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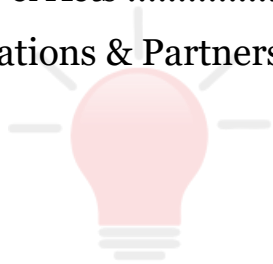
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National & States Affairs

451. As on July 23, Burhanpur also known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' (Gateway of Deccan) in Madhya Pradesh became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district in India. Only 37,241 rural households (36.54%) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections at the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on August 15, 2019. It has been done within a span of 34 months. Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) has been formed in all 254 villages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Burhanpur (MP) – also known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district in India
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

452. From July 25 to 30, Ministry of Power organized "Ujjwal Bharat - Ujjwal Bhavishi" festival in Goa. The Bijli Mahotsavs were celebrated all over the country under the umbrella of "Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047" for more public participation and getting across the developments in the power sector to the citizens at large. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power – organized "Ujjwal Bharat - Ujjwal Bhavishi" festival in Goa
- Bijli Mahotsavs – celebrated under the umbrella of "Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047"
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

453. In July 2022, at least 65 cases of black fever or 'kala-azar' have been reported from 11 districts of West Bengal. Earlier, Kala Azar was practically eradicated from West Bengal. Black fever is mainly transmitted by bites of sandflies infected with the parasite 'Leishmania donovani'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – reported at least 65 cases of 'Black fever' or 'Kala-azar' from its 11 districts
- Black fever is mainly transmitted by bites of sandflies infected with the parasite 'Leishmania donovani'
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – La. Ganesan

454. On July 21, the running and maintenance of ships of the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep have been handed over to the Shipping Corporation of India to improve shipping operations. Of the five ships in service for the people of Lakshadweep and connecting people between islands and Kochi, two are undergoing repairs. Lakshadweep administration had facilitated hassle-free movement of Hajj Pilgrims through special voyages and requirements of students, for attending exams, have also been taken care of by coordinating with the education department. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- The running & maintenance of ships of the UT of Lakshadweep – handed over to Shipping Corporation of India
- Lakshadweep: Capital – Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel
- HQs of SCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Atul Ubale

455. As on July 25, only 4 states have adopted “Model Tenancy Act (MTA)” since the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) circulated it on June 7, 2021. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have revised Tenancy Laws on the lines of MTA. Model Tenancy Act aims to promote rental housing by balancing and protecting the interests of both the tenants and landlords by regulating renting of premises in an efficient and transparent manner through an adjudicating mechanism for speedy dispute resolution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Model Tenancy Act (MTA)” – circulated by MoHUA on June 7, 2021
- Only 4 states have adopted MTA – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam
- [Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri](#) | [Constituency – Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore](#)

456. On July 20, Ministry of Commerce & Industry prohibited the import of human embryos in accordance with the ‘Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021’ and the ‘Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021’. Earlier, the imports were prohibited except for research purposes based on the guidelines of the Department of Health Research. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry – prohibited the import of human embryos
- It is done in accordance with ‘Assisted Reproductive Technology Act, 2021’ & ‘Surrogacy Act, 2021’
- [Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal](#) | [Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash](#)

457. In July 2022, Kerala, which slipped to the 8th place in holding the sittings of the State Assembly during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, got back to the 1st place in 2021, with its House sitting for 61 days, the highest for any State. Despite enjoying the record of having the highest number of sittings during 2021 for any State legislature, Kerala had promulgated 144 ordinances, also the highest in the country in 2021. Odisha & Karnataka followed Kerala with 43 & 40 sitting days, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – got the 1st position of having highest number of days (61) sittings in 2021 for any State legislature (8th in 2020)
- 2nd – Odisha | 3rd – Karnataka
- Kerala – promulgated 144 ordinances, the highest in India in 2021
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

458. In July 2022, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new mobile app named “AadhaarFaceRd” to perform face authentication through mobile app from anywhere and at any time. Now, Aadhaar holders no longer need to carry physical identification by using Iris and Fingerprint scans by physically visiting their local Aadhaar enrollment centre. Aadhaar holders’ identities can be stored in the Central Identity Data Repository using face authentication, according to the UIDAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UIDAI – launched a new mobile app “AadhaarFaceRd” to perform face authentication through mobile app
- [HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Saurabh Garg](#) | [Founded on – January 28, 2009](#)

