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# INDEX

National & States Affairs .....	5
International Affairs .....	7
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs .....	8
Sports & Games .....	9
Persons in News .....	10
Science & Technology .....	10
Appointments & Resignations .....	11
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes .....	12
Schemes & Initiatives .....	13
Important Days & Dates .....	13
Obituaries .....	15
Meeting, Conferences & Summits .....	16
Ranks, Reports & Surveys .....	16
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships .....	17



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# National & States Affairs

**51.** On July 4, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Digital India Week, 2022” in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. An integral part of the Digital India Week is the grand expo - “Digital Mela” which had more than 200 Stalls showcasing Digital India solutions for facilitating “Ease of Living”. The Digital Mela was set up at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the “Digital India Week, 2022” in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- The Digital Mela – was set up at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

**52.** The Gujarat forest department will restore 10,000 hectares of the Banni Grasslands in the coming year, and every year in the coming decade. The state plans on restoring at least 76,000 hectares of 2,497 sq km grassland which is a high-biodiversity area. The Banni grassland was also highlighted by PM Narendra Modi, in his keynote speech at the “United Nations High Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought” last year, as part of India’s endeavour to reach the target of restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The grasslands of Gujarat constitute about 4.33% (8,490 sq km) of the total geographical area. Banni grassland was declared as Protected Forest in 1955, under the “Indian Forest Act, 1927”. Banni Grasslands Reserve has 40 species of grass and 99 species of flowering plants. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Gujarat – to restore 10,000 hectares of the Banni Grasslands in the coming year
- The grasslands of Gujarat constitute about 4.33% (8,490 sq km) of the total geographical area
- Banni grassland – declared as Protected Forest in 1955, under the “Indian Forest Act, 1927”
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

**53.** On July 6, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, L. Murugan, laid the foundation stone of 2 MW Solar Power Plant at the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), also known as Milma Dairy Plant, in Ernakulam, Kerala. Ernakulam Dairy Plant is set to become India’s first fully solar powered dairy plant. This solar power project will be installed with an outlay of Rs 11.5 Cr. The minister said that 29 such units will be established in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- L. Murugan – laid foundation stone of 2 MW Solar Power Plant at the KCMMF (Milma Dairy Plant) in Ernakulam, Kerala
- Cost – Rs 11.5 Cr | It will be India’s first fully solar powered dairy plant
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**54.** On July 7, Delhi government launched the “Mission Kushal Karmi” programme under which labourers registered with the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board will be offered a skill development training course. The government will also provide a sum of at least ₹4,200 to each worker who takes the course to compensate for the loss of work during the 15-day programme. The government aims to train 2,00,000 workers in a year under the programme. The programme was conducted by the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) along with Simplex, NAREDCO and India Vision Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched the “Mission Kushal Karmi” programme for labourers
- The programme was conducted by = DSEU + Simplex + NAREDCO + India Vision Foundation
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#) | [Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)



**55.** As on July 1, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to connect One District One Product (ODOP) mart with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. With the onboarding of [odopmart.com](https://odopmart.com), the ODOP products will be displayed on all e-commerce portals and apps that are associated with ONDC. The ONDC is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – became the first state in India to connect ODOP mart with the ONDC platform
- ONDC is an initiative of – Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**56.** On July 2, Women and Child welfare representatives from six Indian States - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Telangana, signed an “Inter-State Declaration of Intent” to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons. The first of its kind agreement/declaration (also called ‘Hyderabad Declaration’) was signed at the two-day “Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking”, which was hosted by Telangana government in collaboration with non-profit organisations Prajwala and Shakti Vahini. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2-day “Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking” = hosted by Telangana + Prajwala + Shakti Vahini
- AP + Karnataka + Kerala + Odisha + Tamil Nadu + Telangana = signed an “Inter-State Declaration of Intent” to combat trafficking in persons

