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# **National & States Affairs**

**251.** On July 10, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formed a 3-member committee to carry out a delimitation exercise of Municipal Wards in Delhi. The delimitation exercise will pave the way for the city's first civic polls after the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) reunification. Vijay Kumar Dev, the State Election Commissioner, will chair the committee. The committee will submit report in 4 months. On April 5, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was passed by Parliament to reunify the three corporations. Maximum 250 municipal wards can be created under the 'Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MHA – formed a 3-member committee to carry out a delimitation exercise of Municipal Wards in Delhi
- The committee will be chaired by – Vijay Kumar Dev (State Election Commissioner)
- Maximum 250 municipal wards can be created under the 'Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022'
- [Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah](#) | [Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik](#)

**252.** On July 16, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway, which passes through 7 districts of Uttar Pradesh and has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 14,850 Cr. The four-lane expressway extends from NH-35 and merges with the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi inaugurated 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway – in Uttar Pradesh (Cost - Rs 14,850 Cr)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**253.** On July 12, ReNew Power successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity Dollar-denominated Bonds worth \$525 million. The bonds were issued in 2019. The refinancing has cut the bonds' INR interest cost by 200 basis points, with the interest rate fixed for 3 years while pushing out the maturity to the end of fiscal year 2027. With this, ReNew Power became the first Indian Renewable Energy Company to refinance dollar-denominated bonds. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ReNew Power – successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity Dollar-denominated Bonds worth \$525 million (first company)
- The bonds were issued in 2019
- [HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha](#)

**254.** On July 8, Bharat Alt Fuel, which focuses on alternative fuel technology and e-mobility, announced to set up a Greenfield Unit in Tamil Nadu at an investment of ₹250 Crore to manufacture Electric Vehicles, Batteries and Motors. The integrated facility spread across 40,000 square metres in Krishnagiri, around 300 kms from here, was expected to commence production in the second half of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bharat Alt Fuel – to set up a Greenfield Unit in Tamil Nadu to manufacture Electric Vehicles (investment of ₹250 Cr)
- [HQs of Bharat Alt Fuel – Thane, Maharashtra](#)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**255.** On July 12, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendras across the state to strengthen the Pre-primary Education System. With this, Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to initiate process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the Pre-primary Level. The 'Bal Vatikas' will function at 4,457 anganwadi kendras in the state and will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school. The CM also said that the New Education Policy will be fully implemented in Uttarakhand by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – inaugurated 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendras to strengthen the Pre-primary Education System
- Uttarakhand – India's first state to initiate process of implementing the Centre's NEP 2020 at the Pre-primary Level
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

**256.** In July 2022, French aviation giant Safran Group announced to set up a "Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Facility" for its aircraft engines in Hyderabad at an initial investment of USD 150 million (around Rs 1,200 Cr) and create around 1,000 new job opportunities. This will be SAFRAN's largest MRO facility globally and will be the first Engine MRO established by Safran in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Safran – to set up its "MRO Facility" for its aircraft engines in Hyderabad (its largest MRO globally & first in India)
- [HQs of Safran – Paris, France](#)

**257.** To bolster measurement of Air Pollution in rural India, the IIT Kanpur is embarking on a \$2.5 million project (Rs 19 Cr) to install nearly 1,400 sensors in rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The 3-year pilot project is expected to pave the way for a national network of Air Quality Sensors in rural India. India's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) and 60 micrograms/cubic metre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kanpur – installed nearly 1,400 sensors in rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh & Bihar to bolster measurement of Air Pollution in rural India
- India's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 & PM 10 – 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup> & 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms/cubic metre)
- [Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar](#)

**258.** In July 2022, the Registrar General and Census Commission of India, Dr. Vivek Joshi inaugurated a new 'Census Data Workstation' at IIT Delhi's Economics Lab in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Census Data Workstation shall help spread awareness about the extensive amount of data colleges during Census operations in the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Vivek Joshi inaugurated a new 'Census Data Workstation' at IIT Delhi
- Registrar General & Census Commission of India – Dr. Vivek Joshi
- [Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao](#)

