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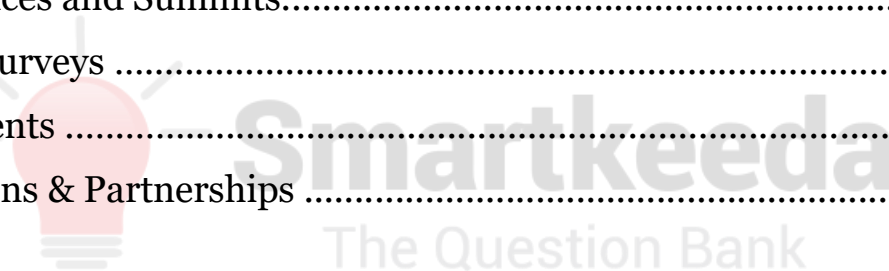
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INDEX

National & States Affairs	5
International Affairs	6
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	6
Defence Affairs	8
Sports & Games	9
Appointments & Resignations	10
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes	12
Schemes & Initiatives	12
Important Days & Dates	13
Books & Authors	13
Obituaries	14
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	14
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	15
Amount & Agreements	17
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships	18



National & States Affairs

401. On July 20, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, inaugurated Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD), Emergency Panic Button System, and Command Control Centre of the State Transport Department for the public. This VLTD has been connected with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112. With this, the vehicle registered in Himachal Pradesh and equipped with this device could be tracked anywhere in the country. This has made Himachal Pradesh the first state in the country to launch such an initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jai Ram Thakur (HP) inaugurated:
 - Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD)
 - Emergency Panic Button System
 - Command Control Centre of the State Transport Department for the public
- Himachal Pradesh – the first state in India to launch VLTD, connected with ‘ERSS 112’
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

402. On July 20, the Supreme Court accepted the report of the Jayantkumar Bantia Commission paving way for reservation for OBCs in Local Body Elections in Maharashtra. The Commission, in its report, recommended that OBCs should be given up to 27% reservation in local bodies. The Supreme Court’s decision to accept a similar report from Madhya Pradesh to provide reservation to OBCs also helped Maharashtra’s bid. The previous tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had appointed a dedicated commission under former Chief Secretary Jayant Bantia in March 2022 after the Supreme Court rejected the State Backward Class Commission (SBCC) report citing several lacunae. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SC accepted the report of Jayantkumar Bantia Commission for reservation for OBCs in Local Body Elections in MH
- The commission recommended that OBCs should be given up to 27% reservation in local bodies
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

403. Over 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2021, highest in the past 5 years, according to information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Lok Sabha on July 19. Over 78,000 Indians acquired U.S. citizenship by giving up Indian citizenship, the highest among all other countries. According to the MHA sources, the issue of citizenship comes under ‘Union List’ in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs: 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2021, highest in the past 5 years
- Over 78,000 Indians acquired U.S. citizenship, the highest among all other countries
- Citizenship comes under ‘Union List’ in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution
- [Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik](#)

404. On July 18, the Supreme Court announced that Minority status of religious and linguistic communities is “State-dependent” as every person in India can be a minority in one State or the other. ‘Article 29’ and ‘Article 30’ of the Indian Constitution give special protection to minorities in India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Supreme Court announced Minority status of religious & linguistic communities as “State-dependent”
- ‘Article 29’ & ‘Article 30’ of the Indian Constitution give special protection to minorities in India
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th) | Uday Umesh Lalit (from Aug 27)

International Affairs

405. On July 17, the UK government launched an “Aviation Passenger Charter” to help passengers know their rights if they face problems at airports. The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays or missing baggage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – launched an “Aviation Passenger Charter” to help passengers know their rights if they face problems at airports
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

406. On July 19, the European Investment Bank (EIB) joined India-led “Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)” to limit the destruction caused by climate change. EIB will work in partnership with national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector to promote the rapid development of infrastructure resilient to climate change and natural disasters in countries at all stages of development. The CDRI was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 at the initiative of India. Kamal Kishore, an Indian, is the co-chair of CDRI’s Executive Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EIB – joined India-led CDRI to limit the destruction caused by Climate Change
- CDRI was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 at the initiative of India
- Kamal Kishore (India) – is the co-chair of CDRI’s Executive Committee
- HQs of European Investment Bank – Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer
- HQs of CDRI – New Delhi | Member countries – 30 | Launched by Narendra Modi (in 2019)

