like a blank paper and carry multiple skills), the focus of this township will be on high-end education, which will cater to students from not only India but also African, Latin American and Central Asian countries. {Read more}

Key Points:

- UP to build India's first Education Township on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit'
- UP: Capital Lucknow | CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel

406. On August 22, Airports and infrastructure conglomerate GMR Group launched "Blockchain Centre of Excellence (CoE)" in Hyderabad as part of the expansion of GMR Innovex. The Blockchain CoE will identify and incubate startups and catalyze innovative product development under the guidance of business leaders and domain experts in association with blockchain technology partners. GMR Innovex has onboarded Pankaj Diwan as the Chief Evangelist for leading the GMR Innovex Blockchain CoE. As per Grand View Research, the global blockchain technology market size was valued at USD 5.92 billion in 2021 and is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 85.9% from 2022 to 2030. {Read more} Key Points:

- GMR Group launched "Blockchain Centre of Excellence (CoE)" in Hyderabad as part of the expansion of GMR Innovex
- Pankaj Diwan appointed as the Chief Evangelist for leading the 'GMR Innovex Blockchain CoE'
- HQs of GMR Group New Delhi | MD & CEO Grandhi Kiran Kuma

407. On August 22, a two-day National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Panchayats through Thematic Approaches on Theme - 'Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure' was organized at Chandigarh, Punjab. There are total 9 themes for LSDGs. The National workshop provided a platform for the peer learning of Panchayats on various models to institutionalize the process of LSDGs through the lens thematic approach at grassroots level. Ministry of Panchayati Raj is anchoring the process of LSDGs in Panchayats/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). {Read more} **Key Points:**

- 'National Workshop on LSDGs in Panchayats through Thematic Approaches' organized at Chandigarh
- The work shop was based on Theme 6 'Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure' | There are total 9 themes for LSDGs
- Ministry of & Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh | Constituency Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

408. On August 23, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) commenced its "Cow dung to Compressed Biogas Project" at Sanchore, Rajasthan. This will be HPCL's first project under 'Waste to Energy' portfolio. The plant is proposed to utilize 100 Tons per day of dung to produce biogas, which can be utilized as automotive fuel. The project is being developed under "GOBAR-Dhan" scheme launched by Government of India in April 2018 as a part of the Biodegradable Waste Management component under "Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)". {Read more}

- HPCL commenced its "Cow dung to Compressed Biogas Project" at Sanchore, Rajasthan under "GOBAR-Dhan" scheme
- It is HPCL's first project under 'Waste to Energy' portfolio
- GOBAR-Dhan scheme launched in 2018 under 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)'
- HQs of HPCL Mumbai, MH | CEO & Chairperson Mukesh Kumar Surana (till April, 2022) | Founded in 1974
- Rajasthan: Capital Jaipur | CM Ashok Gehlot | Governor Kalraj Mishra



International Affairs

409. On August 23, an Indian students' team bagged the 3rd rank in the 15th "International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)" held at Kutaisi International University in Georgia. Raghav Goyal from Chandigarh, Md Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata and Mehul Borad from Hyderabad bagged gold in the event. Goyal also won a special prize for providing the best solution to the most challenging theoretical question. The silver medallists are Malay Kedia from Ghaziabad and Atharva Nilesh Mahajan from Indore. Conducted annually, the IOAA aims to promote astronomy among school students. With five gold medals, the Iranian team topped the medals tally, followed by the Guest Team. India and Singapore shared the third spot. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Indian Students' Team 3rd rank in the 15th "International Olympiad on Astronomy & Astrophysics (IOAA)"
- Gold medalists: Raghav Goyal (Chandigarh), Md. Sahil Akhtar (Kolkata), Mehul Borad (Hyderabad)
- India & Singapore shared the third spot

