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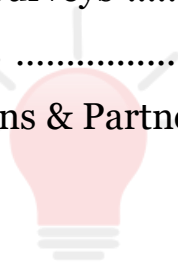
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National & States Affairs

451. On June 20, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) extended the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme in telecom by 1 year. Besides, it has amended the guidelines to introduce design-led manufacturing with additional incentive of 1%. DoT notified the PLI scheme on February 24, 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 12,195 Cr. DoT has also approved the addition of 11 new telecom and networking products to the existing list. The scheme stipulates a minimum investment threshold of Rs 10 Cr for MSMEs and Rs 100 Cr for non-MSME applicants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoT – extended the “Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme” in telecom by 1 year
- Minimum investment threshold – Rs 10 Cr for MSMEs & Rs 100 Cr for non-MSME applicants
- DoT – amended the guidelines to introduce design-led manufacturing with additional incentive of 1%
- DoT – notified the PLI scheme on February 24, 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 12,195 Cr

452. On June 21, the Election Commission of India (ECI) delisted 111 more registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) found non-existent upon verification of their registered addresses. Besides, it also sent a reference to the department of revenue for ‘necessary legal and criminal action’ against three parties allegedly involved in ‘financial impropriety’. The EC also shared a list of 1897, 2202 and 2351 RUPPs who did not submit their contribution reports in FY 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ECI delisted 111 more registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) found non-existent at their registered addresses
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

453. On June 21, Minister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a Seismological Observatory at Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir, an initiative of the National Centre of Seismology (NCS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. India has installed more than 70 such observatories across India in last 8 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – inaugurated a ‘Seismological Observatory’ at Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir
- It is an initiative of the National Centre of Seismology (NCS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

454. On June 21, Assam became the 36th and the last State/UT to implement “One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme”. With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all the 36 states/UTs, making food security portable throughout India. During the last two years of COVID-19 pandemic, ONORC plan has significantly contributed in ensuring subsidized foodgrains to NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries, especially migrant beneficiaries. Since its inception in August 2019, about 71 Crore portable transactions have taken place under ONORC. Another dimension under ONORC plan is the ‘MERA RATION’ mobile application which has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – became the 36th & the last State/UT to implement “One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme”
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



455. On June 18, a 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for distribution of aids and assistive devices to 'Divyangjan' under the ADIP Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in association with ALIMCO at Tezpur in Sonitpur District of Assam. A total of 3445 Aids and Assistive devices of different categories with value of worth Rs 199.60 Lakhs were distributed free of cost among 1808 pre identified Divyangjan. Earlier in May, similar Shivir was organised in Bharatpur, Rajasthan also. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DEPwD + ALIMCO = organized a 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' in Sonitpur, Assam
- It is for distribution of aids & assistive devices to 'Divyangjan' under ADIP Scheme of MoSJE
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

456. On June 19, a statue of Muni Suvrata Nath, the 20th Thirthankara, has come up at Jainaragutti, Karnataka to become a major pilgrimage centre for Jains. The statue, including the kamala peetha (lotus seat) and an image of tortoise at the base, is about 54-ft tall. The black stone (Krishna shile) for the statue was sourced at Srirampura in Hosadurga taluk of Chitradurga district. 'Pancha Kalyana Mahotsava' of the statue is scheduled for March 2023. Abhishekha of the statue will be held once in 12 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Statue of Muni Suvrata Nath (20th Thirthankara) – came up at Jainaragutti, Karnataka (Total height - 54 ft)
- 'Pancha Kalyana Mahotsava' of the statue is scheduled for – March, 2023 (Abhishekha - once in 12 years)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

457. On June 16, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States announced to distribute a funding of USD 122 million to top three Indian medical research institutions, over a period of 5 years, to prevent avoidable epidemics. The three institutions are - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology (NIV) and National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE). Eligibility for funding beginning September 30, 2022 is limited to ICMR, and ICMR institutions, including NIV, Pune and NIE, Chennai. These institutions are mandated by the Ministry of Health of Family Health and Welfare (MoHFW) to provide an oversight for laboratory confirmation of priority pathogens in India in a tiered manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDC (US) – to distribute \$122 million to ICMR, NIV & NIE to prevent avoidable epidemics (over a period of 5 years)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

