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National & States Affairs

351. In July 2022, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated India's largest online herbarium database, the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal. The portal has been developed by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) under the framework of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India'. The database created is the largest storage of information about plant diversity in India. An herbarium (Latin: hortus siccus) is a collection of plant samples with associated data preserved for long-term study. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – inaugurated 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal (India's largest online herbarium database)
- The portal is developed by – BSI (under the framework of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India')
- HQs of BSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – Ashiho Asosii Mao

352. In July 2022, Pharmaceutical company Bajaj Healthcare Limited has become the first private player in India to be awarded a government contract for the highly-regulated Opium processing sector. That means the company can use opium to extract active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used in medicines. Thane-based Bajaj Healthcare had received two letters from the central government to manufacture APIs from processing of unlanced poppy capsule as well as straw and opium gum. The contracts will be valid for a period of 5 years. The company said it will execute both tenders at their API manufacturing unit in Savli, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Healthcare – became the first private player in India to be awarded a government contract for the highly-regulated Opium processing sector
- HQs of Bajaj Healthcare – Thane, Maharashtra

353. To commemorate 75 years of Independence, a nationwide campaign called 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is launched in which 20 Cr houses and 100 Cr people were supposed to hoist the National Flag in at their houses between August 13 and 15. To make things easy for the citizens, the central government modified the "Flag Code of India, 2002", to allow the tricolour to be displayed in the open and on individual houses/buildings day and night. Before this modification, the flag could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset. In December 2021, the Flag Code of India was modified, allowing the use of polyester apart from cotton, wool, silk and khadi for making flags. On January 26, 2002, the Flag Code of India came into effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A nationwide campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga' was launched to commemorate 75 years of Independence
- Central Govt modified "Flag Code of India, 2002", to allow the flag to be displayed in the open & on individual houses/buildings day & night
- 'Flag Code of India' came into effect – on January 26, 2002

354. In July 2022, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) barred hotels and restaurants from levying service charge automatically or by default in food bills and allowed customers to file complaints in case of violation. The consumer may lodge a complaint against the violator hotel or restaurants on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) - 1915 or through NCH mobile app. The Ministry highlighted that the consumer may also file a complaint against unfair trade practice with the Consumer Commission through "e-Daakhil" portal for its speedy redressal. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CCPA – barred hotels & restaurants from levying service charge automatically in food bills & allowed customers to file complaints in case of violation
- The consumer may lodge a complaint through National Consumer Helpline (NCH) - 1915 or through NCH mobile app
- Consumer can also file a complaint against unfair trade practice with Consumer Commission through “e-Daakhil” portal
- [HQs of CCPA – New Delhi](#)

355. On July 17, National Legal Services Authority Chairman, Uday Umesh Lalit launched India’s first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat by the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA). The digital Lok Adalat was designed and developed by its technology partner Jupitice Justice Technologies. A NITI Aayog report suggested that it would take approximately 324 years to dispose all cases pending in India. 75-97% of legal problems never reach the courts. The Digital Lok Adalat will be used to dispose of pending disputes or disputes that are at the pre-litigation stage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uday Umesh Lalit – launched India’s first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat by Rajasthan
- Digital Lok Adalat was designed & developed by – Jupitice Justice Technologies
- NITI Aayog report: It would take approximately 324 years to dispose all cases pending in India
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

356. On July 19, Jawaharlal Nehru Port became the first major port of India to become 100% Landlord port having all berths being operated on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model. JNP is one of the leading container ports of India and is ranked 26th among the top 100 global port, as per the “Lloyds List Top 100 Ports 2021” report. Total handling of JNPCT will increase to 1.8 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from the present handling capacity of 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21. This will reinforce JNPA’s position as the ‘Premier container port of India’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JNP – became the first major port of India to become 100% Landlord port having all berths being operated on PPP model
- JNP – ranked 26th among the top 100 global port as per the “Lloyds List Top 100 Ports 2021” report
- [Jawaharlal Nehru Port \(also known as Nhava Sheva Port\) – Maharashtra](#)

