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National & States Affairs

551. On the occasion of the 23rd Kargil Vijay Diwas, the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Motor Bike Expedition', organised by the Indian Army, was culminated in Dras in Ladakh. The bike expedition was flagged off on July 18, 2022, by Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) from the National War Memorial, New Delhi, as a tribute to our bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland. The event was conducted under the aegis of the Northern Command of the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Motor Bike Expedition' – organised by the Indian Army
- Flagged off from – New Delhi | Culminated in Dras, Ladakh
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

552. On July 28, the government allowed companies to spend their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Funds on activities related to the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. According to the Companies Act, firms with a net worth of Rs 500 Cr or more, or a turnover of Rs 1,000 Cr or above, or net profit of 5 Cr or more, are required to spend 2% of their average net profit of the preceding 3 years on CSR activities. Defaults are treated as a civil offence. Spending on CSR across states stood at Rs 24,864 Cr in the pandemic year of FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government allowed companies to spend their CSR Funds on activities related to the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign
- Eligible firms are required to spend 2% of their average net profit of the preceding 3 years on CSR activities
- Eligibility Criteria: Net worth of Rs 500 Cr or more, or a Turnover of Rs 1,000 Cr or above, or Net profit of 5 Cr or more

553. On July 27, the Union Cabinet approved a Rs 1.64 lakh Cr package to revive the state-owned telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The package included administrative allotment of 4G spectrum worth Rs 44,993 Cr. The government would fund a capex of ₹22,471 Cr over the next 4 years to "boost development and deployment of Atmanirbhar 4G stack". In addition, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL), which was set up to implement the ambitious BharatNet project, will be merged with BSNL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved a Rs 1.64 lakh Cr package to revive BSNL (included 4G spectrum allotment worth Rs 44,993 Cr)
- Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) – will be merged with BSNL
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

554. On July 28, Google Maps has launched 'Street View' feature in India in collaboration with Tech Mahindra and Genesys International, under the Guidelines of the National Geospatial Policy (NGP). The NGP was unveiled in 2021. For the first time in the world, this service will be handled completely by local partners. The service for a 360-degree view of streets, tourist spots, and landmarks is launched in 10 cities initially. The collaboration plans to expand the service to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Maps + Tech Mahindra + Genesys International = launched 'Street View' feature in 10 cities of India
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani
- HQs of Genesys International – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Sudhir Pradhan



555. On July 29, PM Narendra Modi launched India's first International Bullion Exchange namely "India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)", and "NSE IFSC-SGX Connect" at Gandhinagar's GIFT city in Gujarat. India is the world's second biggest consumer of gold and the move to set up the IIBX is seen as India's effort to bring transparency to the market for the precious metal. India imported 1,069 tonnes of gold in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched "India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)" & "NSE IFSC-SGX Connect" at GIFT City, Gujarat
- India – world's second biggest consumer of gold & imported 1,069 tonnes of gold in 2021
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

556. On July 25, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal launched the "Smart e-beat" system, and flagged off 119 motorcycle riders of the Gurugram police for police attendance. This is a GIS-based system which would enable more effective monitoring of patrolling to help track the location of riders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched the "Smart e-beat" system in Gurugram for police attendance & effective monitoring of patrolling
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

557. On July 27, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the deadline for commencing the validation of all KYC records by KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs), by 3 months to November 1, 2022. This is the second time, when the SEBI has extended the deadline. The KYC records of all existing clients, who have used Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD), will be validated within a period of 180 days from November 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – extended the deadline for commencing the validation of all KYC records by KRAs to November 1, 2022
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

558. On July 28, Gujarat government became the first state in India to announce a dedicated "Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27" with a view to generate at least 2,00,000 new employment opportunities during a period of 5 years. In addition, the state proposes to develop a special "Semicon City" which would be part of the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR). The main objective of the policy is to make Gujarat a pioneer in developing the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem. Under the policy, Gujarat will provide additional capital assistance at 40% of the capex assistance extended by the Centre for the projects approved under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – India's first state to announce a dedicated "Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27"
- Gujarat – also proposes to develop a special "Semicon City" as part of Dholera Special Investment Region
- Gujarat will provide additional capital assistance at 40%
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