**57.** On July 4, PM Narendra Modi unveiled a 30-foot tall bronze statue of revolutionary fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, as part of his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations, at Pedda Amiram village near Bhimavaram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. He is popularly known as “Manyam Veerudu” (Hero of the Jungles) these parts of the State. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – unveiled a 30-foot tall bronze statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju popularly known as “Manyam Veerudu”
- The statue was unveiled at – Pedda Amiram village, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**58.** On July 6, Sikkim and West Bengal have in-principle agreed to a new “Reciprocal Transport Agreement (2022)” after factoring in all problems with the existing agreement signed in 2007. After 15 years, the demands of the transporters of both the states of West Bengal and Sikkim have been accepted. Under the new agreement, an ‘All Bengal Permit’ and ‘All Sikkim Permit’ will be issued except in restricted and protected areas, thereby solving the problems of transporters of both states. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sikkim + West Bengal = agreed to a new “Reciprocal Transport Agreement (2022)” (after 15 years)
- Under this agreement – ‘All Bengal Permit’ and ‘All Sikkim Permit’ will be issued except in restricted & protected areas
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

**59.** As on July 4, the Rajasthan government plans to introduce the first of its kind “Right to Health Bill” in the Assembly. It aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers. The state has also ensured health security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through “Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana”. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Rajasthan – plans to introduce the first of its kind “Right to Health Bill”
- Free medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh – under Rajasthan’s “Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana”
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**60.** On July 7, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a 3-day “Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam” in Varanasi, organized by the Ministry of Education in association with University Grants Commission (UGC) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The Summit provided a platform for leading Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to discuss, deliberate and share insights on strategies, success stories and best practices in implementing the National Education Policy, 2020. The key highlight of the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam was the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated “Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam” in Varanasi, UP
- Organized by = Ministry of Education + UGC + BHU
- ‘Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education’ was adopted at the event
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

## International Affairs

**61.** On July 5, all 30 Ambassadors of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) signed the Accession Protocols for Finland and Sweden at NATO’s headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. All of NATO’s 30 member countries hold the power to veto a new member. Turkey was initially proving to be an obstruction to the entry of Finland and Sweden into NATO. But all three countries recently signed a “trilateral memorandum” to extend their full support against threats to each other’s security. Moreover, Japan participated in the NATO summit for the first time. Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida attended the summit, in June 2022. The ‘2022 NATO Summit’ was held in Madrid, Spain. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ‘2022 NATO Summit’ – held in Madrid, Spain
- All 30 members of NATO – signed the ‘Accession Protocols’ for Finland & Sweden
- Japan – participated in the NATO summit for the first time
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30

**62.** On July 4, Italy’s Venice became the world’s first city to announce an entry fee for the tourists, effective January 16, 2023. It will require tourists in Venice to pay anywhere between €3 (Rs 247) and €10 (Rs 823). This step is taken to tackle the problem of crowding and over tourism. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Venice (Italy) – became the world’s first city to announce an entry fee for the tourists (effective Jan 16, 2023)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**63.** On July 4, Edelweiss General Insurance launched “SWITCH”, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority’s (IRDAI) Sandbox initiative. SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy. What makes SWITCH truly unique is that it allows customers to save money if they are driving well. This usage-based model measures not only the quantity but also the quality of driving and calculates premium accordingly. This policy is based on the concept of ‘Drive less, pay less; Drive better, pay less’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Edelweiss General Insurance – launched “SWITCH”, a motor insurance product under IRDAI’s Sandbox initiative
- This policy is based on the concept of ‘Drive less, pay less; Drive better, pay less’
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh

**64.** On July 5, SBI General Insurance launched the “Cyber VaultEdge” insurance plan, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that provides protection against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks. According to CERT-In, cyber security incidents jumped to Rs 14.02 lakh in 2021 from Rs 2.08 lakh in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SBI General Insurance – launched “Cyber VaultEdge” insurance plan
- CERT-In report: Cyber security incidents jumped to Rs 14.02 lakh in 2021 (from Rs 2.08 lakh in 2018)