357. Civil Aviation Ministry is set to launch the “DIGI YATRA” project, aimed at achieving contactless, seamless processing of passengers, at two airports - Varanasi and Bengaluru, in August 2022 as part of its first phase. In its second phase, the DIGI YATRA project will be launched at 5 airports - Pune, Vijayawada, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad, by March 2023. The contactless and seamless processing of passengers will be achieved via the Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). The system, also known as Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE), provides for decentralised mobile wallet-based identity management platform. The DYCE system was formed by the Digi Yatra Foundation (DYF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Civil Aviation Ministry – set to launch the “DIGI YATRA” project for contactless processing of passengers
- As part of 1st phase, the project will be launched at 2 airports in – Varanasi & Bengaluru
- As part of 2nd phase, the project will be launched at 5 airports – Pune, Vijayawada, Delhi, Kolkata & Hyderabad
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh](#)



358. On July 18, Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched the “National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)” at Capacity Building Commission’s (CBC) headquarters in New Delhi, aimed at elevating their quality and capacity. With this, India became the first country in the world to come out with a unique model to create standards for Civil Service Training Institutions at national level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – launched the “National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)” in New Delhi
- India – became the first country in the world to create standards for Civil Service Training Institutions at national level
- [MoS for the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions: Dr. Jitendra Singh](#)

359. On July 18, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) set up a 29-member committee that will look into how to make the minimum support price (MSP) more effective and transparent. Besides, it will also suggest measures to promote zero-budget natural farming and crop diversification to fulfil the changing needs of the country. The committee will be headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoA&FW – set up a 29-member committee to make the MSP more effective and transparent
- The committee will be headed by former Agriculture Secretary – Sanjay Agrawal
- [Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar](#) | [Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary](#)



International Affairs

360. As US companies struggle to entice workers back to offices, the parliament of the Netherlands approved legislation to establish ‘Work from Home’ as a legal right, setting the Netherlands up to be one of the first countries to enshrine such flexibility in law. It still needs a nod from the Dutch senate before its final adoption. The law forces employers to consider employee requests to work from home as long as their professions allow it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Netherlands – approved a legislation to establish ‘Work from Home’ as a legal right (first country to do so)
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

361. On July 20, Indonesia recently announced ‘Digital Nomad Visas’ for travellers to attract foreign travellers, as it plans to boost its economic condition. This initiative will enable remote workers to stay in the country for a long time, and that too tax-free through Digital Nomad Visa. Digital Nomads are those who choose to work independently and remotely. They travel and work, and also choose to spend their income in the country they are travelling to. Indonesia’s Digital Nomad Visa would be the longest digital nomad visa as it will be applicable for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia – announced ‘Digital Nomad Visas’ for travellers to attract foreign travellers (validity - 5 years)
- It will enable remote workers to stay in Indonesia for a long time, and that too tax-free through ‘Digital Nomad Visa’



362. In July 2022, U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed a joint pledge “Jerusalem Declaration” to deny Iran nuclear arms. They will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, according to Joe Biden. The Jerusalem Declaration further committed the United States and Israel to cooperating on defence projects such as laser interceptors, as well as on civilian technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden (US) + Yair Lapid (Israel) = signed a joint pledge “Jerusalem Declaration” to deny Iran nuclear arms
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Yair Lapid

363. In July 2022, the US House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment that exempts India from economic sanctions under the “Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)”. The CAATSA is a law that came into effect in the US in 2017, and was meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and Iran using economic sanctions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment to exempt India from economic sanctions under ‘CAATSA’
- CAATSA – **C**ountering **A**merica’s **A**dversaries **T**hrough **S**anctions **A**ct
- ‘CAATSA’ law came into effect in the US in 2017

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

364. On July 18, Go Digit General Insurance launched “Pay as you Drive (PAYD)” add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies. This makes Digit Insurance one of India’s first insurers to introduce the add-on for its customers. Earlier in May, HDFC ERGO General Insurance had launched its “Pay as you Drive” program; an insurance solution that offers distance-based insurance to reduce upfront costs of premium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Go Digit Gen. Ins. – launched “Pay as you Drive (PAYD)” add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies
- HDFC ERGO Gen. Ins. – launched its “Pay as you Drive” program (in May)
- HQs of Go Digit General Insurance – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Vijay Kumar