458. On June 20, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Centre for Brain Research (CBR)" set up at a cost of Rs 280 Cr at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus in Bengaluru. During the Programme, the PM also laid the foundation stone for 832-bedded Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital. The hospital is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the "Centre for Brain Research (CBR)" – at IISc, Bengaluru (Cost - Rs 280 Cr)
- Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot



459. On June 22, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the “National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Rules, 2018”, rationalising the penalty provision for certain contraventions aimed at encouraging compliance. As per the “NFRA Amendment Rules, 2022”, non-compliance with the rules will attract penalty of ₹5,000 and where the contravention is a continuing one, a further fine of ₹500 for every day. This applies to offences for which penalty is not specified elsewhere in the law. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – amended the “National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Rules, 2018”
- For non-compliance with the rules – penalty of ₹5,000
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Rao Inderjit Singh](#)

460. As the political crisis in Maharashtra rages, a fresh application has been filed in a 2020 writ petition in the Supreme Court which sought to bar MLAs who have been disqualified or have resigned from contesting elections for up to 5 years. The petition in question was filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur and, in an effort to curb defections. Disqualifications on the grounds of defection are detailed in the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, commonly referred to as the “Anti-Defection Law”. This law was introduced by 52nd Amendment Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- To curb defections, a fresh application was filed in a 2020 writ petition in the Supreme Court – by Jaya Thakur
- Disqualifications on the grounds of defection are detailed in – 10th Schedule of the Constitution
- 10th Schedule of the Constitution = “Anti-Defection Law” (introduced by 52nd Amendment Act)

461. On June 21, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 5 national highway and 7 railway projects worth over Rs 27,000 Cr in Bengaluru. PM Modi inaugurated India’s first Air-conditioned Railway Station - Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli, which has been developed at a cost of Rs 315 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – foundation stone for 5 national highway & 7 railway projects worth Rs 27,000 Cr in Bengaluru
- He inaugurated India’s first Air-conditioned Railway Station - Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station – in Bengaluru

462. On June 23, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated the largest IKEA outlet in India namely “Nagasandra Store” in Bengaluru. The Bengaluru store is IKEA’s third outlet in India after the ones in Hyderabad and Mumbai. It is spread over 4.6 lakh sq ft. Swedish home furnishing retailer IKEA had opened its first Indian store in Hyderabad in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Basavaraj Bommai – inaugurated the largest IKEA outlet in India namely “Nagasandra Store” in Bengaluru
- Bengaluru store is IKEA’s 3rd outlet in India | After the ones in Hyderabad (1st) & Mumbai (2nd)
- IKEA (Sweden) – opened its first Indian store in Hyderabad in 2019
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot



463. On June 22, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, during the inspection of Bengal Safari North Bengal Wild Animals Park, adopted a 1-year old tiger for 1 year and named him 'Agniveer'. He adopted tiger to spread awareness among the people under the Adoption Program. He paid Rs 2 lakh for the maintenance of the adopted tiger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

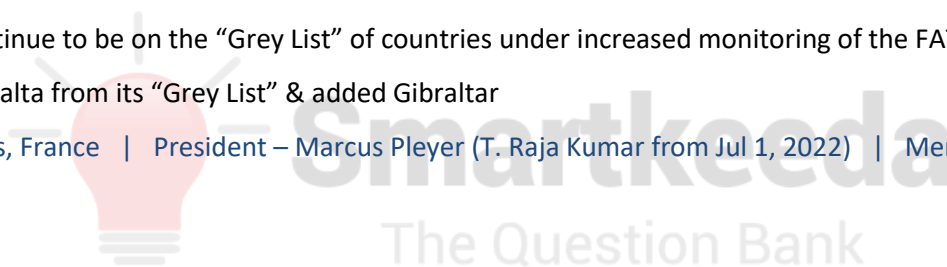
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey – adopted a 1-year old tiger for 1 year & named him 'Agniveer'
- He adopted tiger to spread awareness among the people under the Adoption Program
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhubender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