459. On July 20, the Commerce Ministry announced that Work from Home (WFH) is allowed for a maximum period of 1 year in a Special Economic Zone unit and can be extended to 50% of total employees. In this regard, the Department of Commerce notified a new 'Rule 43A' for WFH in 'Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Work from Home' is allowed for a maximum period of 1 year in a SEZ unit
- Department of Commerce – notified a new 'Rule 43A' for WFH in 'Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006' in this regard
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

International Affairs

460. Saudi Arabia is planning to build the world's largest structure: two buildings reaching up to 1,600 feet in height and running parallel for 75 miles, as the documents accessed by The Wall Street Journal show. The Wall Street Journal claims that the skyscrapers, expected to cost a whopping \$1 trillion, will be made of mirrored glass, and are part of the project named 'Mirror Line'. The Mirror Line is designed by the US-based Morphosis Architects. Mirror Line has been envisioned as the epicentre of the new desert city called "Neom", which is being constructed as per Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to set up a zero-carbon city in a 170-km line. Neom will be around the size of Massachusetts. As per documents, the two buildings will be connected via walkways, and a high-speed train will run underneath them. The project will reportedly house 5 million people. The prince has claimed he wants the Mirror Line to be ready by 2030, but engineers said it could take up to 50 years for completion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia – to build world's largest structure: two buildings reaching up to 1,600 feet in height & running parallel for 75 miles (Cost - \$1 trillion)
- The buildings will be made of mirrored glass & are part of the project 'Mirror Line'
- Project 'Mirror Line' – will be the epicentre of the new desert city called "Neom"
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

461. On July 22, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) made announcement for international support worth nearly USD 160 million for the next 3 years to facilitate increased vaccine access to children at high risk of illness and death from malaria. Malaria remains a primary cause of childhood illness and death in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2020, nearly half a million African children died from malaria or 1 child died of malaria every minute, according to the WHO's report. Since the world's first malaria vaccine was introduced in 2019, it has been well accepted in African communities after a relatively short period of time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GAVI announced a \$160-million international support for the rollout of the 1st malaria vaccine in Africa for next 3 years
- World's first malaria vaccine was introduced in 2019

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

462. On July 22, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched its add-on motor insurance cover called 'Pay As You Consume' (PAYC) under the Irdai's sandbox regulations. Pay as you consume gives customers the flexibility to choose their insurance premium based on their vehicle usage, depending on their driving behaviour, using telematics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance – launched its add-on motor insurance cover called 'Pay As You Consume' (PAYC)
- [HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel](#)

463. On July 22, Canara Bank launched its new 'all in 1' mobile banking app called "ai1" or "Canara ai1". The banking app would be a one-stop solution with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers. The app is available in 11 languages. The core vision of the bank is 'E-transactions for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Time'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched its new 'all in 1' mobile banking app called "ai1" or "Canara ai1" (available in 11 languages)
- The core vision of the bank – 'E-transactions for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Time'
- [HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar](#)

Sports & Games

464. On July 17, former Australian star Lleyton Hewitt was inducted into the "International Tennis Hall of Fame 2021". The Adelaide-born tennis player has won two Grand Slam singles titles in his illustrious career. Back in 2001, Hewitt became the world no.1 at the age of 20. Back in January 2016, Hewitt took retirement from Tennis, following the Australian Open. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lleyton Hewitt ([Australia - Tennis](#)) – inducted into the "International Tennis Hall of Fame 2021"
- Hewitt became the world No. 1 at the age of 20 | Hewitt took retirement from Tennis in 2016

465. England's Matt Fitzpatrick won his first major title by winning the U.S. Open golf tournament. With perseverance, World No. 18 Fitzpatrick delivered his first professional U.S. victory for a long-sought major trophy. Earlier, he has won the 2013 U.S. Amateur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Matt Fitzpatrick ([England](#)) – won the U.S. Open Golf Tournament