559. As per the information given by Power Minister R. K. Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, India had an installed capacity of Electricity Generation of around 403 GW as on June 30, 2022. Mr. Singh said this is sufficient to meet the Peak Power Demand of the country of around 215.89 GW which had occurred in April, 2022. The Central Government had launched "Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)" in 2015 with the objective of the financial and operational turnaround of the State-owned Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India has an installed capacity of Electricity Generation of around 403 GW as on June 30, 2022
- “Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)” – launched in 2015

560. In July 2022, while addressing the “National Family Planning Summit 2022”, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar said India has achieved replacement level fertility, with as many as 31 States/Union Territories, reaching a Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 or less. Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 Crore additional users for modern contraceptives thereby increasing their use substantially. Dr. Pawar also introduced the National Family Planning helpline manual, Community Health Officer (CHO) booklet, and ASHA brochure and leaflet (Family Planning). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharati Pravin Pawar – addressed the “National Family Planning Summit 2022”
- India has achieved replacement level fertility, with as many as 31 States/UTs, reaching a Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 or less

561. On July 28, in a written statement tabled in Rajya Sabha, Union Women & Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said India aims at reducing stunting and under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) among children under 6 years by 2% per annum. It aims to reduce low birth weight by 2% per annum, and anaemia among children between 6 and 59 months, as well as women and adolescent girls from 15 to 49 years, by 3% per annum. According to findings of the ‘2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)’, among Children under 5, stunting has reduced to 35.5%, wasting to 19.3% and underweight prevalence to 32.1%. Bihar has the highest number of underweight children (41%), followed by Gujarat (39.7%), and Jharkhand at (39.4%). Maharashtra has the highest number of wasted children (weight for height) at 25.6%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India aims to reduce:
 - Stunting & under-nutrition among children (Under 6) by 2% per annum
 - Low birth weight by 2% per annum
 - Anaemia among children (6 to 59 months) and Women & Adolescent girls (15 to 49 years) by 3% per annum
- According to the ‘2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)’: (among Children Under 5)
 - Stunting (35.5%), Wasting (19.3%), Underweight Prevalence (32.1%)
- Highest number of underweight children – Bihar (41%) | Highest number of wasted children – Maharashtra (25.6%)

562. On July 28, the Punjab government signed an agreement for becoming a member of the prestigious Global Network called ‘Under2 Coalition’ to address the issues of climate change. With this, Punjab has become a member of the largest network of 221 states of 43 countries committed to reducing carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, adopted during the ‘UNFCCC-COP 21’ in 2015. The Under2 Coalition started as a Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed by 12 founding jurisdictions on May 19, 2015 in Sacramento, California. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – signed an agreement to become a member of the ‘Under2 Coalition’ to address the issues of climate change
- Under2 Coalition – started on May 19, 2015 (after an MoU signed by 12 founding jurisdictions in California, US)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



International Affairs

563. On July 26, United Nations-backed agencies have issued guidelines to provide the first-ever “Global Policy Framework to Protect Children displaced due to Climate Change”. The Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change contain a set of 9 principles that address the unique vulnerabilities of children who have been uprooted. The guidelines cover both internal as well cross-border migrations. The land-mark guidelines were launched by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Georgetown University and the United Nations University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UN-backed Agencies – launched the first “Global Policy Framework to Protect Children displaced due to Climate Change”
- UN-backed Agencies: IOM + UNICEF + Georgetown University + UN University
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

564. On July 25, Zimbabwe’s Central Bank has decided to launch gold coins called “Mosi-oa-tunya” to be sold to the public in a bid to control hyperinflation as the country’s local currency dramatically loses value. ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’ refers to ‘Victoria Falls’ in the local Tonga language. The coins will have liquid asset status, it will be capable of being easily converted to cash, and will be tradable locally and internationally. People holding the coins can only trade them for cash after 180 days from the date of buying. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zimbabwe’s Central Bank – to launch gold coins called “Mosi-oa-tunya” to be sold to the public to control hyperinflation
- ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’ refers to ‘Victoria Falls’ in the local Tonga language
- Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar | President – Emmerson Mnangagwa