International Affairs

464. Pakistan will continue to be on the "Grey List" of countries under increased monitoring of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), announced by the FATF during its Plenary Session held in Berlin, Germany in June 2022. The FATF removed Malta from its "Grey List" and added Gibraltar. Pakistan has been on the 'Grey List' of the Paris-based FATF since June 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – will continue to be on the "Grey List" of countries under increased monitoring of the FATF (since June 2018)
- FATF – removed Malta from its "Grey List" & added Gibraltar
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer (T. Raja Kumar from Jul 1, 2022) | Member Countries – 39



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

465. On June 21, France's payment solution company Lyra Network signed an MoU with the NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) for the acceptance of the UPI and RuPay Cards in France. With this, France has become the 5th country to adopt UPI, after Bhutan, Singapore, Nepal & the UAE. Nepal was the first foreign country to adopt India's UPI system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lyra Network (France) + NIPL = an MoU for the acceptance of the UPI & RuPay Cards in France
- France – became the 5th country to adopt UPI, after Bhutan, Singapore, Nepal & the UAE | 1st – Nepal
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

466. As on June 21, a study by the RBI has spoken about the possibility of capital outflows of \$100 billion (around Rs 7,80,000 Cr) from India in case of a major global risk scenario, also known as "Black Swan" event. A "Black Swan" is a rare, unpredictable event that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world. The black swan theory was put forward by author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001, and later popularised in his 2007 book - "The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- As per RBI's study: the possibility of capital outflows of \$100 billion from India in case of a major global risk scenario
- Global Risk Scenario – known as “Black Swan” event
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

467. On June 20, the SEBI has set up an Advisory Committee on Hybrid Securities to boost the growth of such instruments, including measures focusing on ease of issuance and attracting domestic and global capital. The 20-member committee will be chaired by K. V. Kamath. REITs and InvITs are classified as hybrid securities. Besides, the SEBI has reconstituted its Research Advisory Committee, which is responsible for promotion, development, maintenance of databases relevant for capital market regulation research. This 16-member panel will be headed by V Ravi Anshuman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – set up a 20-member Advisory Committee on Hybrid Securities | Headed by – K. V. Kamath
- REITs & InvITs are classified as Hybrid Securities
- SEBI – reconstituted its 14-member Research Advisory Committee | Headed by – V. Ravi Anshuman
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

468. On June 20, DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) acquired a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance, a non-banking finance company, to deliver financial solutions to micro enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending. Svakarma will deliver financial solutions to micro enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) – acquired a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance to deliver financial solutions to micro enterprises
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

469. In June 2022, the government clarified that the TDS on Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) continues to be 1%, applicable from July 1, 2022. The clarification from the Income Tax came after some media reported that the TDS rate for virtual digital assets is dropped to 0.1% from 1%. Moreover, the central government had set a 30% taxation on the gains from the cryptocurrency assets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TDS on Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) continues to be 1%, applicable from July 1, 2022
- Central government – set a 30% taxation on the gains from the cryptocurrency assets

470. On June 22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the timeline for implementation of certain provisions of the master directions it issued on issuance of debit cards and credit cards by 3 months from July 1, 2022 to October 1, 2022. In the master directions issued in April, RBI had said that card issuers will have to seek OTP-based consent from the cardholder for activating a credit card, if the same has not been activated by the customer for more than 30 days from the date of issuance. And, if no consent is granted by the customer, card-issuers will have to close the credit card account without any cost to the customer within 7 working days. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI – extended the timeline for implementation of provisions of issuance of debit cards & credit cards by 3 months from July 1 to October 1
- Card issuers will have to seek OTP-based consent from the cardholder for activating a Credit Card
- 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

471. On June 21, in a bid to break the deadlock over the launch of Surety Bonds, the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) asked insurance regulator IRDAI to develop a model product on Surety Bonds in consultation with general insurers. A surety bond is provided by the insurance company on behalf of the contractor to the entity, which is awarding the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH – asked IRDAI to develop a model product on Surety Bonds in consultation with general insurers
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