410. On August 21, Greece has exited the European Union's Enhanced Surveillance Framework. It ends 12 years of pain and allows the country greater freedom in policymaking. Greece was hit with waves of pension cuts, spending constraint, tax increases and bank controls after it was forced to seek its first bailout in 2010. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Greece exited the European Union's Enhanced Surveillance Framework
- Greece Athens Euro | PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

- Smartkeeda

411. On August 19, the SEBI joined the Account Aggregator framework, a move that will give a boost to the RBI-regulated financial-data sharing system. It will allow customers to share information about their mutual fund and stock holdings with financial service providers. Under the framework, Financial Information Providers (FIPs) in the securities market, like depositories and AMCs, will provide financial information pertaining to securities markets to the customers through their Registrar & Transfer Agents (RTAs), and consented Financial Information Users (FIUs) through any of the Account Aggregators registered with the RBI. {Read more}

Key Points:

- SEBI joined the Account Aggregator framework to boost to the RBI-regulated financial-data sharing system
- It will allow customers to share information about their mutual fund & stock holdings with financial service providers
- HQs of SEBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in 1992
- HQs of RBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in 1st April, 1935
- RBI's Deputy Governors (4) Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

412. On August 23, Muthoot Finance launched "Milligram Reward Programme" for its customers wherein transactions with the company will be rewarded with a certain amount of milligram reward points. With this, the company has emerged as the first gold loan NBFC to launch such a new reward programme. Customers can participate in this two-year long programme wherein, for the first time in India, a loyalty programme will be run in 24 carat gold. {Read more}



- Muthoot Finance launched "Milligram Reward Programme"
- It has become the first gold loan NBFC to launch such a new reward programme that will be run in 24 carat gold
- HQs of Muthoot Finance Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO George Alexander Muthoot

413. Remittance by Indians under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) increased 64.75% to over \$6.04 billion in the Q1 of FY 2022-2023 from \$3.67 billion in Q1 FY22, according to the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India. It is higher than the \$5.8 billion remitted during Q4 of FY22. In Q1 of FY23, \$2.92 billion, or 48% of the total remittances under LRS were for international travel. Outward remittances under the RBI's liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) hit an all-time high in FY22 at \$19.61 billion, up 54.6% from \$12.68 billion recorded in FY21. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- According to the latest data released for Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):
 - Remittance by Indians under the LRS increased 64.75% to over \$6.04 billion in the Q1 FY23
 - Outward remittances hit an all-time high in FY22 at \$19.61 billion
- Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was introduced by RBI

414. On August 22, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched "All Things EV", a one-stop-solution portal for electric vehicles (EV). As a part of this initiative, the company has unveiled a dedicated platform for the existing and prospective EV ecosystem users, which hosts end-to-end information on this emerging sector. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance launched a one-stop-solution portal for EVs called "All Things EV"
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO Ritesh Kumar

415. In August 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) revamped its Grievance Redressal Mechanism and renamed it as "Bima Bharosa". The upgraded version includes an option of filing complaints in 13 regional languages. The Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS) was launched in 2011. The IRDAI decided to do away with the prior approval requirement for raising capital through preference shares and subordinate debts by insurers. As per the decision, the issue of Other Forms of Capital (OFC) should not exceed 50% of the paid-up share capital or net worth of the insurance company. {Read more}

- IRDAI revamped its Grievance Redressal Mechanism & renamed it as "Bima Bharosa"
- The upgraded version includes an option of filing complaints in 13 regional languages
- The Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS) was launched in 2011
- HQs of IRDAI Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman Debasish Panda





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Defence Affairs

416. On August 19, the manufacturing of the 'AK-203 assault rifles' by the Indo-Russian joint venture "Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL)" at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh is set to begin by the end of 2022 and the manufacturing equipment required for it will be dispatched from Russia. As per the contract, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles costing over ₹5,000 Crore will be manufactured this JV. The IRRPL was set up jointly between erstwhile OFB of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) of Russia. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Manufacturing of 'AK-203 assault rifles' by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd to begin in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- IRRPL a rifle-manufacturing facility in Korwa, Amethi, UP
- UP: Capital Lucknow | CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel

417. On August 24, South Korea and the United States began their largest joint military drills called the "Ulchi Freedom Shield". It was last conducted in 2017. These joint military drills are designed to test readiness against North Korea's missile tests. In addition to these joint drills, South Korea has also started the 4-day Ulchi Civil Defence drills. {Read more} Key Points:

- South Korea + US = conducted the largest joint military drills called the "Ulchi Freedom Shield"
- South Korea Seoul Korean Republic won | President Yoon Suk-yeol
- US Washington, D.C. US Dollar | 46th President Joe Biden | 49th VP Kamala Harris

Smartkeeda Sports & Games Bank

418. On August 22, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa concluded the final round by defeating world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen at the "FTX Crypto Cup" in Miami to finish second overall in the standings. Carlsen, with overall 16 points to his name, won the event on the basis of a higher score while Praggnanandhaa, with 15 points, came second. Alireza Firouzja also finished on 15 points but had to settle for third place as he had lost the clash against Praggnanandhaa earlier. {Read more}

Key Points:

- R. Praggnanandhaa defeated world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the 'final round' of the "FTX Crypto Cup" in Miami
- 1st Magnus Carlsen (16 points) | 2nd R. Praggnanandhaa (15 points) | 3rd Alireza Firouzja (15 points)
- HQs of FIDE Lausanne, Switzerland | President Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on July 20, 1924

Arts & Cultural

419. In August 2022, the famed 'Garba' dance of Gujarat has been nominated to be inscribed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Nomination of Garba is for consideration in the 2023 cycle. The latest one, Durga Puja, is the 14th Indian event on the list, the others include Yoga, Vedic Chanting, Buddhist Chanting in Ladakh, Chau Dance, Ramlila, Navroz, Kumbh Mela and others. {Read more}

- 'Garba' dance (Gujarat) nominated to be inscribed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by the UNESCO
- Others Indian events on the list Durga Puja, Yoga, Vedic Chanting, Buddhist Chanting in Ladakh, Chau Dance, Ramlila, Navroz, Kumbh Mela and others
- HQs of UNESCO Paris, France | Director-General Audrey Azoulay | Founded in 1945 | Members 193 Countries
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Bhupendra Patel | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat

Science & Technology

420. On August 17, Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) completed the clinical development for Phase III trials and booster doses for the "BBV154" intranasal Covid vaccine. It is India' first Adenoviral Intranasal Covid Vaccine. The vaccine has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials. BBV154 was developed in partnership with Washington University in St Louis, US. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Bharat Biotech completed clinical trials for the India' first Adenoviral Intranasal Covid Vaccine called "BBV154"
- HQs of Bharat Biotech Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman Dr. Krishna Ella

Appointments & Resignations

421. On August 21, Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been reappointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of financial services platform Paytm. 99.67% of the company's shareholders voted in favour of him. The decision was taken during the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of One97 Communications Limited (OCL) which owns the brand Paytm. This was the first AGM as a public listed company. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Vijay Shekhar Sharma reappointed as the MD & CEO of Paytm
- HQs of Paytm Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in 2010

422. On August 23, diplomat Vikram K. Doraiswami was appointed India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He succeeds Gaitri Issar Kumar who retired from service on June 30. Vikram is currently serving as Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and is expected to take up the assignment shortly. {Read more} Key Points:

- Vikram K. Doraiswami appointed India's new High Commissioner to the UK (succeeding Gaitri Issar Kumar)
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM Boris Johnson



423. On August 23, Petcare brand Heads up for Tails (HUFT) announced actor Kriti Sanon as its first Brand Ambassador. Kriti Sanon is an award winning actor, a passionate animal lover and a pet parent. In August 2021, the company raised \$37 million (₹277 Cr) in a 'Series A' round. India's pet care segment was about Rs 3,701 Cr in FY20-21, according to research firm Euromonitor International. The sector was growing at 15% CAGR between 2016-2021 and is expected to double to 30% CAGR in 2021-2026. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Kriti Sanon – appointed as first Brand Ambassador of Heads up for Tails (HUFT)