565. In July 2022, A.P. Moller - Maersk A/S (simply known as Maersk) successfully completed the first “India-Bangladesh Cross-border Logistics of Containerised Cargo” using the inland waterways of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route for Coca-Cola Bangladesh Beverages. With this, Maersk has created a new opportunity for customers to use the faster, more reliable inland waterways solution that connects the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maersk (Denmark) – successfully completed the first “India-Bangladesh Cross-border Logistics of Containerised Cargo”
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

566. On July 27, Union Bank of India is developing an automated solution for early resolution of stressed assets. The new product called “Union SARAS” (Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution) will cover recovery actions under SARFAESI, DRT and IBC. Other recovery actions include Civil Suit Revenue Recovery Act, Lok Adalat, etc. The solution will digitise all recovery functional areas, including field related work. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- UBI – is developing “Union SARAS”, an automated solution for early resolution of stressed assets
- SARAS – Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – A. Manimekhalai | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

567. On July 28, the Reserve Bank of India’s composite Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) rose to 349.30 in March 2022, compared to 270.59 in March 2021. The RBI had developed the composite RBI-DPI with March 2018 as the base year to assess the extent of digitisation of payments in India. RBI-DPI is published on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months. The RBI-DPI comprises of 5 broad parameters including - Payment enablers, Demand side factors of Payment Infrastructure, Supply side factors of Payment Infrastructure, Payment Performance and Consumer Centricity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI-DPI rose to 349.30 in March 2022 (compared to 270.59 in March 2021) | Base Year – March 2018
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

568. On July 26, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Axis Bank’s proposed acquisition of Citibank’s consumer business in India, one of the largest deals in India’s financial services space. Under the deal worth Rs 12,325 Crore, signed on March 30, Axis Bank would take over Citibank’s credit cards, personal loans and wealth management businesses that are focused on the affluent segment. The parties involved in the deal are Axis Bank Ltd, Citibank, N.A. and Citicorp Finance (India) Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved Axis Bank’s proposed acquisition of Citibank’s consumer business in India
- Axis Bank – would take over Citibank’s credit cards, personal loans & wealth management businesses
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

569. On July 18, Kotak General Insurance partnered with Inspektlabs to automate vehicle inspections for its motor insurance policy renewals with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based technology. The do-it-yourself (DIY) process will help enhance customer experience and reduce turnaround time and frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak General Ins. + Inspektlabs = partnership to automate vehicle inspections for its motor insurance policy renewals
- HQs of Kotak General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Agarwal

570. On July 25, India Post Payments Bank tied up with TATA AIG for providing TATA Accidental Guard policy to IPPB customers. A special drive has commenced from 15th July in all post offices in Goa for covering the citizens of the state under this policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB + TATA AIG = tie up for providing TATA Accidental Guard policy to IPPB customers
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018
- HQs of Tata AIG Gen Ins – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Neelesh Garg



571. On July 25, the government clarified that fresh milk and pasteurised milk are fully exempted from Goods & Service Tax (GST). Further, milk products like curd, lassi, butter milk and paneer are also exempted from GST if sold in forms other than those pre-packaged and labelled. A nominal GST of 5% applies to curd, lassi, butter milk and paneer when sold in pre-packaged and labelled form and Ultra High-Temperature Milk. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fresh milk & pasteurised milk are fully exempted from GST
- GST on milk products like curd, lassi, butter milk & paneer (when sold in pre-packaged & labelled form) – 5%

572. On July 28, Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Limited (ABHICL), in collaboration with Policybazaar.com, launched 'OPD Add-on' cover with zero waiting period for customers to address their health & wellness needs. This product can be added to the existing indemnity plans to provide unlimited medical consultation at an affordable price. This cover will help them consult doctors virtually as well, irrespective of their location. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Health Ins. + Policybazaar.com = launched 'OPD Add-on' to address health & wellness needs of customers
- HQs of ABHICL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Mayank Bathwal
- HQs of Policybazaar – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Sarbvir Singh