**259.** On July 7, India's third power exchange namely "Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX)" (erstwhile Pranurja Solutions Ltd) was launched. It is backed by BSE and Power Trading Corporation (PTC). PTC India and BSE Investment hold 25% each in HPX, followed by 9.9% held by ICICI Bank. HPX received a nod from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The other two exchanges in India are Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL), of which IEX holds 98%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 3<sup>rd</sup> power exchange "Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX)" is launched (formerly known as Pranurja Solutions)
- Other 2 power exchanges: Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) & Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)
- HPX – backed by BSE & Power Trading Corporation (each hold 25% in HPX) | ICICI Bank holds 9.9%
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"
- Location of HPX – Mumbai

**260.** On July 9, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai held a joint review meeting with the officials of the Environment Department and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee regarding the construction of India's first e-waste Eco Park at Holambi Kalan in Delhi in an area of about 21 acres. An 11-member steering committee has been formed and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has been made its implementing agency. Delhi produces over 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year, or about 9.5% of the total amount produced in India, and only 5% of the generated e-waste is properly recycled. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 11-member Steering Committee is formed – to monitor the construction of India's first e-waste Eco Park in Delhi
- Implementing Agency – DSIIDC | Delhi produces over 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year (about 9.5%)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**261.** On July 10, the government introduced certification of authenticity for jute products with the unveiling of "Jute Mark India" logo, by the Union Textile Secretary U. P. Singh. It is an initiative to promote and protect Indian jute products. National Jute Board is the nodal agency of the Union Textiles Ministry, responsible for the promotion of jute and jute products in India and abroad. JMI Scheme was implemented under an umbrella scheme for development and promotion of the jute sector between FY22 and FY26 with a total financial outlay of Rs 485.58 Cr by the Centre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- U. P. Singh (Union Textile Secretary) – introduced "Jute Mark India" logo for certification of authenticity of jute products
- National Jute Board is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Textiles
- Outlay of JMI Scheme – Rs 485.58 Cr
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**262.** On July 12, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) introduced "Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS)" by amending the import policy of major paper products from 'Free' to 'Free subject to compulsory registration under PIMS'. PIMS shall come into effect from October 1, 2022. However, the online facility of registration is available from July 15, 2022. Paper products like currency paper, bank bond and Cheque paper, security printing paper, etc. have been excluded from mandatory registration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DGFT introduced "Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS)"
- Import policy of major paper products amended – from 'Free' to 'Free subject to compulsory registration under PIMS'
- DGFT functions under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DGFT – New Delhi | Director General – Santosh Kumar Sarangi

**263.** On July 12, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture indigenously-developed India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against Cervical Cancer. Cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age with a high death ratio in India. Every year in India, 1,22,844 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 67,477 die from the disease. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCGI – granted authorisation to SII to manufacture indigenously-developed India's 1<sup>st</sup> qHPV against Cervical Cancer
- HQs of SII – Pune, MH | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966

## **International Affairs**

**264.** In July 2022, the UNESCO has added the cooking of Ukrainian borscht to its list of endangered cultural traditions. It was inscribed on UNESCO's list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' in need of urgent safeguarding. Borscht is a soup made of beetroot and other vegetables. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UNESCO – added the cooking of Ukrainian borscht to its list of 'Endangered Cultural Traditions'
- Borscht is a soup made of beetroot & other vegetables
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

**265.** On July 12, European Union Finance Ministers formally approved Croatia to become the 20<sup>th</sup> member of the Euro Common Currency (Euro Zone) from January, 2023. The conversion rate is set for entry at 1 Euro to 7.53450 Croatian kuna. Croatia has been an EU member since 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Croatia – to become 20<sup>th</sup> member of the Euro Common Currency (Euro Zone) from January, 2023
- The conversion rate is set for entry at 1 Euro to 7.53450 Croatian kuna
- Croatia has been an EU member since 2013
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