424. On August 22, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Debasisa Mohanty, Staff Scientist-VII, NII, to the post of Director of National Institute of Immunology (NII). In another order, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj was given additional charge as Corporate Affairs Secretary. {Read more} Key Points:

- Dr. Debasisa Mohanty appointed to the post of Director of National Institute of Immunology
- Tarun Bajaj appointed as the Corporate Affairs Secretary

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

425. In August 2022, Ministry of Corporate Affairs announced the annual "National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards 2020" to recognize companies that have made positive impact on the society through their innovative & sustainable CSR initiatives. Total 20 award winners and 17 Honourable Mentions across the three award categories were selected. Upto 20 awards are conferred each year in 3 main categories, namely, Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR, CSR Awards for CSR in Aspirational Districts/Difficult Terrains and CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas. First National CSR Awards were conferred on 29 October 2019. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited was winner of 'Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR' under 'Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal & above Rs 100 Cr' sub-category. While the same award was received by Tata Steel Limited under 'Companies having eligible CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas' under 'Education' sub-category. {Read more}

Key Points:

- MCA announced 20 award winners & 17 Honourable Mentions for the "National CSR Awards 2020"
- The awards were given in 3 mains categories
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh

426. On August 25, Jharkhand government signed a pact with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the British High Commission, New Delhi, to award the "Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Scholarship" to 5 scholars belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minority community in the state. The scholarship will offer full financial support to pursue a one-year master's in the UK starting from the UK academic year of 2023-24. {Read more}



- Jharkhand + FCDO = will award "Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Scholarship" to 5 scholars from SCs & STs
- The scholarship will offer full financial support to pursue a one-year master's in the UK
- Jharkhand: Capital Ranchi | CM Hemant Soren | Governor Ramesh Bais
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM Boris Johnson

427. The "2022 Liberty Medal" will be awarded to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in October 2022 at the National Constitution Centre (NCC), Philadelphia, US. Zelensky has also been the recipient of awards such as the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. The Liberty Medal, established in 1988 to mark the U.S. Constitution's bicentennial, is presented to individuals who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for people around the globe. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Volodymyr Zelensky (Ukrainian President) to be awarded "2022 Liberty Medal" at Philadelphia, US (in Oct 2022)
- The Liberty Medal was established in 1988

Important Days & Dates

428. The UN General Assembly has designated August 22 as the "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief". The day recognizes the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law. The day was proposed by Poland. {Read more}

Key Points:

- August 22 International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief by UNGA
- The day was proposed by Poland

429. The "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition" is an international day celebrated on August 23 of each year. The day was designated by the UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. As part of the goals of the intercultural UNESCO project, "The Slave Route", it is an opportunity for collective recognition and focus on the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of slavery. In 2022, the theme of the day is "Decolonisation". {Read more}

- August 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 2022's Theme "Decolonisation" | "The Slave Route" UNESCO's project



Books & Authors

430. In August 22, Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Aswathy Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi of the Travancore royal family released the biography "Sing, Dance and Pray: The Inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada". The book is authored by Wilbur Award winner Hindol Sengupta and published by Penguin Random House India in commemoration of Srila Prabhupada's 125th birth anniversary. Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami aka Srila Prabhupada was an Indian Gaudiya Vaishnava guru who founded ISKCON, commonly known as the "Hare Krishna movement". {Read more} **Key Points:**

- "Sing, Dance and Pray: The Inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada" biography authored by Hindol Sengupta
- Released by = Arif Mohammad Khan + Aswathy Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi
- Srila Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON

Obituaries

431. On August 22, Veteran filmmaker Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala passed away due to cardiac arrest. He was 91. Abdul Gaffar had started his film production and media entertainment company in 1953. {Read more} Key Points:

• Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala – a Veteran Filmmaker – passed away

- Smartkeeda Meetings, Conferences & Summits

432. Minster of State for Textiles and Railways, Darshana Vikram Jardosh, inaugurated the "Silk Mark Expo 2022" in New Delhi. The exhibition was organised by Silk Mark Organization of India (SMOI), sponsored by Central Silk Board, under Ministry of Textiles. Silk Mark is aimed at generic promotion of silk and building brand equity of Indian Silk at home and abroad. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Darshana Vikram Jardosh inaugurated "Silk Mark Expo 2022" in Delhi organised by Silk Mark Organization of India
- HQs of SMOI Bengaluru, Karnataka

433. In August 2022, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sought security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the 90th Interpol General Assembly scheduled to be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from October 18 to 21, 2022. The global police organisation, Interpol, has 195 member countries, including from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan - classified as 'countries of concern' by India. Last year, the assembly was organised in Turkey's Istanbul. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- 90th Interpol General Assembly to be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi (in Oct 2022)
- HQs of Interpol Lyon, France | President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi | Founded on Sep 7, 1923
- Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar



434. On August 22, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 23rd Central Zonal Council meeting in Bhopal where issues like connectivity, power, sharing of river water and other matters of common interests were discussed. The Central Zonal Council comprises Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers, Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and Senior Officers of the member states and Central government. There are 5 zonal councils in India and Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these zonal councils and Chief Ministers of the host state (to be chosen by rotation every year) is the Vice-Chairman. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Amit Shah chaired the 23rd Central Zonal Council meeting held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Member states of the Central Zonal Council: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand
- There are 5 zonal councils in India | Chairman Union Home Minister | VC Chief Ministers of the Host State
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal | CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

435. On August 25, Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district hosted a Meeting of Ministers of Labour from all the States & Union Territories. This is the first National-Level Meeting to be conducted after the formation of Tirupati district. Union Minister of Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav presided over the meeting. {Read more} Key Points:

- Tirupati (AP) hosted a 'National-Level Meeting of Ministers of Labour from all the States & Union Territories'
- Bhupendra Yadav presided over the meeting
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital Amravati | CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli

436. On August 22, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan co-chaired the 6th meeting of the 'Australia-India Education Council' during his four-day visit to Australia. During his visit, India and Australia agreed to set up a Working Group on Transnational Education to explore ways to promote two-way mobility of universities between the two countries. The Education Council is a forum to advance ties and boost engagements in education, skill development and research priorities. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan co-chaired the 6th meeting of the 'Australia-India Education Council'
- India + Australia = to set up a Working Group on Transnational Education to promote two-way mobility of Universities
- Australia Canberra Australian Dollar | PM Anthony Albanese

Ranks, Reports & Serveys

437. According to figures released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the economies of 19 states and UTs exceeded their pre-coronavirus levels and recorded double-digit growth in FY22. Andhra Pradesh topped the chart, as it recorded the highest growth at 11.43%, while Puducherry was the lowest at 3.31%. However, India's GDP in FY22 expanded at 8.7%, against a 6.6% contraction in FY21. {Read more}



- MoSPI: Economies of 19 states/UTs exceeded their pre-coronavirus levels & recorded double-digit growth in FY22
- First Andhra Pradesh (11.43%) | Last Puducherry (3.31%)
- India's GDP in FY22 expanded at 8.7% (against 6.6% contraction in FY21)

438. As on August 22, Portugal currently registers 182 elderly (aged 65 years and above) for every 100 young people (aged up to 14 years), becoming the fastest aging country in the European Union (EU), according to a study published by the Contemporary Portugal Database Pordata. In 1990, Portugal registered 66 elderly for every 100 young people. In the past 3 decades, the elderly population tripled in the country, according to the study. Portugal recorded an annual aging rate of 3.6%, higher than all EU countries. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Portugal became the fastest aging country in the European Union (EU) with an annual aging rate of 3.6%
- Portugal currently registers 182 elderly (aged 65+) for every 100 young people (aged up to 14 years)
- Portugal Lisbon Euro | President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