466. On July 25, the 1st Khelo India Fencing Women's League was started at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. The first-of-its-kind National Fencing Competition for Women was held in 3 phases. Over 300 women across 20 States had registered to participate in the event in the Cadet (U-17), Junior (U-20) and Senior (13 & above) categories. A total of Rs 1.54 Crore has been sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for this event. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 1st Khelo India Fencing Women's League – started at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi
- The first-of-its-kind National Fencing Competition for Women – was held in 3 phases
- A total of Rs 1.54 Cr was sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for this event
- [HQs of SAI – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Sandip Pradhan](#)

467. In July 2022, Captain Rohit Sharma-led Indian Cricket Team defeated England's team in both formats - Twenty 20 International (T20I) and One Day International (ODI), while the Test series ended in a 2-2 draw, in Manchester, England. In this match, Rohit Sharma became the first captain in the history of Cricket to win 14 consecutive T20Is. While Rishabh Pant scored his maiden Hundred in ODI for India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian – defeated England's team in both T20I & ODI formats | Test series ended in a draw
- Rohit Sharma – became the first captain in the history of Cricket to win 14 consecutive T20Is
- [HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Chairman – Sourav Ganguly](#) | [Secretary – Jay Shah](#) | [Founded in – 1928](#)

468. World billiards champion Sourav Kothari won the “2022 Lance Pannell-Pacific International Snooker Championship”. In the final, Kothari thrashed top-ranked Australian cueist Juhl Younger 4-0. Kothari also won the “2022 Pacific International Billiards Championship” in Melbourne, Australia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sourav Kothari – won the “2022 Lance Pannell-Pacific International Snooker Championship” (defeating - Juhl Younger)
- Sourav Kothari – also won the “2022 Pacific International Billiards Championship” in Melbourne, Australia

Persons in News

469. On July 21, a Nepali mountaineer Sanu Sherpa, 47, became the first person to complete all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks for the second time. He reached the summit of Pakistan's Gasherbrum II (8,035 metres) in July and achieved this milestone. He climbed his first 8,000-metre mountain in 2006. By 2019, he had summited all 14 8,000-metre peaks for the first time, one of around 40 people to do so at that time. He has reached the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) top of Mount Everest 7 times. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanu Sherpa ([Nepali mountaineer](#)) – became the first person to complete all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks twice
- He has reached the top of Mount Everest 7 times





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Science & Technology

470. In July 2022, a rare 170-carat pink rough diamond called 'The Lulo Rose', weighing 34 grams, was discovered at Lucapa's Lulo Mine in Angola. It is touted to be the largest pink diamond discovered in the last 300 years. Lucapa Diamond Company stated that the pink diamond is the 5th largest diamond and the 27th 100+ carat diamond extracted in the Lulo Mining project till date. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'The Lulo Rose' (largest pink diamond found in last 300 years) – discovered at Lucapa's Lulo Mine in Angola (170-carat)
- Pink diamond is the 5th largest diamond and the 27th 100+ carat diamond extracted in the Lulo Mining project till date
- [Angola – Luanda – Kwanza](#) | [PM – Joao Lourenco](#)

471. On July 24, China launched 'Wentian', the 2nd of the 3 modules to its Permanent Space Station. The 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the Heavens") laboratory module was launched on the back of China's most powerful rocket, 'Long March 5B' from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan. China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of 'Tianhe', the first module. The third lab module, 'Mengtian' ("Dreaming of the Heavens"), is expected to be launched in October 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched 'Wentian', the 2nd of the 3 modules to its Permanent Space Station aboard 'Long March 5B' rocket
- 1st module – 'Tianhe' (in April 2021) | 2nd module – 'Mengtian' (to be launched in Oct 2022)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