Defence Affairs

573. On July 28, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) signed a \$100 million contract with US engine-maker Honeywell Aerospace, for 88 'TPE331-12B Engines' to power the indigenous "Hindustan Turbo Trainer - 40" (HTT-40), on which Army, Navy and Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots will first learn to fly. HAL has successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft "HTT-40" to address the basic training requirements of the IAF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + Honeywell Aerospace = a \$100 million contract for 88 'TPE331-12B Engines' to power the indigenous "HTT-40"
- HAL – successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft "HTT-40" to address the basic training requirements of the IAF
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

574. On July 28, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, was delivered to the Indian Navy. Vikrant is built by Cochin Shipyard Limited. Besides, 2 submarine-hunting "MH-60 Romeo" helicopters were also delivered to India by the US. The helicopter is manufactured by US major Lockheed Martin. The helicopters are among 24 MH-60 Romeos to be delivered to India by 2025. The Vikrant will be capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd – delivered India's first indigenous aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant' to Indian Navy
- Lockheed Martin (US) – delivered 2 submarine-hunting "MH-60 Romeo" helicopters to Indian Navy
- All 24 'MH 60R' helicopters will be delivered by the end of 2025
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair | Incorporated in – 1972



Sports & Games

575. On July 19, the organisers of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games announced that Opening Ceremony of the “2028 Summer Olympic Games” or “2028 Los Angeles Olympics” is set for July 14, 2028 and will continue till July 30 in Los Angeles, US. In addition, the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games will be held from August 15 to 27, 2028. Los Angeles previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932. Moreover, the organisers unveiled “Games Wide Open” (Ouvrons Grand Les Jeux), as the official slogan for the 2024 Summer Olympic and 2024 Summer Paralympic Games to be held in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)

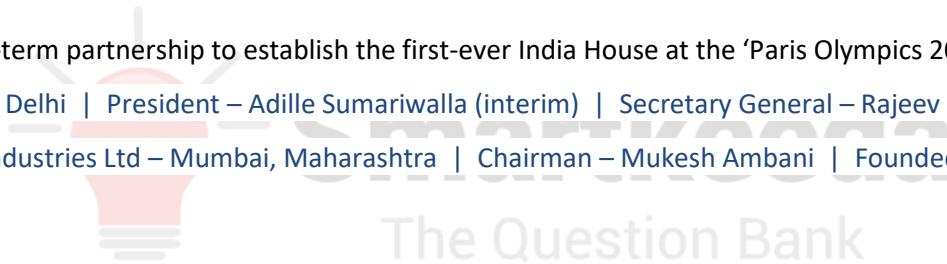
Key Points:

- Opening Ceremony of the “2028 Los Angeles Olympics” – to be in Los Angeles, US (from July 14, 2028 to July 30)
- Los Angeles previously hosted the Olympics in – 1984 & 1932
- Official slogan for ‘2024 Summer Paralympic’ (Paris, France) – “Games Wide Open” (Ouvrons Grand Les Jeux)

576. On July 27, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a long-term partnership to establish the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024. In the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics, India will also be hosting the 140th prestigious IOC Session in June 2023 at the state-of-the-art Jio World Centre in Mumbai. The IOA & RIL will together elevate the performances of Indian athletes, support the national sports federations and build the credentials of India as a global sporting nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOA + RIL = a long-term partnership to establish the first-ever India House at the ‘Paris Olympics 2024’
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – Adille Sumariwalla (interim) | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973



Persons in News

577. On July 27, England’s Leicester Cricket Ground has been named after India’s legendary cricketer, Sunil Gavaskar. The former Indian cricket team captain Gavaskar is often considered one of the most skilled batters ever. He was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket and once held the record for most number (34) of centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Leicester Cricket Ground ([England](#)) – named after Sunil Gavaskar
- Gavaskar – 1st cricketer to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



Science & Technology

578. On July 27, China successfully launched 6 new satellites into space with its new solid-propellant rocket namely “ZK 1A”. The ZK 1A, a new model of the carrier rocket, conducted its maiden flight at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China, becoming the country’s largest and most powerful solid-propellant rocket. The ZK 1A replaces the Long March 11 rocket. Meanwhile, China’s ‘Tianzhou-3’ cargo craft re-entered the atmosphere in a controlled manner on July 27.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – successfully launched 6 new satellites into space with its new solid-propellant rocket namely “ZK 1A”
- China’s ‘Tianzhou-3’ cargo craft re-entered the atmosphere
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