365. On July 16, Karnataka Bank signed an MoU with JCB India Limited, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India. Under the agreement, JCB will be nominating Karnataka Bank as its ‘preferred financier’ wherein individuals, contractors, companies and partnership firms can avail loans from the bank at competitive interest rates. The tie-up arrangement with JCB India is expected to boost the lending avenues under the bank’s MSME portfolio. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JCB – signed an MoU & nominated Karnataka Bank as its ‘Preferred Financier’
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja



366. As on July 19, according to the Reserve Bank of India's 5th round of Survey on Remittances titled "Headwinds of Covid-19 and India's Inward Remittances", the share of remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region in India's inward remittances is estimated to have declined from more than 50% in 2016-17 to about 30% in 2020-21. The US surpassed the UAE as the top source country for India, accounting for 23% of total remittances in 2020-21. India remained the top recipient country (with \$89.4 billion inward remittances), accounting for 12% of total global remittances. Maharashtra displaced Kerala as the top remittance recipient State with about 35% of India's total share in remittance receipts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th round of Survey on Remittances titled "Headwinds of Covid-19 and India's Inward Remittances" – released by RBI
- US – surpassed the UAE as the top source country for India (23% of total remittances in 2020-21)
- India – remained the top recipient country having 12% of total global remittances (\$89.4 billion inward remittances)
- Maharashtra – displaced Kerala as the top remittance recipient State (35% of India's total share in remittance receipts)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

367. As on July 18, in the run up to setting up a social stock exchange, the government has declared "Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments" as securities for the purposes of the "Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956". Zero coupon zero principal instrument means an instrument issued by a Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) which will be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognised stock exchange. These instruments will be governed by rules made by the SEBI. The Social Stock Exchange (SSE) is a novel concept in India. The idea was floated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt declared "Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments" as securities for "Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956"
- These Instruments will be governed by the rules made by SEBI
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

Defence Affairs

368. In July 2022, Bharat Electronics (BEL) announced the signing of a contract worth Rs 250 Cr with the Ministry of Defence, for the supply of 9 integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) complex (IAC) MOD 'C' Systems. IAC MOD 'C' is an integrated ASW system for all surface ships of the Indian Navy. IAC MOD C has been indigenously developed by BEL in association with the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL + Ministry of Defence = a contract worth Rs 250 Cr to supply 9 integrated ASW complex (IAC) MOD 'C' Systems
- IAC MOD 'C' is indigenously developed by = BEL + DRDO
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Anandi Ramalingam (addi. charge)



369. On July 18, PM Narendra Modi addressed the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar named “Swavlamban”. During the seminar, Prime Minister unveiled ‘SPRINT Challenges’, which are aimed at giving a boost to the usage of the indigenous technology in the Indian Navy. As a part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, NIIO, in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims at inducting at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy. This collaborative project is named “SPRINT” (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R & D through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the Naval Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar named “Swavlamban”
- Narendra Modi – unveiled ‘SPRINT Challenges’ to boost the usage of the indigenous technology in the Indian Navy
- NIIO +DIO = started a project named “SPRINT” to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into Navy
- SPRINT – Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R & D through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC

370. On July 17, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) created its first mountain-warfare training centre in northeast India, its second overall, to skill its troops in high-altitude combat and survival tactics. With this, the ITBP aims to guard the Line of Actual Control with China. The new centre has been established in remote Dombang, abutting the LAC, and is located at a height of 10,040 ft in Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITBP – created its first mountain-warfare training centre in northeast India – in Dombang, Sikkim (altitude - 10,040 ft)
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Sanjay Arora | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat | Established on – October 24, 1962
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