472. On July 20, the NASA awarded Elon Musk's SpaceX with a contract to provide launch services for the next space telescope mission called "Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope". It is slated to launch in October 2026. Under the contract, SpaceX will launch the telescope on a Falcon Heavy rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The cost for the mission's launch is expected to be around \$255 million. The telescope was previously called the Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope but it was renamed after Dr. Nancy Grace Roman for her work at NASA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA awarded contract to provide launch services for "Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope" to SpaceX
- The cost for the mission's launch – around \$255 million | Expected to launch in – October 2026
- It is named after Dr. Nancy Grace Roman who is known for her work at the NASA
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S.](#) | [Founder & CEO – Elon Musk](#) | [Founded in – 2002](#)

473. On July 21, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has developed indigenous technology for conversion of sea water to potable water. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous Institute of Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed "Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD)" technology for conversion of sea water to potable water. It has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands. Three desalination plants based on the LTTD technology were developed and demonstrated at Kavaratti, Agati and Minicoy Islands of Lakshadweep. The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 Lakh litre of potable water per day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Earth Sciences – developed indigenous technology for conversion of sea water to potable water
- NIOT – developed “Low Temperature Thermal Desalination” technology for conversion of sea water to potable water
- 3 desalination plants based on the LTTD technology – established in Lakshadweep Islands
- Capacity of LTTD Plants – 1 lakh litre/day | NIOT – an autonomous Institute of Ministry of Earth Sciences
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

474. On July 25, US-based Boom Supersonic, the company which is developing the world’s fastest airliner Overture, revealed the latest design for supersonic jet ‘Overture’ at the ‘Farnborough Air Show’, a UK-based aviation trade event. It can carry around 65-80 passengers at supersonic speeds of up to 2,100 kilometres per hour. With this speed, the ultra-high-speed jet can fly from New York to London in just 3.5 hours. Overture is expected to commence its operations 7 years later in 2029. Overture has been developed from the beginning to be Net Zero Carbon, flying on 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Boom Supersonic – revealed latest design for supersonic jet ‘Overture’ – at ‘Farnborough Air Show’ in UK
- Boom Supersonic (US) – developing the world’s fastest airliner ‘Overture’
- It can carry around 65-80 passengers at supersonic speeds of up to 2,100 km/hour

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

475. In July 2022, the French government announced to confer the “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite” or the “Knight of the Order of the Merit”, on Kannan Sundaram, publisher of Kalachuvadu, for his contribution to the publishing collaboration between India and France. A ceremony to confer the award will be organised in New Delhi at the residence of the French Ambassador in September or October, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kannan Sundaram – to receive “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite” or “Knight of the Order of the Merit” by France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

476. On July 21, Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin professor of engineering at the University of Houston, won the prestigious “Global Energy Prize” for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions. Only three people in the world were selected this year for the honour, bestowed by the Global Energy Association. Other two awardees are - Viktor Orlov, Chief Specialist of the Centre for Innovative Technologies (Rosatom in Russia) & pioneer in thermonuclear physics; and Mercouri Kanatzidis, Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science at Northwestern University, US. The awarding ceremony will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on October 12-14, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaushik Rajashekara (Indian-origin professor at University of Houston) – won “Global Energy Prize”
- Other two awardees: Viktor Orlov & Mercouri Kanatzidis | Given by – Global Energy Association
- The awarding ceremony will be held during ‘Russian Energy Week’ in Moscow on October 12-14, 2022

477. In July 2022, Madhya Pradesh bagged the award for “Most Film-Friendly State” at the 68th National Film Awards. Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh bagged Most Film-Friendly (Special mention) Award. Journalist Anant Vijay won the ‘Best Writing on Cinema’ category. While Ajay Devgn and Suriya shared the Best Actor award at the 68th National Film Awards. Ajay Devgn won the award for his role in ‘Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior’ and Suriya won it for ‘Soorarai Pottru’. The best actor in female category was won by Aparna Balamurali for ‘Soorarai Pottru’. Tamil film ‘Soorarai Pottru’ won Best Feature Film award. While ‘Testimony of Ana’ won Best Non-Feature Film award. ‘AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum’ (Malayalam), directed by Sachidanandan KR, won in Best Direction category. Sumi (Marathi) was Best Children’s Film. This year, there are 50 categories with over 300 feature films and 150 non-feature films competing for the prizes. A 10-member jury was led by director-producer Vipul Shah. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 68th National Film Awards:
 - Best Actor award – Ajay Devgn (Tanhaji) & Suriya (Soorarai Pottru)
 - Best Actress – Aparna Balamurali for (Soorarai Pottru)
 - Best Children’s Film – Sumi (Marathi)
 - Most Film-Friendly State – Madhya Pradesh | Most Film-Friendly (Special mention) – Uttarakhand & UP
 - Best Direction – AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum (Malayalam), directed by Sachidanandan KR
 - Best Feature Film award – Soorarai Pottru (Tamil) | Best Non-Feature Film – Testimony of Ana
 - Best Writing on Cinema – Journalist Anant Vijay
 - 10-member jury was led by – Vipul Shah