472. On June 20, the selling price of bank notes in the denomination of ₹20, ₹50, ₹100 and ₹200 has gone up in FY22. However, for notes in the denomination of ₹500, the prices have remained unchanged, according to information sourced through RTI from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd (BRBNML). Although notes of ₹500 denomination are the highest in terms of volume (34.9%) as well as value (73.3%). The overall cost of printing currency in FY22 was the second highest, after an all-time high of around ₹8,000 crore during the year of demonetisation (2016-17). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd:
- Selling price of bank notes in the denomination of ₹20, ₹50, ₹100 & ₹200 has gone up in FY22
- The prices have remained unchanged in the denomination of ₹500
- Notes of ₹500 denomination are the highest in terms of volume (34.9%) as well as value (73.3%)
- Overall cost of printing currency in FY22 was the 2nd highest, after around ₹8,000 Cr during demonetisation (2016-17)

473. On June 23, Max Life Insurance Company Ltd launched the “Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan”, a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan with a minimum policy tenure of 5 years. The plan offers guaranteed tax-free returns up to 6.14% along with life cover protection at monthly premiums as low as Rs 3000. The plan is also available to purchase on Max Life’s website and Policybazaar.com. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance – launched “Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan” with a minimum policy tenure of 5 years
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy



474. On June 21, CARD91, a global payment infrastructure powering B2B payments, announced a strategic partnership with YES BANK and RuPay, the flagship product of the NPCI. Through this partnership, CARD91 will create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments as well as maintain a real-time dashboard to generate insights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CARD91 + YES BANK + RuPay = an agreement to create a Card Management System
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

475. On June 22, Bengaluru-based neobanking platform Freo launched its digital savings account ‘Freo Save’ in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank. With this launch, it has become the first consumer neobank in India to provide full-stack neo-banking products. Almost 60% of Indians use public sector banks, as per the RBI. Freo’s digital savings account has been integrated with Equitas’ infrastructure on the Freo Save App. Started as MoneyTap in 2016, Freo is India’s first credit-led neobank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Freo (neobank - Bengaluru) + Equitas SFB = launched digital savings account ‘Freo Save’
- Freo – India’s first credit-led neobank & first consumer neobank in India to provide full-stack neo-banking products
- Freo – started as ‘MoneyTap’ in 2016
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan (till the succession)

476. On June 22, South Indian Bank launched a new portal called “SIB TF Online” for its corporate EXIM customers. The portal facilitates a platform for trade-related payments to foreign entities remotely. SIB TF Online has been hosted on the home page of Corporate Internet Banking (SIBerNet). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Indian Bank – launched a new portal called “SIB TF Online” for its corporate EXIM customers
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

Defence Affairs

477. On June 20, the Indian Coast Guard Region (East) inducted the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III, indigenously developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), in Chennai, the headquarters of Coast Guard Region East. The ALH will be the first aircraft of the newly created “840 Squadron” that will be stationed in Chennai and will be the first ALH MK-III to be positioned in the Coast Guard Region East. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Coast Guard Region (East) – inducted the ‘ALH Mark-III’ at HQs of East region in Chennai
- It will be the first ALH MK-III to be positioned in the Coast Guard Region East
- ALH MK-III – first aircraft of the newly created “840 Squadron” (developed by - HAL)
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan





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Sports & Games

478. On June 19, Indian player Anahat Singh won the gold medal in the girls Under-15 category at the “Asian Juniors Squash Championships” in Pattaya, Thailand. The 14-year-old Anahat defeated Kwong Ena of Hong Kong. She is the only Indian girl to win the US Junior Open in any category and the British Junior Open. At the age of 14, Anahat will be the youngest player to represent India at the World Juniors Squash Championships in Nancy, France later in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Juniors Squash Championships” – held in Pattaya, Thailand
- Anahat Singh – won the gold medal in the girls U-15 category (defeating - Kwong Ena of Hong Kong)

479. On June 19, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top podium finish of the season by winning Gold in the javelin throw event at the “Kuortane Games” in Finland, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada. Chopra’s opening throw of 86.69m turned out to be the winning distance. Trinidad and Tobago’s Keshorn Walcott was 2nd with a first round throw of 86.64m. Anderson Peters was 3rd with a best throw of 84.75m. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – clinched Gold in the javelin throw event at the “Kuortane Games” in Finland (beating - Anderson Peters)
- Keshorn Walcott (Trinidad & Tobago) – 2nd | Anderson Peters (Grenada) – 3rd