## **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**266.** On July 10, Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to offer specially designed products to the Defence personnel under its flagship scheme 'PNB Rakshak Plus'. All Defence Personnel (i.e. all three wings of Defence) are eligible to open a salary account under the scheme. The scheme also includes Personal Accidental (Death) cover of Rs 50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PNB + IAF = an MoU to offer specially designed products to the Defence personnel under 'PNB Rakshak Plus' scheme
- The scheme includes Personal Accidental (Death) cover of Rs 50 lakh
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – "The Name You Can Bank Upon"
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**267.** On July 14, Indian Bank won the “Best Performing Bank” award in Tamil Nadu for FY 2021-22 under ‘SHG Bank Linkage Programme’ category from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during its 41<sup>st</sup> Foundation Day. The award was presented by the Tamil Nadu finance minister, Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Bank – won the “Best Performing Bank” award for FY 2021-22 in Tamil Nadu – from NABARD
- Award category: ‘SHG Bank Linkage Programme’
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

**268.** On July 9, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) collaborated with Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS) to co-create a Master’s Degree Programme in Management Studies in Digital payments for its employees. It was launched under NPCI’s “Learn while You Earn” higher education programme. The programme will integrate aspects of technology, finance, BFSI, and information system and management studies into a single master’s specialisation in digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI + JBIMS = to co-create a Master’s Degree Programme in Management Studies in Digital Payments for its employees
- It was launched under NPCI’s “Learn while You Earn” higher education programme
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- Location of JBIMS – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**269.** India’s headline retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 7.01% in June 2022 from 7.04% in May 2022, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on July 12, 2022. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that the CPI-based inflation has remained above the RBI’s upper margin of 6%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoSPI: India’s CPI-based retail inflation rate in June 2022 – 7.01% (from 7.04% in May)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**270.** On July 12, Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. and Common Services Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, have partnered to provide over 5 lakh CSCs access to a select range of Star Health insurance products. This tie-up aims to increase health insurance penetration in rural India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Star Health & Allied Insurance + CSC = to provide over 5 lakh CSCs access to Star Health insurance products
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan
- HQs of CSCs – New Delhi | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh (works under – MeitY)
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**271.** On July 13, Agri-tech startup nurture.farm partnered with SBI General Insurance and Future Generali India Insurance Company to offer insurance solutions to 1.9 million farmers in 2022-23. nurture.farm is an open digital platform for growers, farming communities and food systems. The company had recently received a corporate agency licence from the IRDAI. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- nurture.farm + SBI General Insurance + Future Generali India Insurance = partnership to offer Insurance Solutions
- HQs of nurture.farm – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Paritosh Tripathi | Tagline – “Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono”
- HQs of FGILI – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Bruce de Broize

**272.** On July 13, NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT Limited, announced a strategic partnership with HDFC Bank to build new age Digital Talent for the banking industry. The first learning program to be launched is the ‘HDFC Bank Data Digits-Post Graduate Program in Data Engineering’. This program is the first of planned initiatives to raise digital skills in the Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI) industry. Through this program the bank hopes to hire close to 100 data scientists in a year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NIIT IFBI + HDFC Bank = a strategic partnership to build new age Digital Talent for the banking industry
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

## Sports & Games

**273.** On July 11, Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc won the Formula One (F1) title of the “Austrian Grand Prix 2022” for a third victory of the season. Red Bull’s Max Verstappen finished second, while Mercedes’ Lewis Hamilton finished third. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Charles Leclerc ([Ferrari](#)) – won the “Austrian Grand Prix 2022”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Max Verstappen ([Red Bull](#)) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lewis Hamilton ([Mercedes](#))

**274.** On July 13, Indian Cricketer, Shikhar Dhawan announced a collaboration with Web3 fintech startup, Bliv.Club, and Web3 metaverse startup, WIOM to launch the first sports city in the metaverse. The launch is scheduled for September, 2022. The sports city in the metaverse will be home to cricket stadiums, a sportsplex, sports cafe, gym, e-sports zone, cottages, running tracks, 3D immersive sports museum and sports library. The global metaverse market is anticipated to reach a market value of around \$1,803 billion by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Shikhar Dhawan collaborated with ‘Bliv.Club’ & ‘WIOM’ to launch the first sports city in the Metaverse
- Global metaverse market is anticipated to reach a market value of around \$1,803 billion by 2030