Appointments & Resignations

579. On July 25, the newly-elected President of the Republic of Albania, Bajram Begaj, took oath as new President of Albania. Mr. Bajram was elected as the 8th President of Albania in June 2022. Mr. Bajram succeeds Ilir Meta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajram Begaj – took oath as the 8th President of Albania (succeeding - Ilir Meta)
- [Albania – Tirana – Albanian Lek | President – Gen. Maj. Bajram Bega](#)

580. On July 25, Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), the governing body for deaf cricket in India, has appointed Roma Balwani as its CEO and Brand Custodian. Sumit Jain, President of IDCA announced the appointment. IDCA is a member of the newly formed Differently-Abled Committee set up on the initiative of Jay Shah, Secretary, BCCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roma Balwani – appointed as the CEO & Brand Custodian of Indian Deaf Cricket Association
- President of IDCA – Sumit Jain

581. On July 28, Senior scientist Himanshu Pathak was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research & Education-cum-Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Secretary, DARE-cum-DG, ICAR). Pathak is currently serving as Director, ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Maharashtra. The ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanshu Pathak – appointed as Secretary of DARE-cum-DG of ICAR
- [HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Himanshu Pathak | Established in – 1929](#)





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Important Days & Dates

582. Every year, World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on July 28 to create awareness among people about the importance and significance of natural resources. Due to the increase in the human population, natural resources have been compromised to critically dangerous levels due to challenges caused by humans such as - Global Warming, Environmental Pollution, Destruction of Flora & Fauna, and Deforestation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 28 – World Nature Conservation Day

583. The “International Tiger Day” or “Global Tiger Day” is observed every year on July 29 across the world in order to raise awareness for tiger conservation. According to the World Wildlife Fund, India is home to over half of the world’s wild tigers - 2,226, according to the Tiger Census (2018) which is conducted once every 4 years. India comprises over 70% of the tiger population globally. Tiger is one of the species that is classified as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN. Currently, Madhya Pradesh holds the status of ‘Tiger State’ with 526 tigers. Meanwhile, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, there were 1,059 tiger deaths in India since 2012 with Madhya Pradesh recording the highest number of deaths. Moreover, India is home to 52 tiger reserves with the latest addition of Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in in Bundi, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 29 – “International Tiger Day” or “Global Tiger Day”
- India has 52 Tiger Reserves (as of July 2022) | Last Tiger Census was conducted in 2018
- India comprises over 70% of the Tiger population globally (2,226) | Tiger – classified as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN
- Madhya Pradesh – holds the status of ‘Tiger State’

584. The 7th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission (SIM) was observed on July 15. National Skill Development Mission (also known as Skill India Mission) was launched on this day in 2015. Skill India is an initiative of the Central Government to empower the youth with skill sets, making them more employable. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 15 – 7th Anniversary of ‘Skill India Mission’ (also known as National Skill Development Mission) | Launched in 2015

Obituaries

585. On July 27, Eminent Assam litterateur Atulananda Goswami, known for his novels and short stories, passed away. He was 87. Goswami is widely known for his novel ‘Namghoria’ written in the early 1990s. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006 for his short story collection ‘Seneh Jarir Ganthi’. He was also bestowed with the Ambikagiri Roy Choudhury Sahitya Award, the Kumar Kishor Memorial Award, the Katha Award and the Sneha Bharati Sahitya Samman, among other honours. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Atulananda Goswami – Eminent Assam Litterateur – passed away
- His Awards:
 - Sahitya Akademi Award
 - Ambikagiri Roy Choudhury Sahitya Award
 - Kumar Kishor Memorial Award
 - Katha Award
 - Sneha Bharati Sahitya Samman

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

586. On July 27, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a seminar on “Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace”. The seminar was organised by Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (DCPC) and International Labour Organisation (ILO). Moreover, an MoU was signed between DCPC and ILO for adopting the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs). The ICSCs will be used by the department to disseminate the appropriate hazard information on chemicals at the workplace in an comprehensible and easy manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – chaired a seminar on “Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace” – organised by DCPC & ILO
- DCPC + ILO = an MoU for adopting the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | DG – Gilbert Houngbo (from Oct 1, 2022) | Founded in – 1919