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Sports & Games

371. On July 18, former West Indies skipper Denesh Ramdin announced his retirement from international cricket. Ramdin led West Indies in 17 matches - 13 Tests, three T20Is and an ODI after he was named West Indies’ Test captain in 2014. Ramdin played his last match for West Indies in a T20I in December 2019. However, he will continue to play franchise cricket. Meanwhile, West Indies batter Lendl Simmons also announced his retirement from international cricket. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- Denesh Ramdin ([West Indies](#)) – announced his retirement from International Cricket
- Lendl Simmons ([West Indies](#)) – also announced his retirement from International Cricket

372. On July 11, Double Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu lifted the ‘Super 500’ trophy by winning the “Singapore Open 2022” women’s singles title, beating China’s Wang Zhiyi in final. This was her third title of the season, having won two Super 300 crowns in Syed Modi International and Swiss Open. While Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia won the men’s singles title by defeating Japan’s Kodai Naraoka. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Singapore Open 2022 ('Super 500' trophy):
- P. V. Sindhu – won women's singles title (defeating - Wang Zhiyi)
- Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia) – won men's singles title (defeating - Kodai Naraoka)
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

373. On July 16, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram emerged winner in the 41st "Villa De Benasque International Chess Open" in Spain, after edging Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani on the basis of tie-break score. Chithambaram, Hovhannisyan and Sadhwani finished on 8 points from 10 rounds. Sadhwani finished at third place behind the Armenian. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aravindh Chithambaram (Chess) – won the 41st "Villa De Benasque International Chess Open" in Spain
- 2nd – Robert Hovhannisyan | 3rd – Raunak Sadhwani
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President/Chairman – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924

374. On July 19, the all-rounder English Cricketer Ben Stokes announced retirement from One Day International (ODI) career after his 105th and final ODI match against South Africa in Durham, England. He is Captain of the England Test team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ben Stokes (England - Cricketer) – announced retirement from One Day International (ODI) career
- He is Captain of the England Test Cricket team

375. On July 15, at the World Athletics Council Meeting in Oregon, USA, the World Athletics Council selected Japan's Tokyo to host the "2025 World Athletics Championships". The Council also announced that the "2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships" will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia and the "2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships" will be held in Tallahassee, Florida. The 18th edition of the "2022 World Athletics Championships" begins in Oregon, US in July. While Budapest in Hungary will host the "2023 World Athletics Championships". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- '2022 World Athletics Championships' (18th edition) – began in Oregon, US
- '2023 World Athletics Championships' – to be held in Budapest, Hungary
- '2025 World Athletics Championships' – to be held in Tokyo, Japan
- '2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships' – to be held in Medulin & Pula, Croatia
- '2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships' – to be held in Tallahassee, Florida



Arts & Cultural Affairs

376. On July 14, National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi organized the 22nd “Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022” festival in New Delhi to remember and pay tribute to our freedom fighters, under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Under this series, 30 plays would be showcased in different cities of India. The festival was inaugurated on July 16, 2022 at Kamani auditorium, New Delhi and subsequently it was scheduled to be organized in 5 other cities namely - Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru and Mumbai. A special show for the culmination of this festival was set to be organized in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi August 14, 2022. NSD works under Ministry of Culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National School of Drama – organized the 22nd “Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022” festival in New Delhi
- It was scheduled to be organized in 5 other cities namely - Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru and Mumbai
- NSD works under – Ministry of Culture
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

Science & Technology

377. On July 15, the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCI) has installed the first-ever made in India surgical robotic system, “SSI-Mantra”, devised by new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations. The RGCI is a visionary project of the Indraprastha Cancer Society and Research Centre aimed at providing the best of oncological care to those who need it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre – installed first-ever made in India surgical robotic system, “SSI-Mantra”
- RGCI – is a project of Indraprastha Cancer Society & Research Centre

378. On July 13, Scientists and research scholars of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new Eel species in Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. It has been named “Ariosoma Bengalense”. The species is distributed in the northern part of Bay of Bengal. The discovery was published in Zootaxa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ariosoma Bengalense”, a new Eel species – discovered by ZSI in Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
- The discovery was published in ‘Zootaxa’