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

407. India received USD 343.64 million FDI equity inflow in R&D sector during CY 2021 (Calendar Year), which is 516% higher as compared to previous CY 2020 (USD 55.77 million). FDI is permitted under 100% automatic route in R&D sector. Karnataka is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D during CY 2021, followed by Telangana and Haryana. Singapore is the top investing country in R&D during CY 2021 with 40% share, followed by Germany (35%) and the US (11%). Daimler Truck Innovation Center is the Top FDI Equity inflow recipient company in R&D during CY 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India received \$343.64 million FDI equity inflow in R&D sector in Calendar Year 2021 (516% higher as compared to CY20)
- FDI is permitted under 100% automatic route in R&D sector
- Top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D during CY 2021: 1st – Karnataka | 2nd – Telangana | 3rd – Haryana
- Top investing country in R&D during CY 2021: 1st – Singapore | 2nd – Germany | 3rd – US
- Top FDI Equity inflow recipient company in R&D during CY 2021: Daimler Truck Innovation Center

408. On July 20, the RBI signed its renewed Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the FX Global Code. The code is a compilation of best market practices, applicable to the wholesale foreign exchange market participants covering sell-side, buy-side and financial intermediaries. The Code has been formulated by Central Banks and market participants and developed under the auspices of Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel. It is currently being implemented globally by the Global FX Committee (GFXC) in co-ordination with the Local FX Committee (LFXC) in each jurisdiction. The Code, which was initially launched on May 25, 2017, was subsequently reviewed holistically and the updated Code was published by Global FX Committee on July 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI signed its renewed Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the 'FX Global Code'
- The Code was initially launched on May 25, 2017 & updated Code was published on July 15, 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

409. On July 20, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and DBS Bank India, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore, announced a strategic partnership to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the bank's 3 million customers. Through this partnership, Bajaj Allianz Life and DBS Bank aim to empower the customers to Live More and Bank Less by investing in life insurance products. Recognised for its global leadership, DBS was recently named "World's Best Bank" by Euromoney. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance + DBS Bank India = partnership to offer life insurance solutions to bank's customers
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh

410. On July 21, IndusInd Bank announced a partnership with EazyDiner to launch a co-branded credit card, called "EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card" to enhance customer dining experience. Benefits offered include a complimentary EazyDiner Prime membership, an additional 25% discount up to ₹1,000 every time a customer pays on the EazyDiner app. Earlier in June, Axis Bank also partnered with EazyDiner to launch "Dining Delights", a dining experience programme for the bank's customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + EazyDiner = partnership to launch a co-branded credit card, "EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card"
- Axis Bank + EazyDiner = partnered to launch "Dining Delights", a dining experience programme
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – "We Make You Feel Richer"



411. On July 20, the State Bank of India (SBI) received approval from its Board of Directors to raise up to Rs 11,000 Crore through issuance of bonds in FY23. The board approved raising capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instrument in USD/INR and/or any other convertible currency. The bonds include fresh Additional Tier 1 (AT1) capital up to Rs 7,000 Crore and fresh Tier 2 capital of up to Rs 4,000 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – received approval from its Board of Directors to raise up to Rs 11,000 Cr through issuance of bonds in FY23
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

412. On July 8, Kotak Mahindra Bank acquired the Agri and Healthcare equipment financing portfolio of De Lage Landen Financial Services India Pvt Ltd (DLL India) for an unspecified amount. DLL India is a subsidiary of De Lage Landen International B.V., owned by Rabobank. With this acquisition, Kotak will gain access to over 25,000 high-quality customers of DLL India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – acquired the Agri & Healthcare equipment financing portfolio of DLL India
- DLL India - a subsidiary of De Lage Landen International B.V. – owned by Rabobank
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”

413. On July 12, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of Rakesh Makhija as the Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of Axis Bank, with effect from July 18 up to October 26, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – approved the reappointment of Rakesh Makhija as the Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of Axis Bank
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

Defence Affairs

414. On July 18, Narendra Modi unveiled India’s first human carrying pilot-less drone ‘Varuna’ in New Delhi. This ‘Varuna’ drone has been designed and developed by Sagar Defence Engineering, a drone startup. This this drone has been made specifically for the use by the Indian Navy. Presently, the land-based trial is on and in the next three months the drone will be sent for sea trials. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – unveiled India’s first human carrying pilot-less drone ‘Varuna’ in New Delhi
- ‘Varuna’ drone was designed & developed by – Sagar Defence Engineering