Schemes & Initiatives

478. On July 22, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, launched 3 schemes under the banner of ‘Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry (SPI)’ to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Pharmaceutical sector. The SIDBI will be the project management consultant for implementing the scheme. The schemes provide for credit linked capital and interest subsidy for technology upgradation of MSME units in pharmaceutical sector, as well as support of up to Rs 20 Crore each for common facilities, including research centre in pharma clusters. The three schemes are - Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS), Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF), and Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – launched 3 schemes under the banner of ‘Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry (SPI)’
- The 3 schemes are:
 - Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS)
 - Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF)
 - Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS)
- SIDBI – is the project management consultant for implementing the scheme

479. On July 22, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched “Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme” to provide cashless medical facility to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners and their dependents. The eligible people will get cashless medical facilities at government-run institutions, medical colleges and hospitals without any financial limit. Also, cashless medical facilities up to Rs 5 lakh will be available at hospitals empanelled under the ‘Ayushman Bharat Scheme’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yogi Adityanath – launched “Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme”
- Eligible (more than 75 lakh) people will get cashless medical facilities at government hospitals without any financial limit
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

480. During the visit of COP 26 President Alok Sharma to India on 21-22 July, 2022, NITI Aayog launched two significant initiatives - “E-AMRIT” (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India’s Transportation) mobile application to raise awareness on electric mobility, and the “Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India”. India is among 42 leaders to back and sign up for the UK’s Glasgow Breakthroughs, launched at the COP26 climate summit. India is also a co-convenor of the Glasgow Breakthrough on Road Transport, together with the UK and the US. The Breakthrough on Road Transport aims to make Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in all regions by 2030. India is the 5th largest and fastest growing vehicle market in the world. India also aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45%. And finally, India commits to net-zero emissions by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog launched two significant initiatives:
 - “E-AMRIT” – Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India’s Transportation
 - “Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India”
- India is among 42 leaders to back & sign up for the UK’s Glasgow Breakthroughs, launched at the COP26
- India + US + UK = co-convenor of the Glasgow Breakthrough on Road Transport
- The Breakthrough on Road Transport aims to make Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in all regions by 2030
- India – the 5th largest and fastest growing vehicle market in the world
- India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45% | Net-zero emissions by 2070
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer](#) | [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [VC – Suman Bery](#)

481. On July 21, 2022, “Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana” has completed 5 years. The scheme was formally launched on this day in 2017. The scheme is a social security scheme for Senior Citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on an assured return on the purchase price or subscription amount. The scheme which was under implementation till 2020, was further extended for 3 years up to 31st March, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana – completed 5 years on July 21, 2022 | Scheme was launched on – July 21, 2017
- In 2020, the scheme was extended for 3 years – up to 31st March, 2023

Important Days & Dates

482. Every year, July 22 is observed as Pi Approximation Day, also called Casual Pi Day. Pi Approximation Day is celebrated on July 22 as it is written as 22/7. Moreover, Pi Day is also celebrated on March 14 as the date is 3-14 is similar to the approximate value of Pi 3.14. The decimal value of pi which is 3.14, was initiated by the physicist Larry Shaw in 1988. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- July 22 – “Pi Approximation Day” (as $\pi = 22/7$)
- March 14 – “Pi Day” (as $\pi = 22/7 = 3.14$)