379. As of July 2022, the most sensitive dark matter detector experiment in the world is “LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ)” in South Dakota in the US. Many physicists strongly believe that the entire visible part of the universe forms only 5% of all matter in it. They believe the rest is made up of dark matter and dark energy. Dark matter is made up of particles that do not have a charge, which means they do not interact through electromagnetic interactions. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The most sensitive dark matter detector experiment in the world is “LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ)” in South Dakota in the US
- Dark matter is made up of particles that do not have a charge
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Appointments & Resignations

380. In July 2022, telecom major Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) announced the appointment of Akshaya Moondra as its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of 3 years. Akshaya replaces Ravinder Takkar. Moondra’s appointment is based on the recommendation of the company’s nomination and remuneration committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshaya Moondra – appointed as CEO of Vi (succeeding - Ravinder Takkar)
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Akshaya Moondra | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania

381. On July 18, the Centre has appointed Jayanti Prasad as a Whole time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for 5 years, according to an executive order issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Prasad is a 1986 batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service Officer. He had superannuated as Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (Human Resources and International Relations). He also held key positions in the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jayanti Prasad – appointed as Whole time Member of the IBBI for 5 years
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravi Mittal | Established in – 2016 (set up by Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

382. On July 18, retired Army officer Raj Shukla was appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Lt. Gen. Shukla, a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2021, has a career spanning over four decades in the Indian Army. He has also been Commandant of the Indian Army’s prestigious training establishment and think tank, the Army War College. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lt. Gen Raj Shukla (retired Army officer) – appointed as a member of the UPSC
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Soni

383. On July 17, President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal, and assigned additional charge as Governor of West Bengal to La. Ganesan who is also the Governor of Manipur. Just before the Dhankhar’s resignation, the BJP announced his name as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the Vice Presidential election. Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- La. Ganesan – took additional charge as Governor of West Bengal (after the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar)
- La. Ganesan is also the Governor of Manipur
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – La. Ganesan





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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

384. In July 2022, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) National Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Dia Mirza, and Environmental Activist Mr. Afroz Shah were felicitated with the Harmony Foundation's prestigious "Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021" by the Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. Ms. Mirza and Mr. Shah were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dia Mirza + Mr. Afroz Shah = received Harmony Foundation's "Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021"
- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched the "e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) Platform of Platform (PoP)"
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

385. On July 16, filmmaker K. P. Kumaran was chosen for the prestigious "J. C. Daniel Award for 2021", Kerala's highest film award. The award, conferred by the Kerala government annually in recognition to an individual's contributions to Malayalam cinema, carries a purse of ₹5 lakh, a statuette, and a citation. Mr. Kumaran was one of the first filmmakers from the State to win an international award, when his short film 'The Rock' won a Gold medal at the 'Expo Film Festival in Tokyo' in 1972. His film 'Rukmini', won the National Award for the Best Malayalam film in 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. P. Kumaran (filmmaker) – chosen for the "J. C. Daniel Award for 2021", Kerala's highest film award
- His short film 'The Rock' won a Gold medal at the 'Expo Film Festival in Tokyo' in 1972
- His film 'Rukmini' won the National Award for the Best Malayalam film in 1988
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

386. On July 16, the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), won the "Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021" (in 'Large Institute' category) for its overall performance. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi. The awards were given away at a function to mark the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR on July 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 16 – 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR
- NAARM (ICAR) – won the "Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021" ('Large Institute' category)
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

Schemes & Initiatives

387. On July 19, NITI Aayog and the World Food Programme (WFP), India, launched the "Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices" initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa. NITI and WFP will prepare a compendium of good practices for scaling up the production and consumption of millets in India and abroad. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + WFP = launched “Mapping & Exchange of Good Practices” initiative to mainstream millets in Asia & Africa
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery

388. On July 18, the Government formulated a “National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank. The scheme is a joint venture of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It aims to achieve outcomes like zero fatalities in sanitation work in India, no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods. A roadmap for NAMASTE Scheme is approved by the Standing Finance Committee (SFC). NAMASTE scheme replaces the “Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)” which was introduced in January, 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government formulated a “NAMASTE” scheme for cleaning of Sewers & Septic tank
- NAMASTE – National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem
- The scheme is a JV of = Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation + MoSJE + MoHUA
- NAMASTE scheme replaces the “Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)”