439. On August 20, according to data released by the Ministry of Mines, Mineral production in India rose by 7.5% in June 2022 as compared with the production level of the corresponding month of the last year. The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of June 2022 (Base: 2011-12=100) was 113.4 Million Tonnes. Coal topped the list with 669 lakh tonnes. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Mineral production in India in June 2022 rose by 7.5% at 113.4 Million Tonnes (compared to June 2021)
- Coal topped the list of Mineral production with 669 lakh tonnes
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

440. NASSCOM's report on "Healthcare in India - Transforming through Innovation" focuses on transformation witnessed in the Indian Healthcare ecosystem driven by emerging technologies and innovation. The findings are based on the analysis of the top use case submissions received during the 3rd Edition of "NASSCOM Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC)" conducted by NASSCOM CoE IoT. The analysis covers in detail the infrastructure, technology, deployment, and pricing required for the implementation of these innovative use cases to enable process automation and technology advancement in hospitals and other areas in healthcare. {Read more}

- "Healthcare in India Transforming through Innovation" report released by NASSCOM
- 3rd Edition of "NASSCOM Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC)" conducted by NASSCOM CoE IoT
- HQs of NASSCOM New Delhi | President Debjani Ghosh



Acquisitions & Mergers

441. On August 23, Gautam Adani-controlled AMG Media Networks Limited (AMNL) announced to buy a majority stake in New Delhi Television (NDTV). The group will indirectly acquire 29.18% stake in NDTV and launch an open offer for acquiring another 26% to get a majority stake in the media company. AMNL is a wholly owned subsidy of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL). {Read more}

Key Points:

• AMNL (Adani Group) – bought 29.18% stake in NDTV & will launch an open offer to acquire another 26% stake

442. On August 22, Norway's Climate Investment Fund, managed by Norfund and KLP, signed an agreement to acquire a 49% stake in a 420 MW Thar Surya 1 Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan for approximately Rs 2.8 billion. The plant was developed by Italy's Enel Green Power. According to a report by BloombergNEF (BNEF), India needs \$233 billion in investment to meet its goals for development of wind and solar energy by 2030. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Climate Investment Fund (Norway) will acquire 49% stake in '420 MW Thar Surya 1 Solar Power Plant' in Rajasthan
- The plant was developed by Enel Green Power (Italy)
- Norway Oslo Krone | PM Jonas Gahr Store

443. In August 2022, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued order of approving amalgamation of Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL) with its parent Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). BGRL was incorporated in June 2018. The main business of BGRL is gas sourcing and retailing. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs approved amalgamation of Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL) with its parent BPCL
- BGRL was incorporated in June 2018
- HQs of BPCL Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in 1952

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

444. On August 22, Indian Navy signed an MoU with the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad, on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite based Naval Applications in Oceanology and Meteorology. This MoU is an extension of previous MoU signed in 2017 and will further the collaboration between two organisations. With this initiative, both the organisations will have a common platform of mutual cooperation, wherein the scientific advancements by SAC would be synergised into the Indian Naval efforts. {Read more}

- Navy + SAC = MoU on data sharing & cooperation on Satellite based Naval Applications in Oceanology & Meteorology
- SAC (Ahmedabad) works under ISRO
- HQs of ISRO Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director S. Somanath | Formed on August 15, 1969



445. On August 21, the UNESCO signed an MoU with a popular motorcycle manufacturing company Royal Enfield to celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of India, beginning with the Himalayas. The exhibition, titled "Journeying Across the Himalayas", was hosted from August 22 to 25. The exhibition focused on intangible cultural heritage of essentially Union Territory Ladakh and Northeastern states falling in the Himalayan region. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- UNESCO + Royal Enfield = an MoU to celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of India, beginning with the Himalayas
- HQs of Royal Enfield Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO B. Govindarajan
- HQs of UNESCO Paris, France | Director-General Audrey Azoulay | Founded in 1945 | Members 193 Countries