**65.** State Bank of India will review its partnership with Jio for launching Payments Bank Operations. The joint venture was announced in 2018, but 4 years later, the venture is yet to be launched. Currently, the SBI holds 30% stake in the venture. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SBI – to review its partnership with Jio for launching Payments Bank Operations (JV was announced in 2018)
- SBI – holds 30% stake in the venture
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**66.** On July 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the 58th round of its order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing companies. This round of the OBICUS is for the period of April - June 2022. The RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008. The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI – launched the 58<sup>th</sup> “Order Books, Inventories & Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS)” of the ‘manufacturing sector’
- RBI has been conducting the OBICUS – since 2008
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**67.** On July 5, South Indian Bank signed an agreement with Kerala’s Forest and Wildlife Department to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centres, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units and eco-shops across the State. Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available at all 124 tourist spots that fall under the Forest Department. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- South Indian Bank + Kerala = an agreement to enable digital collection of payments at Eco-tourism Centres
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**68.** On July 1, Policybazaar, an online insurance marketplace, has launched its latest brand campaign featuring actor Pankaj Tripathi. The campaign aims at raising awareness about the significance of term life insurance. According to IBEF, India's insurance market size grew to ₹21,957.03 Cr in 2022 from ₹21,389.70 Cr in January 2021. The market share of private sector companies in the general and health insurance market rose to 49.31% in FY21 from 48.03% in FY20. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Policybazaar – launched its latest brand campaign for raising awareness about the significance of term life insurance
- The campaign features – Actor Pankaj Tripathi
- HQs of Policybazaar – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Sarbvir Singh

**69.** On June 27, the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council was convened in Chandigarh. The meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. On June 18, the GST Council had announced that the meeting would be held at Chandigarh instead of Srinagar, J & K. The council approved an increase in tax on electronic waste to 18% from 5%, and petroleum & coal bed methane to 12% from 5% earlier. Tax on household items & machinery was raised to 18% from 12%. The new rates will be effective from July 18. Moreover, Business Standard had reported that the GST Council is likely to consider a proposal for imposing a flat 28% tax on online skill gaming. Moreover, India's GST collections in June 2022 grew 56% year-on-year to around Rs 1.45 lakh Cr, compared to Rs 92,800 Cr in June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GST Council – held in Chandigarh (chaired by - Nirmala Sitharaman)
- The council approved an increase in tax on:
  - Electronic waste – from 5% to 18% | Petroleum & coal bed methane – from 5% to 12%
  - Household items & machinery – from 12% to 18% | Likely to impose 28% tax on online skill gaming
- India's GST collections in June 2022 – Rs 1.45 lakh Cr (56% year-on-year growth)

## Sports & Games

**70.** On July 3, Indian runner Parul Chaudhary smashed the national record at the Sunset Tour in Los Angeles, as she became the first athlete from India to clock 8:57.19 time in the women's 3000m event. The 27-year-old Parul finished third. Parul, who specialises in steeplechase, broke Suriya Loganathan's record of 9:04.5s, set 6 years ago in New Delhi. She will also be competing in the women's 3000m Steeplechase event at the "2022 World Athletics Championships" in Oregon, US. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Parul Chaudhary – smashed national record & became 1<sup>st</sup> athlete from India to clock 8:57.19 time in women's 3000m
- She broke the record at the 'Sunset Tour' in Los Angeles, US (overall 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament)
- "2022 World Athletics Championships" – to be held in Oregon, US



## Persons in News

**71.** On July 2, Indian Scientist Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was elected as the Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB), London, for his outstanding contributions in the field of Bio-Science, Microbiological Studies and Neuro-Science. This year Dr Hemachandran Ravikumar has also been conferred with 'The National Science Medal' for his indefatigable contribution in the field of Biology for "The Study of Memory Activities of the Cells in the Homo sapiens" and "Summarised Facts, Managements and Treatment Pattern for COVID-19" (Co-author - Mathunila Vissagan). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar ([Indian Scientist](#)) – elected as the Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB), London
- In 2022, he has also been conferred with 'The National Science Medal'