Important Days & Dates

389. On July 17, International Justice Day or World Day of International Criminal Justice is observed across the globe every year to support and promote those people, who voice their support for the rights of the victims and against injustice. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the world’s first permanent international criminal court. On 17th July 1998, 120 countries around the world, signed a treaty, and as a result, the ICC came into being. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 17 – “World Day of International Criminal Justice” or “International Justice day”
- HQs of ICC – Hague, Netherlands | President – Judge Piotr Hofmanski | Established in – 2002

Books & Authors

390. On July 18, a book titled “The Resilient Entrepreneur”, written by Dhruvi Shah, was launched globally in the presence of entrepreneurs from Singapore, India, and the US. The book is published by Ocean Reeve Publishing. The catalogue of this book is available in the National Library of Australia. The book talks about how one can create a legacy and can adapt, survive, thrive, and remain resilient in today’s volatile world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The book “The Resilient Entrepreneur” – written by Dhruvi Shah
- Publisher – Ocean Reeve Publishing



391. Ruth Vanita, in her new book titled “The Dharma of Justice in the Sanskrit Epics: Debates on Gender, Varna and Species”, demonstrates that a scrupulous reading of India’s ancient texts can reveal that there is a greater continuity in our moral and ethical preoccupations than many of us suspect. In this book, Vanita also tackles the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and how they debate questions of justice. The book was published by Oxford University Press. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Dharma of Justice in the Sanskrit Epics: Debates on Gender, Varna and Species” – written by Ruth Vanita
- Publisher – Oxford University Press

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

392. In July 2022, the 51st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders’ meeting was started in Fiji’s capital Suva. During the 4-day meeting, PIF leaders launched the “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy)” and discussed other issues such as regional development and socio-economic challenges. Fiji and the Solomon Islands also inked an agreement concerning maritime boundaries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 51st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders’ meeting – held in Suva, Fiji
- PIF leaders launched – “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy)”
- [Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar](#) | [President – Jioji Konrote](#)

393. On July 14, Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav attended the 8th “BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting” held under the Chinese Presidency in Beijing. During the meeting, BRICS nations adopted the “BRICS Labour & Employment Ministerial Declaration”, recognizing the need for promoting Green Jobs for Sustainable Development, strengthening of cooperation in Skills Development and protection of workers’ rights in new forms of Employment. The minister highlighted various initiatives taken by India towards providing free ration, enhancing the number of days of assured employment under MNREGA, collateral free loans provided to 2.9 million street vendors to help them resume their businesses under ‘PM SVANidhi Yojana’ during the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – attended the 8th “BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting” in Beijing (Presidency - China)
- BRICS nations adopted the “BRICS Labour & Employment Ministerial Declaration”
- [BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa](#) | [BRICS Chairmanship in 2022 – China](#)
- [Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli](#)

394. The National Health Authority (NHA) organised its first hackathon under the “Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Hackathon Series” from July 14 to 17, 2022 at the Smart City Operations Centre, Pune, Maharashtra in hybrid format. The hackathon was organized under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in association with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and Pune Smart City Development Corporation Limited (PSCDCL). The hackathon was inaugurated by Dr. R.S. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, NHA. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NHA – organised its 1st hackathon under “Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Hackathon Series” in Pune
- The hackathon was inaugurated by – Dr. R. S. Sharma
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018

395. On July 16, Union Law Minister Kiran Rijiju and Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot addressed the inaugural session of the 18th “All India Legal Services Authority Meet” in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The two-day event was inaugurated by N. V. Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, and organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). During the address, both ministers voiced against the hefty fees of Supreme Court lawyers who charge Rs 10-15 lakh for one hearing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. V. Ramana – inaugurated 18th All India Legal Services Authorities’ Meet – in Jaipur, Rajasthan (organized by - NALSA)
- Kiran Rijiju & Ashok Gehlot addressed the inaugural session