Sports & Games

415. In July 2022, Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo won his first-ever Badminton World Tour Super 500 title at the “Malaysia Masters 2022” in Kuala Lumpur, defeating Hong Kong’s Angus Ng Ka-long. In the women’s singles final, South Korea’s An Se Young defeated Chen Yu Fei of China. China’s Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan won women’s doubles title. In the men’s doubles, Indonesia’s Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Fajar Alfian were the winners. Moreover, China’s Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong secured mixed doubles title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Malaysia Masters 2022” (Badminton) – held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo – won Men’s singles & his first-ever Super 500 title (defeating - Angus Ng Ka-long)
- An Se Young – won Women’s singles title (defeating - Chen Yu Fei)
- Women’s doubles winner – Chen Qing Chen & Jia Yi Fan | Men’s doubles – Muhammad Rian Ardianto & Fajar Alfian
- [Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit](#) | [PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob](#) | [King – Al-Sultan Abdullah](#)

416. In July 2022, Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen and Thailand’s Ratchanok Intanon won the men’s singles & women’s singles titles at the “2022 Malaysia Open” (also known as Petronas Malaysia Open 2022) in Kuala Lumpur. Victor won the title by defeating Japan’s Kento Momota, while Ratchanok defeated Chen Yufei of China. Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan won the men’s doubles title. While Apriyani Rahayu & Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti of Indonesia won the women’s doubles title. Moreover, Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong of China were mixed doubles champions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2022 Malaysia Open” (also known as ‘Petronas Malaysia Open 2022’) – held in Kuala Lumpur
- Viktor Axelsen ([Denmark](#)) – won the Men’s Singles titles
- Ratchanok Intanon ([Thailand](#)) – won Women’s Singles titles
- Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi ([Japan](#)) – won Men’s Doubles title
- Apriyani Rahayu & Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti ([Indonesia](#)) – won Women’s Doubles title
- Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong ([China](#)) – won Mixed Doubles title

417. On July 13, the sports arm of the Adani Group, Adani Sportsline, announced the name of its team in the UAE International League T20 (ILT20) as ‘Gulf Giants’. The ‘Gulf Giants’ is an extension of Adani Sportsline’s brand - Gujarat Giants. Gulf Giants has also named Andy Flower, former Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower as its Head Coach for the inaugural season of the ILT20, which will take place between January and February 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Sportsline – announced the name of its team in the UAE International League T20 as ‘Gulf Giants’
- The ‘Gulf Giants’ – an extension of Adani Sportsline’s brand - Gujarat Giants



Appointments & Resignations

418. On July 19, Pramod Rao took charge as the Executive Director of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will handle the department of debt and hybrid securities as well as the enquiry and adjudication department. Before this assignment, he held the position of Group General Counsel at ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Rao – took charge as the Executive Director of the SEBI
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

419. On July 21, Rajarshi Gupta took over as Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). He replaced Alok Gupta who superannuated in June. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajarshi Gupta – took over as MD of ONGC Videsh Ltd (succeeding – Alok Gupta)
- HQs of ONGC Videsh Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Rajarshi Gupta | Chairman – Subhash Kumar

420. On July 20, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) appointed Egypt's Seif Ahmed as its acting President, following Narinder Batra's resignation from the post. Earlier in May, Narinder Batra also stepped down from the post of President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Batra became President of FIH in 2016 and reclaimed the position last year for a second term till 2024. India is scheduled to host the "2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup" in January 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narinder Batra – resigned from his post as the President of FIH
- Seif Ahmed (Egypt) – appointed as the acting President of International Hockey Federation
- India is scheduled to host the "2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup" in January 2023
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Seif Ahmed | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

421. On July 21, former Jharkhand Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate, Droupadi Murmu was elected as the 15th President of India, the first tribal woman (second tribal person) to be elected to this position and the youngest as well. She served as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021. Her Opposition's candidate was Yashwant Sinha. The 64-year-old Murmu hails from the Santhal (Santals) tribe and was born in Mayurbhanj, Odisha. The tenure of incumbent President Ram Nath Kovind ended on 24 July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Droupadi Murmu (Odisha) – elected as the 15th President of India (the first tribal woman & second tribal person)
- She is a former Governor of Jharkhand (2015 to 2021)