**275.** On July 10, India’s teenage Grandmaster P. Iniyen finished second in the “La Plagne International Open Chess Tournament 2022”. Ukraine GM Vitaly Sivuk won the first prize on the basis of a better tie-break score, while India’s Sayantan Das took the third place. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- P. Iniyen ([Indian GM](#)) – finished second in the “La Plagne International Open Chess Tournament 2022”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Vitaly Sivuk ([Ukraine](#)) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sayantan Das

**276.** On July 12, India's 94-year-old Bhagwani Devi Dagar bagged a Gold and two Bronze medals at the "World Masters Athletics Championships 2022" held in Finland. She achieved the feat in 100 metres sprint clocking 24.74 seconds. She also won one of the bronze medals for shot put. She is from Haryana. Moreover, another 105-year-old woman from Haryana, Rambai, has set an incredible record by becoming the oldest one to win a Gold medal in a 100m sprint race in just 45.40 seconds at the "National Open Masters Athletics Championships" in Vadodara, Gujarat, in June 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Masters Athletics Championships 2022" – held in Finland
- Bhagwani Devi Dagar ([Haryana](#)) – won a Gold & two Bronze medals in 100m sprint race (at the age of 94)
- Rambai ([Haryana](#)) – the oldest woman to win a Gold medal in a 100m sprint race at "National Open Masters Athletics Championships" in Vadodara, Gujarat (in June)

**277.** On July 14, the Indian shooting trio of Prithviraj Tondaiman, Vivaan Kapoor and Bhowneesh Mendiratta clinched a silver medal for the country at the ongoing "International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun" stage in Changwon, South Korea. In the Gold medal match, the Indian trio lost to their Slovakian opposition by 6-2. Moreover, India's Arjun Babuta won Gold medal at the ISSF World Cup stage, beating Lucas Kozeniesky of the USA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Babuta ([Indian Shooter](#)) – won Gold medal at the 'ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2022' – in South Korea
- Prithviraj Tondaiman, Vivaan Kapoor & Bhowneesh Mendiratta ([Indian trio Shooters](#)) – won Silver medal

## Science & Technology

**278.** On July 8, the US-based GE Healthcare announced the launch of its 5G Innovation Lab in India and across the globe. The 5G innovation lab is situated at the John F. Welch Technology Centre (JFWTC) Bengaluru and is GE Healthcare's largest R&D centre outside of the USA. At the 5G Innovation Lab, their lead scientists and technologists will research and develop solutions for the most pressing healthcare issues, for India and the world. GE Healthcare is a billion-healthcare business of General Electric. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GE Healthcare ([US](#)) – announced the launch of its 5G Innovation Lab in India & across the globe – located at Bengaluru
- It is GE Healthcare's largest R&D centre outside of the USA

**279.** On July 13, Chennai-based space tech start-up, Agnikul Cosmos, opened its rocket making facility "Rocket Factory - 1", which is India's first-ever facility dedicated to 3D printed rocket engines. The facility is situated at the IIT Madras Research Park and was formally inaugurated by N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and S. Somanath, Chairman of ISRO. Agnikul had entered into an agreement with EOS in 2021 as their 3D printing partner for engines. Agnikul is also building India's first private small satellite launch vehicle - "Agnibaan". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Agnikul Cosmos – India's first-ever facility dedicated to 3D printed rocket engines namely "Rocket Factory - 1"
- Agnikul Cosmos – is also building India's first private small satellite launch vehicle - "Agnibaan"
- [HQs of Agnikul Cosmos – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#) | [Co-Founder & CEO – Srinath Ravichandran](#)