483. The Income Tax department, under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), observes July 24 every year as Income Tax Day or ‘Aaykar Diwas’, to commemorate the introduction of provision of income tax in the country. On July 24, 1860, Sir James Wilson introduced income tax for the first time in India. While ‘Aaykar Diwas’ was celebrated for the first time on July 24, 2010, to mark 150 years of income tax in India. This year marks 162nd Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 24 – 162nd ‘Income Tax Day’ or ‘Aaykar Diwas’
- Income Tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson – on July 24, 1860
- ‘Aaykar Diwas’ was celebrated for the first time – on July 24, 2010

484. World Brain Day is observed on July 22 every year to create awareness about brain health and Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Multiple sclerosis is a potentially disabling disease that affects the brain and the spine. The World Federation of Neurology which was established on the same day in 1957 had proposed to observe the day as World Brain Day in the year 2014. In 2022, the theme “Brain Health for All”. On World Brain Day, Karnataka Health Minister Dr. K Sudhakar inaugurated India’s first “Brain Health Clinic” under the ‘Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)’ at Jayanagar General Hospital in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 22 – World Brain Day
- 2022’s theme – “Brain Health for All”
- Karnataka – inaugurated India’s first “Brain Health Clinic” under ‘Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)’ in Bengaluru

485. National Flag Adoption Day of India is observed on 22nd July every year. It is observed in the memory of the day - 22nd July 1947, a month before independence, when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Tricolor in its present form. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 22 July – National Flag Adoption Day
- Constituent Assembly adopted the Tricolor in its present form – on 22nd July 1947



486. National Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year in India on 23 July to mark the first-ever radio broadcast in India that went on air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927. Radio broadcasting services started in India during the British rule in 1922 under the initiative of the Radio Club of Bombay. Later in 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was made a private entity. All India Radio (AIR) is officially known as “Akashvani” since 1956 and is owned by Prasar Bharati. Today, All India Radio (AIR) is the largest radio network in the world with 479 stations across India. The network reaches over 92% of the area in India and is accessible to 99.19% of the population of the country. The aim of AIR is ‘Bahujan Hitaya: Bahujan Sukhaya’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 23 – National Broadcasting Day
- The first-ever radio broadcast in India went on air from Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927
- All India Radio (AIR) – officially known as “Akashvani” since 1956 (owned by Prasar Bharati)
- AIR – largest radio network in the world with 479 stations | Aim of AIR – ‘Bahujan Hitaya: Bahujan Sukhaya’
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | DG – N. Venudhar Reddy

487. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution to designate June 24 as the “International Day of Women in Diplomacy”. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the UNGA, presided over the adoption of the resolution. Sneha Dubey is India’s first secretary at the United Nations. While senior diplomat Ruchira Kamboj is India’s current Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who took charge of the post on August 1, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 24 – “International Day of Women in Diplomacy” (UNGA recently adopted a resolution for the same)
- Sneha Dubey – India’s first secretary at the United Nations
- India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations – Ruchira Kamboj
- HQs of UNGA – New York, US | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

488. On July 22, at the 52nd “Director-General Level Border Co-ordination Conference” held in Dhaka between India and Bangladesh, the two sides agreed for time and place-specific joint operations and patrolling to curb trans-border crimes and strengthen mutual trust and harmony among the forces. Both sides highlighted the importance of Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) in curbing contraband smuggling, such as narcotics, firearms, fake Indian rupee notes, and gold.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 52nd “Director-General Level Border Co-ordination Conference” between India & Bangladesh – held in Dhaka
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

489. On July 22, Telangana Minister for Information Technology KT Rama Rao launched the poster for “Intinta Innovator Exhibition 2022” along with 10 rural innovators. The 4th edition of the exhibition was organised by Telangana State Innovation Cell across 33 districts of the state as a part of Independence Day Celebrations 2022. The program aims to scout for individuals who devised innovative solutions for problems they identified in society and enable them to exhibit their innovation to respective District Collectors on August 15, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KT Rama Rao (Telangana Minister for IT) – launched the poster for “Intinta Innovator Exhibition 2022” (4th edition)
- The exhibition was organised by – Telangana State Innovation Cell
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