446. On August 23, NHPC Ltd signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a large capacity Solar Equipment Manufacturing Facility. NHPC has an installation base of 7071.2 MW from 24 power stations including two projects in JV mode. It is engaged in the construction of 11 projects aggregating to a total installed capacity of 7,539 MW. {Read more} Key Points:

- NHPC + BEL = an MoU to set up a large capacity Solar Equipment Manufacturing Facility
- HQs of NHPC Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman Yamuna Kumar Chaubey
- HQs of BEL Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD Dinesh Kumar Batra (addi. charge)

447. On August 23, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Government of India (GoI) signed a headquarters agreement in New Delhi. The agreement will enable the status of an 'Independent and International Legal Entity' for CDRI. The agreement will enable the institution to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the "United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947". India established CDRI in September 2019. It has 31 member countries & 8 member organisations. {Read more}

- CDRI + GoI = signed a headquarters agreement in New Delhi
- The agreement will enable the status of an 'Independent and International Legal Entity' for CDRI
- HQs of CDRI New Delhi | Member countries 31 | Member Organisations 8 | Founded in 2019

448. On August 22, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) signed an MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd (MAHAPREIT). MAHAPREIT is a wholly owned subsidiary of MPBCDC (49% owned by Government of India and 51% owned by Maharashtra). As per the MoU, IREDA will offer financing facilities to MAHAPREIT for the Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local bodies and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks. IREDA established a specialised "Business Development & Consultancy Division" two years ago to meet the growing demand in the RE sector. This is the 9th MoU inked by IREDA in the last two years to provide consultation services for the sustainable development of the country. {Read more}

- IREDA + MAHAPREIT = an MoU to offer financing facilities for Renewable Energy projects to be implemented
- IREDA established a specialised "Business Development & Consultancy Division" to meet growing demand in RE sector
- HQs of IREDA New Delhi | CMD Pradip Kumar Das



449. On August 22, Godrej Agrovet signed 3 MoUs with Assam, Manipur and Tripura state governments for development and promotion of oil palm cultivation in the region under the "National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)" scheme. In August 2021, Government of India had launched the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEOOP) with planned outlay of ₹11,040 Cr. Under this mission, Government has envisaged to raise area under cultivation of oil palm to 10 Lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 Lakh hectares by 2029-30 with special focus on the North East region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Godrej Agrovet's palm oil is currently present in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Goa, Maharashtra, and Mizoram. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Godrej Agrovet signed 3 MoUs with Assam, Manipur & Tripura for development & promotion of oil palm cultivation
- These MoU were signed under the "National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)" scheme
- NMEOOP was launched in August 2021 with outlay of ₹11,040 Cr
- Tripura: Capital Agartala | CM Manik Saha | Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Assam: Capital Dispur | CM Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor Jagdish Mukhi
- Manipur: Capital Imphal | CM N. Biren Singh | Governor La. Ganesan

450. On August 23, aimed at ensuring nutrition for kids as part of the Poshan Abhiyan, Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) signed an MoU with Nutrihub, a technology Business Incubator hosted by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), to include millets in midday meals. In the mid-day meal menu for children in schools, millets like jowar, bajra and ragi will be introduced across the state and country. {Read more} Key Points:

- Akshaya Patra Foundation + Nutrihub = an MoU to include millets (like jowar, bajra & ragi) in mid-day meals
- Nutrihub a technology Business Incubator hosted by the ICAR-IIMR (Hyderabad)
- HQs of Akshaya Patra Foundation Bengaluru | CEO Shridhar Venkat
- HQs of Nutrihub Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO B Dayakar Rao

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