**280.** On July 14, Samsung developed a new graphics Dynamic Random-Access Memory (DRAM) chip called “Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6)” with a faster speed and improved power efficiency. The 24-gigabit GDDR6 adopts 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation, 10-nanometer technology and boasts a data processing speed that is over 30% faster than existing products. The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to 1.1 terabytes per second, which Samsung claims is the fastest in the world. The GDDR6 DRAM also improves power efficiency more than 20%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Samsung – developed a new (24-gigabit) graphics DRAM chip called “Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6)”
- The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to 1.1 terabytes per second
- [HQs of Samsung Electronics – Suwon-si, South Korea | CEO – Jong Hee Han](#)

**281.** On July 14, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani) Hyderabad’s Technology Business Incubator (TBI) announced to support ‘Abyom’, a start-up looking to develop ‘Reignition Liquid Engine’ for building India’s first reusable sounding rocket. Abyom, recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is working on building a liquid propulsion rocket engine and testing system for use on space launch vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BITS Pilani Hyderabad’s Technology Business Incubator – will support ‘Abyom’ to develop ‘Reignition Liquid Engine’
- Abyom is working on building a Liquid Propulsion Rocket Engine, India’s first reusable sounding rocket
- [Location of BITS Pilani – Pilani, Rajasthan](#)
- [HQs of Abyom SpaceTech & Defence – Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh](#)

**282.** On July 13, the US Air Force successfully tested two Lockheed Martin Corp hypersonic missiles. The US Air Force successfully tested its Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) booster off the California coast. In a separate successful hypersonic weapon test, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) demonstrated its Operational Fires program. Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at speeds of more than five times the speed of sound, or about 6,200 km (3,853 miles) per hour. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US Air Force successfully tested two Lockheed Martin Corp hypersonic missiles:
  - Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) booster
  - DARPA demonstrated its Operational Fires program
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**283.** Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) announced the re-election of Devesh Sachdev (Founder & CEO of Fusion Micro Finance) as the Chairperson and Vivek Tiwari (MD & CEO of Satya Microcredit Ltd) as its Vice Chairperson at its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on July 4, 2022. In addition, MFIN also announced the induction of Abhisheka Kumar and Ankush Golechha to represent the medium and small MFIs respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Devesh Sachdev ([Founder & CEO of Fusion Micro Finance](#)) – re-elected as the Chairperson of MFIN
- Vivek Tiwari ([MD & CEO of Satya Microcredit](#)) – re-elected as Vice Chairperson of MFIN
- [HQs of MFIN – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Alok Mishra | Chairman – Devesh Sachdev](#)

**284.** In July 2022, Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been the face of government's handling of Sri Lanka's economic crisis, is elected as the new President of the island nation. He had been the acting President after Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned. The 73-year old won the three-way Presidential polls in the Sri Lankan parliament with 134 votes. Moreover, Senior politician Dinesh Gunawardena became the 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ranil Wickremesinghe – elected as new President of Sri Lanka
- Dinesh Gunawardena – elected as 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee](#)
- [PM – Dinesh Gunawardena](#) | [President – Ranil Wickremesinghe](#)

**285.** In July 2022, the Public Enterprise's Selection Board (PESB) selected Sanjay Kumar for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. Currently, he is serving as Director (Network Planning & Marketing) and (Project, Operations & Maintenance - Additional Charge) in Railtel. Sanjay Kumar replaces Aruna Singh who is currently holding additional charge for the post. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjay Kumar – selected by the PESB for the post of MD & Chairman of RailTel Corporation of India
- [HQs of RailTel – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Sanjay Kumar](#)

**286.** On July 15, Manoj Kumar assumed charge as the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). While on July 14, Preeta Verma, CEO of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), inaugurated "Knowledge Portal" for Khadi, a platform which is developed by the Center of Excellence for Khadi to provide design directions to the Khadi institutions. The Center of Excellence for Khadi has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Kumar – appointed as the Chairman of KVIC
- Preeta Verma – inaugurated "Knowledge Portal" to provide design directions to the Khadi institutions
- It is developed by – Center of Excellence for Khadi (set up by KVIC)
- [HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Manoj Kumar](#) | [CEO – Preeta Verma](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#)