490. As on July 21, on behalf of partner economies including India, the US released a “Joint Statement of the 2022 Supply Chain Ministerial Forum”, focussing on the global challenge which includes - COVID-19 pandemic, Wars & Conflicts and Climate Change. According to the statement, for building collective long-term resilient supply chains based on international partnerships, all the partner countries aimed to follow various global supply chain principles including transparency, diversification, security and sustainability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Joint Statement of the 2022 Supply Chain Ministerial Forum” – released by the US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

491. On July 21, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Lok Sabha during Question Hour, incidents of Naxal violence or Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) violence in India have dropped by 77% from 2,258 in 2009 to 509 in 2021. Similarly, the resultant deaths (civilians + security forces) have reduced by 85% from all-time high of 1,005 in 2010 to 147 in 2021. However, Naxal problem continues to rise in Chhattisgarh even as it appears to be declining in other states. In 2021, Chhattisgarh accounted for 90% (45 out of 50) of all security personnel deaths in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naxal violence or Left-Wing Extremism violence in India dropped by 77% – to 509 in 2021 (from 2,258 in 2009)
- Resultant deaths (civilians + security forces) – reduced by 85% from all-time high of 1,005 in 2010 to 147 in 2021
- Chhattisgarh – accounted for 90% (45 out of 50) of all security personnel deaths due to Naxal violence in India in 2021
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

492. India received 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021, the top remittance recipient, and way ahead of countries like China and Mexico, according to a World Health Organisation’s “World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants”. As per the report, about 1 in 8 people in the world, some 1 billion, are migrants. In 2021, the top five remittance recipients in current US dollars were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Report on the Health of Refugees & Migrants” report – released by WHO
- The top 5 remittance recipients countries in 2021: India (\$87 billion), China, Mexico, Philippines & Egypt
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

493. As on July 2022, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company Marico’s Managing Director & CEO, Saugata Gupta emerged as the highest-paid CEO in the FMCG segment as his total pay package in FY 2022 witnessed a significant rise of 157% from ₹14.03 Cr in FY21 to ₹36.1 Cr in FY22. Gupta is followed by Hindustan Unilever Limited’s (HUL) CEO & MD Sanjiv Mehta (₹22 Cr), and Nestle India’s MD Suresh Narayanan (₹18.80 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saugata Gupta (MD & CEO of Marico) – emerged as the highest-paid CEO in the FMCG segment in FY 2022
- 2nd – Sanjiv Mehta (MD & CEO of HUL) | 3rd – Suresh Narayanan (MD & CEO of Nestle)

Ordinance, Bills & Acts

494. On July 20, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules. The new rule exempts Highway projects of strategic and defence importance, which are 100 km from the Line of Control (LoC), among other locations, from an Environmental clearance before construction. Thermal power plants up to 15 MW based on biomass or non-hazardous municipal solid waste using auxiliary fuel such as coal, lignite or petroleum products up to 15% have also been exempted. The EIA is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development. The EIA Rules were notified in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MEFCC – notified amendment to the ‘Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules’
- The new rule exempts Highway projects of strategic & defence importance, which are 100 km from the LoC
- The ‘EIA Rules’ were notified in 2006

495. On July 22, the Supreme Court extended Green Protection to forest land in Aravalli ranges. The SC held that all land covered by the special orders issued under ‘Section 4’ of the ‘Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA)’ in Haryana will be treated as forests and be entitled to protection under the ‘Forest Conservation Act, 1980’. Special orders under ‘Section 4’ of ‘PLPA’ are the restrictive provisions issued by the state government to prevent deforestation of a specified area that could lead to soil erosion. The court’s ruling will mean around 30,000 hectares across the Aravallis and Shivaliks in Haryana will be considered forest land. The Aravali Range is a range of mountains in western India running approximately 692 km in a northeastern direction across the Indian states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana, ending in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court – extended Green Protection to forest land in Aravalli ranges
- SC held that all land covered by the special orders issued under ‘Section 4’ of the ‘PLPA’ in Haryana will be treated as forests and be entitled to protection under the ‘Forest Conservation Act, 1980’
- Aravali Range – a range of mountains across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana & Delhi
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48th\)](#) | [From Aug 27 – Uday Umesh Lalit](#)