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

396. On July 15, Adani Group chief Gautam Adani became the world’s 4th richest person with a net worth of \$112.9 billion, surpassing Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates (\$102 billion), according to Forbes’ Real-Time Billionaires List. The rankings of billionaires shuffled after Microsoft founder Bill Gates last week announced \$20 billion donation of his wealth to his non-profit organisation - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Reliance Group Chairman, Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of \$90.1 billion, was placed at 10th on the Forbes list. Elon Musk topped the list with \$230 billion net worth, followed by Bernard Arnault & Jeff Bezos. While on July 21, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Indian billionaire Gautam Adani displaced Bill Gates to become the world’s 4th-richest person. Adani’s net worth surged to \$112.5 billion. Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani ranked 10th with about \$90 billion wealth in Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Only three people were richer than Adani: Tesla chief Elon Musk (\$252. 2 billion net worth), Louis Vuitton CEO Bernard Arnault (\$156. 5 billion), and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$149. 9 billion). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Forbes’ Real-Time Billionaires List’ – released on July 15
 - 1st - Elon Musk, 2nd - Bernard Arnault, 3rd - Jeff Bezos, 4th - Gautam Adani, 5th - Bill Gates | Mukesh Ambani - 10th
- ‘Bloomberg Billionaires Index’ – released on July 21
 - 1st - Elon Musk, 2nd - Bernard Arnault, 3rd - Jeff Bezos, 4th - Gautam Adani, 5th - Bill Gates | Mukesh Ambani - 10th

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

397. On July 18, E-commerce marketplace Flipkart signed a pact with the Bihar State Skill Development Mission to launch the initiatives of the “Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA)” in the state. The initiative is aimed at creating a pool of skilled supply chain operations talent and impart relevant industry training and knowledge. This will help bridge the skill gap and create job opportunities in the expanding supply chain industry in the country. The programme involves a 60-day skilling initiative and the students will be imparted skills through Flipkart’s Learning Management System. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Flipkart + Bihar State Skill Development Mission = launched the initiatives of 'Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA)'
- The programme involves a 60-day skilling initiative to the students
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

398. On July 19, the CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) and GODI India entered into a partnership to run a lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility in Taramani, Chennai. This makes it India's first ever public-private partnership for large scale lithium-ion cells manufacturing. Currently, all the Lithium-ion cells are being imported mostly from China and South Korea. GODI India is the first Indian company to manufacture Made-in-India & Made-for-India Lithium-ion cells, which is certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards), tested and qualified by TUV, the third-party testing agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-CECRI + GODI India = partnership to run a Lithium-ion Cell Manufacturing Facility in Taramani, Chennai
- GODI India is the first Indian company to manufacture Made-in-India & Made-for-India Lithium-ion cells
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942
- HQs of Godi India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Founder & CEO – Mahesh Godi

399. On July 18, an MoU was signed between Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), STPINEXT and RINL-VSP (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) to establish "Industry 4.0 CoE (Centre of Excellence)" for promotion of innovation and start-up activities for RINL and other industries in and around Visakhapatnam. The MoU was exchanged between Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL, and C.V.D. Ram Prasad, Director, STPI. The CoE is named as "Kalpataru". It will house an Industrial Robotics lab, an Industrial Drones lab and an Industrial IoT (Internet of Things) lab. Industry 4.0 CoE is planned to incubate around 50 start-ups in physical mode and 125 start-ups in virtual mode over a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- STPI + STPINEXT + RINL-VSP = an MoU to establish 'Industry 4.0 CoE' named as "Kalpataru"
- Industry 4.0 CoE – to incubate around 50 start-ups in physical mode & 125 start-ups in virtual mode for 5 years

400. On July 19, Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) has expanded its pilot to 15 more cities. Snapdeal also signed the onboarding agreement with the ONDC to be the first e-commerce marketplace to debut on ONDC in August. The network first began its pilot on April 29, 2022 in Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong. Snapdeal will launch on ONDC with 3 key categories that are Fashion, Home and Beauty & Personal Care. The ONDC is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce & Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Snapdeal – signed onboarding agreement with ONDC & the first e-commerce marketplace to debut on ONDC in August
- ONDC – an initiative of Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl | Founded in – 2010





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