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**287.** On July 12, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena launched "SAH-BHAGITA" scheme to increase the involvement of the Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) in optimal tax collection and waste management systems. He also announced significant changes in the Property Tax Policy of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) after its unification. Major changes in tax property policy, focus on waste management. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched "SAH-BHAGITA" scheme to reward RWAs for property tax compliance
- V. K. Saxena (Delhi Lt. Gov.) – announced significant changes in the Property Tax Policy of MCD after its unification
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#) | [Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)



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## Important Days & Dates

**288.** World Youth Skills Day is marked every year on 15 July to celebrate the importance of training young individuals with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. In 2022, the theme is “Transforming Youth Skills for the Future”. In December 2014, the UNGA had adopted a resolution to declare 15 July as World Youth Skills Day with the aim of achieving better socio-economic conditions for today's youth. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- July 15 – World Youth Skills Day
- 2022's Theme – “Transforming Youth Skills for the Future”

## Obituaries

**289.** On July 9, Brijendra Kumar Syngal, an IITian & former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), passed away at the age of 82. Syngal, referred to as “Father of Internet” in India, joined Reliance following a controversial exit from VSNL. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Brijendra Kumar Syngal – an IITian & former Chairman of VSNL – passed away
- Syngal – referred to as “Father of Internet” in India



**290.** On July 12, Ministry of Mines organised the 6<sup>th</sup> “National Conclave on Mines & Minerals” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav iconic week celebrations at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was the chief guest of the conclave which was inaugurated by Union Minister of Mines, Pralhad Joshi. Some of the highlights of the conclave include conferring of national level award ‘Rashtriya Khanij Vikas Puraskar’ to the best performing States in the field of mining, launch of three modules of Mining Tenement System (MTS), awards for 5-Star rated mines for the year 2020-21 and ‘National Geo Science Awards-2019’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Mines – organised the 6<sup>th</sup> “National Conclave on Mines & Minerals” in New Delhi
- Chief Guest – Amit Shah | Inaugurated by – Pralhad Joshi
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**291.** India ranks 135 among a total of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s "Global Gender Gap Index 2022" and is the worst performer in the world in the "Health and Survival Sub-Index" where it is ranked 146. India also ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126). The report notes that India's score of 0.629 was its seventh-highest score in the last 16 years. Iceland (90.8%) is leading the global ranking, followed by Finland (86%, 2<sup>nd</sup>) & Norway (84.5%, 3<sup>rd</sup>). In 2021, India ranked 140 out of a total 156 countries on the index. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- WEF's "Global Gender Gap Index 2022": India – 135<sup>th</sup> (0.629) | 1<sup>st</sup> – Iceland (90.8%), 2<sup>nd</sup> – Finland, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Norway
- "Health and Survival Sub-Index": India – 146<sup>th</sup> (last)

**292.** The total youth population in India increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and thereafter decrease to 345.5 million by 2036, according to the "Youth in India 2022" report released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Proportion of youth to total population of India had increased from 26.6% in 1991 to 27.9% in 2016 and then declined, and would reach 22.7% by 2036. The persons between the age group of 15 and 29 years are considered youth while people aged 60 and above are elderly. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Youth in India 2022" report – released by MoSPI
- Total youth population in India: 222.7 million in 1991, 333.4 million in 2011 & 371.4 million by 2021 (estimated)



## Amount & Agreements

**293.** On July 13, Jubilant Pharma Holdings signed an agreement with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) for a 5-year loan of USD 400 million (about Rs 3,186 Cr). The majority of the amount will be used for repayment of existing term loan and debt bonds aggregating USD 350 million and additional tranche of USD 50 million for future growth capex. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Jubilant Pharma Holdings + SCB = an agreement for a 5-year loan worth USD 400 million (about Rs 3,186 Cr)
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters | CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**294.** On July 13, Infosys Ltd signed a definitive agreement to acquire Denmark-based BASE life science, a leading technology and consulting firm in the life sciences industry, for up to €110 million (about \$111 million). The acquisition is expected to close during the second quarter of FY23. BASE has about 200 multidisciplinary industry experts across Denmark, Switzerland, UK, Germany, France, Italy, and a nearshore technology hub in Spain. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Infosys – to acquire BASE life science ([Denmark](#)) for up to €110 million (about \$111 million)
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981