## Science & Technology

**72.** On July 5, Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a design framework to build next-generation analog computing chipsets that could be faster and require less power than the digital chips found in most electronic devices. The chipset called "ARYABHAT-1" (Analog Reconfigurable technology And Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks) is built using a novel design framework. This type of chipset can be especially helpful for AI-based applications, like Alexa or Siri. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IISc developed a design framework to build Next-generation Analog Computing Chipsets called "ARYABHAT-1"
- ARYABHAT – **A**nalog **R**econfigurable technology **A**nd **B**ias-scalable **H**ardware for **A**I **T**asks
- [Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan](#) | [Established in – 1909](#)

**73.** On July 5, Researchers from Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) discovered a novel material called "Single-crystalline scandium Nitride (ScN)" that can emit, detect, and modulate infrared light with high efficiencies. The newly discovered material can convert infrared light to Renewable Energy. The exotic polaritons in the ScN can be utilized for solar and thermal energy harvesting. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- JNCASR ([Bengaluru](#)) – discovered a novel material called "Single-crystalline scandium Nitride (ScN)"
- The newly discovered material can convert infrared light to Renewable Energy

**74.** On July 4, a plant species, Brachystelma attenuatum, which scientists had presumed extinct has been rediscovered in Hamirpur and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh after 188 years. The plant was identified by researchers from Botanical Survey of India, Dehradun and Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), Shimla. The last record of the rare plant dates back to 1835. A study on the rediscovery of the species was recently published in July 2022 issue of 'Oryx', an international research journal published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Brachystelma attenuatum (plant species) – presumed to be extinct, is rediscovered in Himachal Pradesh after 188 years
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)



**75.** The UK hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> “Summit for Space Sustainability” in London, in collaboration with the Secure World Foundation. In line with the ambitious ‘UK National Space Strategy’, George Freeman, the Minister of Science, announced a new ‘Plan for Space Sustainability’. The UK also called for an “Astro Carta” for space sustainability, based on the Artemis Accords model for sustainable space exploration. Moreover, the ISRO is developing a docking experiment called ‘SPADEX’ to provide in-orbit servicing. It looks at docking a satellite on an existing satellite, offering support in re-fuelling and other in-orbit services while enhancing the capability of a satellite. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK + Secure World Foundation = hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> “Summit for Space Sustainability” in London
- UK – announced a new ‘Plan for Space Sustainability’ in line with ‘UK National Space Strategy’
- ISRO – developing a docking experiment called ‘SPADEX’ to provide in-orbit servicing
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**76.** On July 3, Rahul Narwekar, a first-time MLA & member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was elected as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, defeating Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi. Rahul Narwekar (45) is the youngest Speaker of the Assembly, not only in Maharashtra but across India. The post of the Speaker was vacant after Congress’ Nana Patole resigned from the office in February 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rahul Narwekar – elected as the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**77.** On July 6, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab Government appointed Vijay Kumar Janjua, a 1989 batch IAS officer, as the new Chief Secretary of the State, replacing Anirudh Tewari. Also, the 1992 batch IPS officer, Gaurav Yadav, was given additional charge as the State’s Director General of Police (DGP). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vijay Kumar Janjua – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Punjab (replacing - Anirudh Tewari)
- Gaurav Yadav – is given additional charge as Punjab’s DGP
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**78.** On July 1, Justice Alok Aradhe is appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court. He takes charge, following the retirement of incumbent chief justice Ritu Raj Awasthi. Born on April 14, 1964 at Raipur, he did his BSc and LLB and enrolled as an advocate on July 12, 1988. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Justice Alok Aradhe – appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court (succeeding - Ritu Raj Awasthi)
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot



**79.** On July 6, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment of Lt Gen Mohan Subramanian of India as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He succeeds Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar also from India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lt Gen Mohan Subramanian – appointed as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
- He succeeded – Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**80.** On July 1, Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as a United States Supreme Court justice. She became the first Black woman in the US Supreme Court to serve on this position. The 51-year-old Jackson is the court's 116<sup>th</sup> justice & she replaced Justice Stephen Breyer. She recited the two oaths required for Supreme Court justices, one administered by Breyer and the other by the Chief Justice John Roberts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ketanji Brown Jackson (first Black woman) – sworn in as a US Supreme Court justice (replacing - Stephen Breyer)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**81.** On July 5, Garmin Ltd has onboarded Indian triathlete Kaustubh Radkar as the brand ambassador of its fitness segment. Radkar is an Ironman certified coach and is the first and only Indian to complete the Ironman Triathlon on 30 occasions. He was also a former Indian national swimming champion from 1995 to 2000. The Ultraman triathlon is a 3-day event that includes 10 km of swimming, 423 km of cycling, and 84.4 km of running (for a total of 517.5 km). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kaustubh Radkar – appointed as the brand ambassador of Garmin Ltd (fitness segment)
- Radkar is an Ironman certified coach & the first and only Indian to complete the 'Ironman Triathlon' on 30 occasions

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**82.** On July 3, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been recognized as one of the “Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022” by Team Marksmen in association with India Today. Organizations have been appraised on the parameters such as Employee Centricity, Organizational Purpose, Intrapreneurial Ecosystem, Work Flexibility, Diversity and Equality, Growth and Rewards, and Social Cohesion. The award showcases and celebrates organizations which have managed to maximize employee wellbeing, engagement and productivity alongside organizational performance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC – recognized as one of the “Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022” – by Team Marksmen & India Today
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

**83.** On July 5, Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named as one of four recipients of the prestigious “Fields Medal”, which is often described as the “Nobel Prize in Mathematics”. The Fields Medal is awarded every 4 years to mathematicians under age of 40. The recipients are normally announced at the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was originally due to be held in Russia this year but moved to Helsinki instead. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Maryna Viazovska ([Ukrainian Mathematician](#)) – named as one of four recipients of the prestigious “Fields Medal”
- “Fields Medal” is often described as the “Nobel Prize in Mathematics”
- The Fields Medal is awarded every 4 years to Mathematicians under age of 40
- [Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky](#)

## Schemes & Initiatives

**84.** On July 2, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has made the “National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)” as part of the Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme, providing direct government benefits to all apprentices. This would prevent delay in payments as well as significantly reduce any leakages in the system. Under NAPS, the government pays 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs 1500 per month per candidate. The NAPS was launched on August 19, 2016. As of today, more than 12 lakh apprentices have been engaged with various industries. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- MSDE – made the “National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)” as part of the DBT scheme
- Under NAPS, the government pays 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs 1500 per month per candidate
- The NAPS was launched – on August 19, 2016
- [Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

## Important Days & Dates

**85.** World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on 6 July to commemorate the first vaccination administered by French Biologist Louis Pasteur against a zoonotic disease like influenza, ebola and West Nile virus. Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria and fungi. The day was instituted on 6 July, 1885. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- July 6 – “World Zoonoses Day”
- First anti-rabies vaccination was discovered by – Louis Pasteur (in 1885)

**86.** On July 7, the first ever “World Kiswahili Language Day” was celebrated by the UNESCO with the theme of “Kiswahili for Peace and Prosperity”. Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. Kiswahili is the only African language within the Directorate of the Global Communications at the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- July 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> “World Kiswahili Language Day” – by UNESCO
- 2022’s Theme – “Kiswahili for Peace and Prosperity”
- Kiswahili is the only ‘African Language’ within the Directorate of the Global Communications at the UN
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries](#)





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इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