422. On July 21, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi submitted his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella. He will serve the post as the caretaker PM until a new PM is appointed. The new election is expected to be held in September or October this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mario Draghi – resigned as the PM of Italy
- He will act as a caretaker PM until a new PM is appointed
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | Caretaker PM – Mario Draghi





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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

423. On July 19, Dr. Tessy Thomas, Scientist and Director General (Aero Systems) at DRDO, was awarded “APJ Award 2022” for her contribution towards developing indigenous missile systems for India. Also known as India’s Missile Woman, Tessy Thomas is the first Woman Scientist to head India’s missile programme. Governor of Kerala Arif Mohammad Khan presented the award. Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education and NIMS Medicity have been jointly organising the award since 2019 to recognise government officials who have achieved excellence and achievements in their respective field of work. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Tessy Thomas (DRDO) – awarded “APJ Award 2022” for her contribution in developing indigenous missile systems
- She is also known as India’s Missile Woman & first Woman Scientist to head India’s missile programme
- The award was presented by – Arif Mohammad Khan (Governor of Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

424. In July 2022, Michelle Poonawalla, well known artist, businesswoman and philanthropist, received the coveted “Shromani Award” from the hands of Mr. G. P. Hinduja, the co-chairman of Hinduja Group at ‘NRI World Summit 2022’ in UK, for her contribution to the field of Art. In addition to Poonawalla, the Shromani Award was also awarded to Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Dr. Kamel Hothi OBE and Falguni Shane Peacock. This award was instituted in 1977. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘NRI World Summit 2022’ – held in UK
- Michelle Poonawalla (Artist, Businesswoman & Philanthropist) – received the “Shromani Award”
- Other awardees: Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Dr. Kamel Hothi & Falguni Shane Peacock
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

Schemes & Initiatives

425. On July 20, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched ‘Swanirbhar Naari’ scheme, an initiative of the Handloom and Textiles Department, to empower the indigenous weavers of the State and to provide financial support to the weavers’ families. Under the scheme, the government has decided to procure handloom items directly from the indigenous weavers without involving any middle men through a specially developed Swanirbhar Naari web portal. Altogether 31 hand-woven items are covered in the scheme belonging to various communities residing in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam) – launched ‘Swanirbhar Naari’ scheme to empower the indigenous weavers of the State
- It is an initiative of Handloom & Textiles Department
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



Important Days & Dates

426. International Moon Day was observed for the first time by the United Nations on July 20, 2022 as the UN declared International Moon Day, a United Nations-designated day in 2021. The day marks the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the 'Apollo 11' lunar mission. The celebrations will also consider the achievements of all States in the exploration of the Moon and raise public awareness of sustainable Moon exploration and utilization. [{Read more}](#)

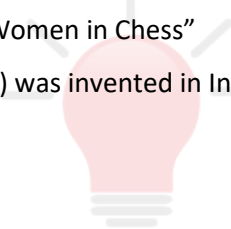
Key Points:

- July 20 – International Moon Day (anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon)
- The day was being observed every year, but in 2022, it is observed by the UN for the first time
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

427. The 3rd edition of World Chess Day or International Chess Day was observed on 20 July, 2022. Chess was invented in India in the 5th century. It was then named "Chaturanga". International Chess Day is celebrated every year as the founding day of FIDE (International Chess Federation). The year 2022 marks FIDE's 98th establishment anniversary. The official declaration of World Chess Day to be observed on 20 July was made by the UN General Assembly on 12 December 2019. In 2022, the day was observed with the theme "Women in Chess". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 20 – 3rd edition of "International Chess Day" (98th foundation day of FIDE)
- 2022's Theme – "Women in Chess"
- Chess (Chaturanga) was invented in India in the 5th century



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Books & Authors

428. In July 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a book titled "Beyond the Misty Veil - Temple Tales of Uttarakhand" by Aradhana Johri. The book seeks to create awareness about the temples and promote tourism in the State. Aradhana has highlighted in the book the significance of temples and the mythology associated with them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Beyond the Misty Veil - Temple Tales of Uttarakhand" book – authored by Aradhana Johri
- The book was launched by – Pushkar Singh Dhama
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhama | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