# **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**295.** On July 12, Madagascar government and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) signed an MoU for participating in the “e-VBAB” (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project. The technological upgradation & extension of the “Pan African e-Network Project (PAeNP)” is known as “e-VBAB”. With the signing of this MoU, different online degree/diploma courses will be offered to Malagasy citizens, free of cost. A total of 26 major Indian universities are participating in the project offering more than 300 different courses in Management, Computer Science, Commerce, Science, Health care, Humanities and Arts. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Madagascar + TCIL = an MoU for participating in the “e-VBAB” (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project
- [Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary](#) | [President – Andry Rajoelina](#)

**296.** On July 12, University of Hyderabad and National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) signed an MoU for collaboration on fundamental areas of Biological Sciences for a period of 5 years. Faculty, researchers and scientists from both the institutions will collaborate on animal biotechnology or allied areas. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- University of Hyderabad + NIAB = an MoU for collaboration on fundamental areas of Biological Sciences for 5 years
- [Location of NIAB – Hyderabad, Telangana](#)

**297.** On July 14, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnered with Telangana for Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA). The platform aims to strengthen food systems and food security by the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. DiCRA is a first-of-a-kind digital solution that aims to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DiCRA will help farmers mitigate the effects of climate change on their crops and livestock, boost the resilience of their livelihoods, and wider food security. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- UNDP + Telangana = partnered for ‘Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)’ to help farmers
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, US](#) | [Administrator – Achim Steiner](#) | [Founded in – 1965](#)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**298.** On July 12, the Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare (DA&FW) and Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) signed an MoU on commencement of Phase-2 activities of IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) to scale up the existing partnership for food and nutrition security in the South Asian region. The ISARC also set up a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) that includes a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw. In December 2021, PM Narendra Modi had inaugurated state-of-the-art Speed Breeding Facility (SpeedBreed) at ISARC in Varanasi. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- DA&FW + IRRI = an MoU on commencement of Phase-2 activities of ‘IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC)’
- PM Modi – had inaugurated state-of-the-art ‘Speed Breeding Facility’ at ISARC in Varanasi in Dec 2021
- [HQs of IRRI – Los Banos, Philippines](#)



**299.** On July 13, Delhi's Transport Department signed an MoU with the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-D) to conduct research and develop technologies to enhance mobility in the Capital. The Centre for Sustainable Mobility (CSM) was also inaugurated at IIIT-D. The centre seeks to help the Transport Department in identifying problem areas and define a technology roadmap toward solving problems of urban mobility in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

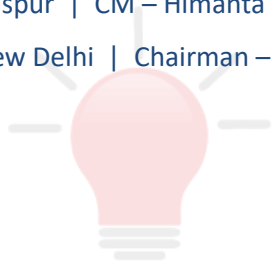
**Key Points:**

- Delhi's Transport Department + IIIT-D = an MoU to conduct R&D technologies to enhance urban mobility in the UT
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**300.** On July 12, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development and Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with Assam Agriculture University to conduct trainings on pre-harvest and post-harvest management and other research activities for the promotion of export from the region. The APEDA assisted the Assam Govt in setting up a modern pork processing facility at Nazira which has a slaughtering capacity of 400 animals per day. APEDA had also organised Conference on the Export Potential of Natural, Organic and Geographical Indications (GI) Agro Products in Guwahati on June 24, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- APEDA + Assam Agriculture University = an MoU to conduct trainings on pre-harvest & post-harvest management
- APEDA – assisted the Assam Govt in setting up a modern Pork Processing Facility at Nazira
- 'Conference on the Export Potential of Natural, Organic & GI Agro Products' – organised by APEDA in Guwahati (in June)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Angamuthu | Established in – 1986 (functions under Ministry of C&I)



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