# Obituaries

**87.** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the death of former India goalkeeper E. N. Sudhir who passed away in July 2022. He made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic qualifiers in 1972, and represented India in 9 matches. Sudhir was also part of the National Team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the Asian Games squad in 1974. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- E. N. Sudhir – a Football Goalkeeper – passed away
- He was part of the National Team in ‘1973 Merdeka Cup’ & ‘Asian Games’ squad in 1974
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das

**88.** The Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mohammad Barkindo passed away in July 2022. From 1 August, 2016 until his death, he was the Secretary General of the OPEC. He helped to create the OPEC+ alliance between OPEC members and other oil-producing countries. Kuwait’s Haitham al-Ghais will take charge as the OPEC’s Secretary General from August, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Mohammad Barkindo – Secretary General of OPEC – passed away
- Haitham al-Ghais (Kuwait) – takes charge as the OPEC’s Secretary General from August, 2022
- HQs of OPEC – Vienna, Austria | Secretary General – Haitham al-Ghais

**89.** On July 3, the British theatre director Peter Brook, one of the world’s most innovative theatre directors, passed away at the age of 97. He used the world as his stage mounting productions ranging from challenging versions of Shakespeare through international opera to Hindu epic poems. He was best known in India for the production of “Le Mahabharata” (The Mahabharata), a French play. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Peter Brook – a British Theatre Director – Passed away
- He was best known in India for the production of a French play titled “Le Mahabharata” (The Mahabharata)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**90.** On July 5, Former Bihar Agriculture Minister and firebrand Socialist Leader, Narendra Singh passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 75. He served as agriculture minister in Nitish Kumar’s cabinet till 2014. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh – Former Bihar Agriculture Minister & firebrand Socialist Leader – passed away
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**91.** On July 6, freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair passed away at the age of 100 due to age-related ailments. P Gopinathan Nair was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma Award in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- P. Gopinathan Nair – Freedom fighter – passed away
- He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life | Padma Award (2016)



## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**92.** The 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was held in Bonn, Germany from July 3-9, 2022. Representatives of 140 governments met in the German city to consider two new scientific reports on sustainable use of wild species and values and valuation of nature. The last physical IPBES meeting was held in 2019 Paris. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – held in Bonn, Germany
- The last physical IPBES Meeting was held – in Paris, France (in 2019)
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

**93.** On July 4, the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the “India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation” was held in Yerevan, Armenia. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Sanjay Verma. The 7<sup>th</sup> IGC was held in April 2016. A Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium was inaugurated at the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> session of the “India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation” – held in Yerevan, Armenia
- [Armenia – Yerevan – Dram](#) | [PM – Nikol Pashinyan](#) | [President – Vahagn Khachaturyan](#)

**94.** On July 4, Myanmar hosted a high-level regional meeting “Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Group Meeting” with China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi and counterparts from Mekong Delta nations. The meeting was held under the theme “Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity” in the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Myanmar – hosted “Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Group Meeting” with China & counterparts from Mekong Delta
- Theme of the meeting – “Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity”
- [Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat](#) | [President – Myint Swe](#) | [PM – Min Aung Hlaing](#)

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**95.** On July 4, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal released the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems” in New Delhi. For the purpose of the Ranking, States and Union Territories are classified into 5 Categories, viz. Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Start-up Ecosystems. Gujarat and Karnataka emerged as the Best Performers in Category A, and Meghalaya in Category B. Maharashtra was felicitated as a ‘Top Performer’ State along with Telangana, Kerala and Odisha in Category A, and Jammu & Kashmir in Category B. Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh were felicitated as ‘Leaders’ in Category A. While Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan were named ‘Aspiring Leaders’ in Category A. Andhra Pradesh & Bihar emerged as ‘Emerging Startup Ecosystems’ in Category A. The participants are evaluated across 7 broad Reform Areas consisting of 26 Action Points. The DPIIT has been conducting the States’ Start-up Ranking Exercise since 2018. India has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest start-up ecosystem in the world after the US and China. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – released the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems”
- Best Performers: Category A – Gujarat & Karnataka | Category B – Meghalaya
- Top Performers: Category A – Telangana, Kerala & Odisha | Category B – Jammu & Kashmir
- Leaders: Category A – Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh
- Aspiring Leaders: Category A – Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan
- Emerging Startup Ecosystems: Category A – Andhra Pradesh & Bihar
- DPIIT has been conducting the ‘States’ Start-up Ranking Exercise’ since 2018
- India – 3<sup>rd</sup> largest start-up ecosystem in the world, after US & China