Obituaries

429. On July 19, Noted Scientist, Director of Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, Dr. Ajay Parida passed away in Guwahati, Assam at the age of 58. He was an Indian biologist noted for his contributions in the fields of agriculture, plant molecular biology and biotechnology. In 2014, he was awarded the Padma Shri Award for his contribution in the field of Science and Technology. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dr. Ajay Parida – Director of Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar – passed away
- He received ‘Padma Shri’ in 2014 for his contribution in the field of S&T

430. On July 18, Renowned ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh died at the age of 82 due to suspected colon cancer and Covid-related complications. Bhupinder Singh began his career working in the All India Radio, Delhi, as a singer and musician.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupinder Singh – a Ghazal singer – passed away

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

431. Entrepreneurial leaders from business, government and civil society virtually participated in the “The New Champion Dialogues” organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 18-19 July 2022. The meeting convened targeted discussions under the theme “Navigating Uncertainty” and included over 1100 participants from around the world. Since 2007, the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, is held annually in China. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last in-person Annual Meeting of the New Champions was held in Dalian, China, in July 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The New Champion Dialogues” – organized by WEF | Theme – “Navigating Uncertainty”
- The Annual Meeting of the New Champions, is held annually in China
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

432. The 17th “CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership” was held in New Delhi on July 19-20, 2022 and was attended by Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, and Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal along with 40 ministers from 17 countries in Africa. The conclave offered an opportunity to policymakers, bureaucrats, and captains of business and industry to review Indo-African Growth Partnership in perspective. The “CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership” was launched with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MCI) in 2005 and was later rechristened as the “India-Africa Growth Partnership”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th “CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership” – held in New Delhi
- The Partnership launched in 2005 & later named as “India-Africa Growth Partnership”
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

433. On July 19, the 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue was held in Berlin, Germany. This two-day informal ministerial meet was chaired by Germany and Egypt. The informal ministerial meet proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27. Moreover, Egypt is the host of this year’s Annual Climate Meet (COP-27). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue – held in Berlin, Germany (chaired by – Germany & Egypt)
- Egypt is the host of COP-27

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

434. On July 18, Mexico topped the “Expat Insider Rankings for 2022”, which was released by the InterNations. Mexico was followed by Indonesia & Taiwan. According to the survey of InterNations, expats in Mexico are happy with their personal finance and the ease of settling in. India was ranked on 36th position out of the 52 countries on the list, with a high affordability score. However, India was rated as the world’s worst in terms of air quality, second-worst in the environment, and travel and transit facilities. China was placed at the 33rd position. Expat is a person who lives outside his/her native country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Expat Insider Rankings for 2022” – released by the InterNations
- Among 52 countries: 1st - Mexico | 2nd - Indonesia | 3rd - Taiwan | India - 36th
- Expat is a person who lives outside his/her native country

435. As of July 2022, Tamil Nadu topped the list of states in utilisation of funds under the government’s flagship Smart City Mission (SCM). Tamil Nadu has spent over Rs 3,932 Cr out of the Rs 4,333 Cr released by the Central government, followed by Uttar Pradesh at second position. The Central government launched the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on 25 June, 2015. As per SCM guidelines, the Central government will provide financial support to the extent of Rs 48,000 Cr over 5 years which is on an average Rs 100 Cr per city per year. As on 8 July 2022, the Centre has released Rs 30,751.41 Cr for 100 smart cities, out of which Rs 27,610.34 Cr (90%) has been utilised. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – topped the list of states in utilisation of funds under ‘Smart City Mission’ | 2nd – UP (As of July 2022)
- TN – spent over Rs 3,932 Cr out of the Rs 4,333 Cr
- Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was launched on 25 June, 2015
- For SCM, Central government will provide Rs 48,000 Cr over 5 years (on an average Rs 100 Cr per city per year)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

436. India, along with Mauritania and Tajikistan, ranked 87th globally out of 199 passports in the “Henley Passport Index 2022”, which ranks world’s passports according to the number of destinations their holder can access without a prior visa. India has hassle-free access to 60 countries. The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Japan topped the index with hassle-free access to 193 countries, followed by Singapore and South Korea both on second spot. Germany & Spain ranked the third. Afghanistan was at the bottom of the index with hassle-free access to only 27 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Henley Passport Index 2022”: Topped by – Japan | India – 87th (shared with Mauritania & Tajikistan)
- 2nd – Singapore & South Korea | 3rd – Germany & Spain
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG – Willie Walsh