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

587. The growth of global Electricity demand is falling sharply in 2022 from its strong recovery in 2021 due to slower economic growth, according to the “Electricity Market Report” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Global electricity demand is seen rising by 2.4% in 2022, down from a 6% rise in 2021. Demand growth in Asia-Pacific is seen at 3.4% in 2022. Moreover, the IEA has revised upwards India’s annual Electricity demand from 6% in 2021 to 7% in 2022 due to exceptionally high summer temperatures, leading to a significant surge in consumption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Electricity Market Report” – released by IEA
- Global electricity demand is rising by 2.4% in 2022 (from 6% in 2021) | Demand growth in Asia-Pacific in 2022 – 3.4%
- IEA revised: India’s annual Electricity demand in 2022 – 7% (from 6% in 2021)
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30



588. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) bagged the 13th spot on the "List of the World's Top 20 Busiest Airports for the full Year 2021", published by Airports Council International (ACI) World. Delhi Airport accommodated 37.14 million passengers in 2021, an increase of 30.3% from 2020. Passenger traffic across the world's airports increased to 4.6 billion in 2021, up by 28.3% from 2020 levels. With 75.7 million passengers, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (Georgia, US) is back on the top of the 2021 rankings, followed by Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (Texas, US) and Denver International Airport (Colorado, US). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "List of the World's Top 20 Busiest Airports for 2021" – published by ACI World
- Indira Gandhi International Airport – 13th spot | Top – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (Georgia, US)
- HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada | DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

589. On July 27, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has retained the tag of the richest woman in India for the second year in a row, according to the 3rd edition of "Kotak Private Banking Hurun - Leading Wealthy Women List". Roshni Nadar, with total wealth of Rs 84,330 Cr, was followed by Nykaa-owner Falguni Nayar (Rs 57,520 Cr), and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon (Rs 29,030 Cr). The report highlighted that 25 new women have made it to the list this time. The youngest self-made woman on the list was 33-year-old Kanika Tekriwal of Jetsetgo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of "Kotak Private Banking Hurun - Leading Wealthy Women List" – released on July 27, 2022
- 1st - Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Technologies), 2nd - Falguni Nayar (Nykaa), 3rd - Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon)

590. As of July 2022, there are 692 million active internet users in India, and much of the growth continues to be driven by rural India (351 million users with 37% penetration), as urban India seems to have hit a plateau (341 million users with 69% penetration), as per the report titled "Internet in India" released by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). The report is jointly prepared by IMAI and Kantar, the world's leading marketing data and analytics company. The report, which is based on 'ICUBE 2021' study, estimates that there will be 900 million internet users in India by 2025. In terms of states, Goa has the maximum internet penetration while Bihar has the lowest. According to the report, currently around 762 million Indians have not adopted the internet yet, out of which 63% are rural Indians. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Internet in India" report – released by IMAI & Kantar (based on 'ICUBE 2021' study)
- Active Internet users in India – 692 million (351 million rural + 341 million urban)
- Active Internet users expected in India by 2025 – 900 million
- Goa – has the maximum internet penetration | Lowest – Bihar

591. On July 28, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched "The Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22)". Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years, which is being undertaken now after delay due to corona pandemic. The field work of agricultural census will start in August 2022. On the occasion, Shri Tomar released the Handbook on Operational Guidelines for Census for the use of States/UTs, and launched the Data Collection Portal/App. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched “The Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22)”
- Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years (field work will start in August 2022)
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary

592. On July 28, Parle Products, with a CRP score of 6,531 million, has topped the rankings for most chosen FMGG brands, according to the 10th edition of annual “Brand Footprint report 2022” released by Kantar India. It is followed by Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products in the latest 2021 report, which ranks the most chosen FMCG brands based on consumer reach points (CRPs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th edition of “Brand Footprint report 2022” – by Kantar India
- Parle Products – topped the rankings for most chosen FMGG brands | Followed by – Amul & Britannia