**96.** NITI Aayog, in its report titled “Alternative Products and Technologies to Plastics and their Applications”, suggested providing for a relaxation period for adoption of biodegradable plastics. As per the report, India collects only 60% of its plastic waste with the rest 40% remains uncollected and enters the environment directly as waste. India produces 3.47 million tonnes of plastics waste per annum, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report, with the per capita waste growing from 700 grams to 2,500 grams over the last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Alternative Products and Technologies to Plastics and their Applications” report – released by NITI Aayog
- India collects only 60% of its plastic waste & 40% remains uncollected
- As per the CPCB report: India produces 3.47 MT of plastics waste per annum
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery

**97.** On July 5, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal released the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the “State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA)”. Odisha has been adjudged the top ranked State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot and Andhra Pradesh at third amongst the General Category States. Among the Special Category states/UTs, Tripura stood first followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – released the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the “State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA)”
- General Category states: 1<sup>st</sup> – Odisha | 2<sup>nd</sup> – UP | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Andhra Pradesh
- Special Category states/UTs: 1<sup>st</sup> – Tripura | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Himachal Pradesh | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sikkim

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**98.** On July 4, Renewable Energy major Greenko and IIT Hyderabad signed an MoU to launch India’s first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology. The “Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST)” will help plug the gaps in research, education and skills in the sustainable development space. Greenko has an installed renewable energy capacity of about 7.5 GW across wind, solar and hydro capacities and over 10 GW of projects under development. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Greenko + IIT Hyderabad = an MoU to launch India's first dedicated school for Sustainable S&T
- The school will be called – “Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST)”
- Director of IIT Hyderabad – B. S. Murty

**99.** On July 6, a unit of Russian nuclear major Rosatom State Corporation signed an agreement to supply thermocouples for 4 power units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu. LUCH Scientific Production Association, the R&D unit of Rosatom, will provide the new sensors designed for thermal control of NPP process equipment, which will replace the old ones in the internal reactor control systems of the units 1 and 2 of KNPP. [{Read more}](#)

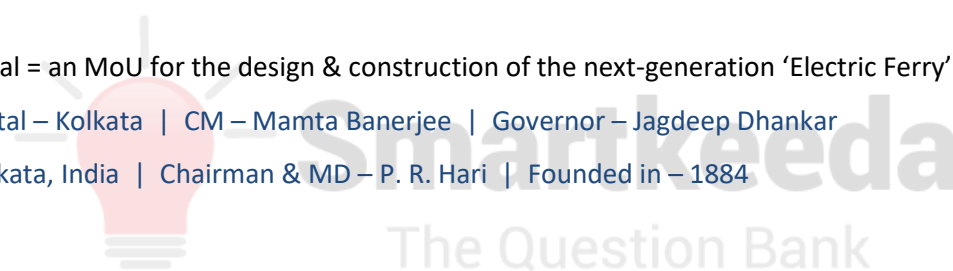
**Key Points:**

- Rosatom (Russia) – to supply thermocouples for 4 power units of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**100.** On July 7, the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) signed a contract with the Government of West Bengal for the design and construction of the next-generation Electric Ferry that will pave the way for reducing carbon emission in the water transport sector in the state. This ‘Green Vessel’ (Electric Ferry) has the potential to replace the conventional diesel engine driven ferries operated in the Hooghly River. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GRSE + West Bengal = an MoU for the design & construction of the next-generation ‘Electric Ferry’
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884





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