437. As on July 2022, as per the report “Basic Road Statistics in India-2018-19”, India had a road network of over 63,31,757 km as of March 31, 2019, which is the second largest in the world. Rural roads constituted 71.4% of the total road network in India and its length rose to 45,22,228 km on March 31, 2019. According to the report, Maharashtra has the largest network of national highways with 17,757 km (13.4%), followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan with 11,737 km (8.9%) and 10,342 km (7.8%), respectively, as of March 31, 2019. Maharashtra also has the largest State Highways network & Rural Roads network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Basic Road Statistics in India-2018-19”:
- India had a road network of over 63,31,757 km as of March 31, 2019 (the 2nd largest in the world)
- Rural roads constituted 71.4% (45,22,228 km) of the total road network in India
- Maharashtra – has the largest network of National Highways with 17,757 km (13.4%) | 2nd – UP, 3rd – Rajasthan
- Maharashtra – also has the largest State Highways network & Rural Roads network

438. India’s bioeconomy is estimated to reach USD 150 billion by 2025 and over USD 300 billion by 2030, according to the “India Bioeconomy Report 2022” released on July 20 by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The report is based on the data on biotech sector’s contribution to the Economy. India’s bioeconomy reached over USD 80 billion in 2021, registering a 14.1% growth over USD 70.2 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Bioeconomy Report 2022” – released by BIRAC
- As per the report: India’s bioeconomy is estimated to reach USD 150 billion by 2025 & over USD 300 billion by 2030
- India’s bioeconomy reached over USD 80 billion in 2021 (14.1% growth over USD 70.2 billion in 2020)

439. On July 21, NITI Aayog released a report titled “Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing & Regulatory Regime for India”. The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery and CEO Parameswaran Iyer and Senior Adviser Anna Roy. The report aims to cement India’s place as a trailblazer in Fintech Industry. It focuses on avoiding any regulatory or policy arbitrage and offers a level playing field to incumbents as well as competitors. As per the report, Digital Business Bank may require to bring in Rs 20 Crore of minimum paid up capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing & Regulatory Regime for India” report – released by NITI Aayog
- As per the report, Digital Business Bank may require to bring in Rs 20 Crore of minimum paid up capital
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery

440. According to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), China will be responsible for 95% of the entire manufacturing process of the globe’s Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels by 2025. China currently manufactures and supplies more than 80% of the globe’s solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. The report identifies cost factor as the major reason deterring other countries from entering the supply chain. In terms of labour, overheads and the entire manufacturing process, China’s costs are 10% lower compared to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEA: China will be responsible for 95% of the globe’s Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels manufacturing process by 2025
- China currently manufactures & supplies more than 80% of the globe’s solar PV panels
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30



441. On July 21, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman, Suman Bery released the 3rd edition of the “India Innovation Index 2021”. The 1st and 2nd editions were launched in October, 2019 and January, 2021, respectively. The report was published in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness, India. The report determines innovation capacities and ecosystems at the sub-national level. Karnataka bagged the top rank under the Major States category, followed by Telangana & Haryana. Manipur topped under the ‘North East & Hill States’ category and Chandigarh topped under the ‘Union Territories & City States’ category. As per the index, the Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (2017-18) in India was 0.7%. The World’s average GERD is around 1.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd edition of the “India Innovation Index 2021” – released by NITI Aayog & Institute for Competitiveness
- Top: Karnataka (Major States) | Manipur (North East & Hill States) | Chandigarh (UTs & City States)
- India’s Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (2017-18) – 0.7% | World’s average GERD – 1.8%

Amount & Agreements

442. On July 20, the Government of India will provide a financing facility worth about Rs 1,600 Cr (\$200 million) through the World Bank for the Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme. With the state’s share, the total programme cost will be approximately Rs 2,000 Cr. The programme duration will be of 5 years, starting from the year 2023 to 2028. The programme aimed to undertake holistic power sector reforms in a manner to allow for improvements in the Renewable Energy Integration in the state. The programme also aims to install new capacities in the solar generation of about 200 MW, through HPPCL and HIMURJA. Under this programme a comprehensive ‘Environmental Social and System Assessment (ESSA)’ was also carried out. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI will provide financing facility worth 200 million through World Bank for HP Power Sector Development Programme
- Total cost of the programme – Rs 2000 Cr | Duration – 5 Years (2023 - 2028)
- New capacities in the Solar Generation of 200 MW will be installed through HPPCL & HIMURJA
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