496. On July 22, the Lok Sabha passed the “Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022”. Earth Sciences Minister, Jitendra Singh, said that such a law was necessary under India’s obligations as a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty of 1963. Under the provisions of the Bill, private tours and expeditions to Antarctica would be prohibited without a permit or the written authorisation by a Member country. A Member country is one of the 54 signatories of the Treaty. The Bill also prohibits mining, dredging and activities that threaten the pristine conditions of the continent. Following its first expedition to Antarctica in 1982, India has now established two standing research stations, Bharti and Maitri, at Antarctica. The Bill also establishes a ‘Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha passed the “Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022”
- Private tours and expeditions to Antarctica would be prohibited without a permit or the written authorisation
- Signatory member countries of Antarctic Treaty of 1963 – 54 countries
- India has established 2 standing Research Stations at Antarctica – Bharti & Maitri
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

497. On July 21, India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement for mutual recognition of Educational degrees of students of bachelor, masters and doctoral courses. Indian senior secondary school or pre-university certificates will also be considered for entry into UK’s Higher Education Institutions, enabling mobility of students. Now onwards, UK degrees will be recognised as equivalent to Indian degrees and students will be eligible for employment in India after receiving degree in the UK. Besides, both sides also signed two MoUs on mutual recognition of Educational Qualifications, including Maritime Education and a framework agreement on Healthcare Workforce. The agreement will facilitate recruitment and training of nurses from India by the UK in a streamlined manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK = two MoUs on mutual recognition of Educational Qualifications & on Healthcare Workforce
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

498. On July 23, Tech Mahindra and Mahindra University signed an MoU to set up a new ‘Makers Lab’ for research and development in quantum computing, explainable Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse. Explainable A.I. helps in presenting data in a manner that can be understood by humans. Tech Mahindra already has 10 Makers Lab across the world and the new unit at Mahindra University will be the 11th facility globally and second in Hyderabad. Yajulu Medury is the Vice Chancellor of Mahindra University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra + Mahindra University = an MoU to set up ‘Makers Lab’ for R&D in Quantum Computing, AI & Metaverse
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani
- VC of Mahindra University – Yajulu Medury

499. On July 21, NTPC signed a statement of intent with NITI Aayog to develop the Roadmap for the Public Sector Company to achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Emissions. With this collaboration, NTPC would be able to utilize the expertise of NITI Aayog’s energy team for emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modelling including development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047 and 2070 and also get assistance in establishment of Carbon Management Unit (CMU) in NTPC with the aim of integrating all GHG reduction initiatives under one umbrella. In a separate development, on June 20, NTPC also signed an MoU with MASEN (Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy) for cooperation in renewable energy sector. Indian government’s targets to achieve 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030 and Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + NITI Aayog = statement of intent to develop the Roadmap for NTPC to achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Emissions
- NTPC + MASEN (Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy) = an MoU for cooperation in Renewable Energy sector
- Indian government's targets to achieve 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030 & Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2070
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

500. On July 23, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode signed an agreement to boost start-ups in the maritime sector. The CSL and IIMK's Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) plan to augment initiatives to develop an ecosystem for supporting the startups in maritime sector from the technical, regulatory, financial, and marketing points of view by bringing the stakeholders together. Under this initiative, start-ups can get up to Rs 50 lakh as seed grants, Rs 1 Cr as prototyping grants and equity funding for start-ups at the scale up stage.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd + IIM Kozhikode = an agreement to boost start-ups in the maritime sector
- CSL + IIMK = working on Laboratory for Innovation Venturing & Entrepreneurship (LIVE) plan for the same
- Start-ups can get up to Rs 50 lakh as seed grants & Rs 1 Cr as prototyping grants
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair | Incorporated in – 1972
- Director of IIM Kozhikode – Debashis Chatterjee



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