Amount & Agreements

593. On 27 July, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved additional investment of \$1,600 million (around ₹12,000 Crore) by Bharat PetroResources Ltd (BPRL) for development of BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project in Brazil. The BPRL also received the Cabinet approval to increase in the limit of equity investment by BPCL and authorised share capital of the firm from ₹15,000 Cr to ₹20,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved additional investment of \$1,600 million (₹12,000 Cr) by Bharat PetroResources Ltd (BPRL) for development of ‘BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project’ in Brazil
- HQs of BPRL – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

594. On July 27, the Union Cabinet approved project for saturation of 4G mobile services in all uncovered villages of India through Universal Service Obligation Fund, at an estimated cost of Rs 26,316 Cr. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. The project cost of Rs 26,316 Cr includes capex and 5-year opex. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a Rs 26,316 Cr project for saturation of 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages of India

Acquisitions & Mergers

595. On July 26, the Competition Commission has approved the purchase of 11.43% stake in Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) by Greenforest New Energies Bidco. Greenforest New Energies Bidco is an investment vehicle jointly run by BlackRock and Mubadala Investment Company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CCI – approved purchase of 11.43% stake in Tata Power RE by Greenforest New Energies Bidco
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Tata Power RE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Ashish Khanna

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

596. On July 25, the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) and the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU) signed an MoU for an Innovative Entrepreneurial Development Training Project for the differently-abled youth in the state. This unique project has been named “Innovation by Youth with Disabilities” (I-YwD) project. Initially, about 20 people in the age group of 15-40 will be given training and each participant will be given support for 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NISH + KTU = an MoU for an ‘Innovative Entrepreneurial Development Training Project’ for the differently-abled youth
- This unique project has been named “Innovation by Youth with Disabilities” (I-YwD) project

597. On July 27, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) signed an MoU with Greenko ZeroC Private Limited, to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia. The MoU, valid for 2 years, was inked in New Delhi by ONGC Director Onshore Anurag Sharma and Greenko CEO and Managing Director Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty. The activities envisaged under this MoU will contribute toward India’s target of producing 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen per annum by 2030. This MoU will also act as a stepping stone for ONGC to achieve renewable energy targets as per its Energy Strategy 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ONGC + Greenko ZeroC = an MoU to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia
- India’s target to produce 5 MT of Green hydrogen per annum – by 2030
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Alka Mittal (addi. charge)

598. On July 27, ReNew Power signed an MoU with Egyptian government agencies and a sovereign fund to set up a Green Hydrogen Manufacturing Facility at Suez Canal Economic Zone in Egypt. The facility will entail a total investment of up to \$8 billion. According to the MoU, ReNew will set up a plant with a capacity to produce 20,000 tonne green hydrogen a year, which will later be raised to 2,20,000 tonne. As per the reports, ReNew Power is looking at setting up Green Hydrogen Projects in Egypt, Oman and Morocco. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power + Egypt = an MoU to set up a Green Hydrogen Manufacturing Facility at Suez Canal Economic Zone, Egypt
- Total investment of up to – \$8 billion
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi



599. In July 2022, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) partnered with fast-growing legal education startup LawSikho to bring world-class skill development programs resonating with the vision of NSDC to fulfill the growing need in India for skilled manpower and narrow the existing gap between demand and supply of skills. The partnership will benefit over 10,000 learners over three years. Through its mission, 'Transforming the Skill Landscape', NSDC aims to provide access to opportunities to all through quality vocational education and training. Since its inception in 2008, NSDC has trained over 3 Crore people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + LawSikho = to bring world-class skill development programs to fulfill the growing need for skilled manpower
- 'Transforming the Skill Landscape' mission – belongs to NSDC
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik (works under MoSDE)

600. On July 27, BF Infrastructure Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge Ltd, and Talgo India Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spanish manufacturer Patentes Talgo S.L., signed an agreement to set-up a joint venture for manufacturing High-Speed Passenger Trains. It will help bring state-of-the-art and high-speed rail technology and solutions. The alliance will address emerging business opportunities in the railways industry and tap upcoming domestic requirements in the field. The venture follows the Indian Railways' tender for manufacturing and maintenance of 100 new generation light-weight, energy-efficient trains. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BF Infrastructure + Talgo India = an agreement to set-up a joint venture for manufacturing High-Speed Passenger Trains





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