443. On July 20, New Development Bank (NDB) approved 5 new projects totalling \$875 million for water, sanitation, ecotourism and transport. With these five new projects, NDB’s cumulative approvals have now reached nearly \$32 billion. The projects will be implemented by the Water and Sanitation Company (SABESP). NDB will direct \$79 million for the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project. NDB will also direct \$70 million to the Lamphelpat Waterbody Rejuvenation Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – approved 5 new projects totalling \$875 million for Water, Sanitation, Ecotourism & Transport
- NDB’s cumulative approvals have now reached nearly \$32 billion (as of July 2022)
- NDB – will provide \$79 million for the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project
- NDB – will provide \$70 million to the Lamphelpat Waterbody Rejuvenation Project
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

444. On August 6, the Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with Deloitte India, appointing it as a consultant for achieving the target of lifting the State's economy to USD 1 trillion. This decision was based on the recommendation of a high-powered committee. By 2027, Uttar Pradesh will become a benchmark for the policy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" with a trillion dollar economy, according to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + Deloitte India = an MoU for achieving the target of lifting the State's Economy to USD 1 trillion
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of Deloitte – London, UK | CEO – Punit Renjen

445. On July 20, Haryana government, in collaboration with Brazil, will set up a Centre of Excellence for breed improvement of animals in Hisar. The state will also enter in to a memorandum of understanding with a Canada-based firm to set up centre to increase protein content in animal feed. In 1911, the King of Bhavnagar had donated cows of Gir breed to Brazil. Brazil worked on improving the Indian breed and developed a new breed of cows, 'Girlando'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana + Brazil = collaboration to set up a Centre of Excellence for breed improvement of animals in Hisar
- In 1911, the King of Bhavnagar had donated cows of Gir breed to Brazil
- Brazil – developed a new breed of cows called 'Girlando' by improving Indian Gir breed
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

446. On July 20, Government of India and Government of the Republic of Namibia signed an MoU on Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity Utilization, for establishing the cheetah into the historical range in India. Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh is considered ready for receiving cheetah with the least management interventions as a lot of investments had been done in this Protected Area for reintroducing Asiatic lions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Namibia = an MoU on 'Wildlife Conservation & Sustainable Biodiversity Utilization'
- Kuno National Park (MP) – is considered ready for receiving Cheetah
- Namibia – Windhoek – Namibian Dollar/South African Rand | President – Hage Geingob

447. On July 19, NTPC Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an agreement for the formation of a joint venture company for meeting the power requirements of upcoming projects of IOC refineries. NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, will form the JV company for supply of RE-RTC power to IndianOil. IndianOil plans to meet the additional power requirement of its refineries using round-the-clock renewable energy to the tune of 650MW by December 2024 through this JV. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + IOCL = agreement for formation of a JV to meet power requirements of upcoming projects of IOC refineries
- NTPC Green Energy (subsidiary of NTPC) – will form the JV company for supply of RE-RTC power to IndianOil
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959



448. On July 20, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU in the field of judicial cooperation, between India and Judicial Service Commission of Maldives. The MoU will provide a platform to tap benefits of Information Technology for court digitization, and can be a potential growth area for the IT companies and start-ups in both the countries. This is the 8th MoU signed between India and other countries in the field of Judicial Cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Maldives = an MoU in the field of judicial cooperation to tap benefits of IT for court digitization
- This is the 8th MoU signed between India and other countries in the field of Judicial Cooperation
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

449. On July 20, NHPC Limited and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) signed an MoU to explore the formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for exploring and setting up Hydropower and Pump Storage projects. Two Power Sector organizations will jointly harness the hydropower projects and pump storage projects as Energy Storage Solutions in line with the National Objective of Energy Transition i.e. 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC Limited + DVC = an MoU for exploring and setting up Hydropower and Pump Storage projects
- [HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh](#)

450. On July 20, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - North East Initiative and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) signed an MoU with the objective of jointly working to promote investment in Assam and North East States of India. The MoU aims to contribute towards the various initiatives aimed at reforms, policy advocacy, ease of doing business, market linkages and promotion of sustainable business practices etc in Assam and the North-East India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC-North East Initiative + NEDFi ([Guwahati](#)) = an MoU to promote investment in the North East
- [HQs of NEDFi – Guwahati, Assam](#)





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