480. In June 2022, England batter Joe Root completed 10191 Test cricket runs and surpassed former India batter Sunil Gavaskar’s record of 10122 runs. Root achieved this feat on Day 4 of the second Test against New Zealand. With this record, the England batter jumped to the 12th spot of the most runs in Test cricket tally, surpassing Gavaskar and Pakistan’s Younis Khan. The tally is led by Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar with a massive total of 15921 runs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Root – completed 10,191 Test cricket runs & surpassed Sunil Gavaskar’s record of 10,122 runs
- He jumped to the 12th spot of the most runs in Test cricket tally | Top – Sachin Tendulkar (15,921 runs)

481. In June 2022, Telangana’s Himanshu Jain qualified for the Pro Circuit World Snooker. Himanshu is the 1st Indian to qualify through QSschool and the 5th Indian to gain entry into Pro Circuit World Snooker. Other Indians to play in the World Snooker Pro Circuit are Yasin Merchant, Pankaj Advani, Aditya Mehta and Lucky Vatnani. Himanshu was the 4th and final qualifier following a dramatic victory against Kritsanut Lertsattaythorn. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanshu Jain (Telangana - Snooker) – qualified for the ‘Pro Circuit World Snooker’
- Himanshu Jain – 1st Indian to qualify through QSschool & 5th Indian to gain entry into Pro Circuit World Snooker

Science & Technology

482. In June 2022, the world’s largest recorded freshwater fish, “Giant Stingray”, was caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia, according to scientists from the Southeast Asian nation and the United States. The fish measured almost 4 meters (13 feet) and weighed slightly under 300 kg. The previous record for a freshwater fish was a 293 kg Mekong giant catfish, discovered in Thailand in 2005. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Giant Stingray”, world’s largest recorded freshwater fish – caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia
- The fish measured almost 4 meters (13 feet) & weighed slightly under 300 kg
- Cambodia – Phnom Penh – Riel | PM – Hun Sen

483. On June 21, South Korea successfully launched its indigenously built Korea Satellite Launch Vehicle-II (KSLV-II) namely “Nuri” into orbit for the first time. It is a significant step for the country’s burgeoning space program after a failed attempt in 2021. The three-stage rocket, more than 47 meters (154 feet) long and weighing 200 tons, was launched from the Naro Space Center in South Korea’s southern coastal region. It was topped with five satellites that will carry out Earth observation missions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Korea – launched its indigenously built Korea Satellite Launch Vehicle-II (KSLV-II) namely “Nuri” into orbit
- It was launched from the Naro Space Center
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

484. In June 2022, “Spiny Horntail” (*Burmagomphus chaukulensis*), a rare dragonfly, was discovered in Kottiyoor forests of Kannur district in Kerala. The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier in 2022. According to a paper published in 2021, 181 odonata species have been recorded in Kerala. The addition of *Burmagomphus chaukulensis* will take the count to 182. Odonata is an order of flying insects that includes the dragonflies and damselflies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Spiny Horntail” (*Burmagomphus chaukulensis*) – a rare dragonfly was discovered in Kannur, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Appointments & Resignations

485. On June 16, U.S. President Joe Biden nominated Indian-American Radha Iyengar Plumb to a top Pentagon position. Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Ms. Plumb was nominated to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden – nominated Radha Iyengar Plumb as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment

486. On June 22, US President Joe Biden nominated Indian-American scientist Dr. Arati Prabhakar as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She made history as the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to head OSTP. Dr. Prabhakar has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate before, to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and was the first woman to hold that role. Moreover, she was the first woman to earn a PhD in applied physics from the California Institute of Technology. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Arati Prabhakar – nominated as Director of the Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) by Joe Biden
- She is the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to head OSTP
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

487. On June 22, Ruchira Kamboj, currently Indian ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York. She succeeds T S Tirumurti. Ruchira was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch. During her career, she has been Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO in Paris, Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, and Chief of Protocol in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ruchira Kamboj (Indian ambassador to Bhutan) – appointed as next Permanent Representative of India to the UN
- She succeeds – T S Tirumurti
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

488. On June 16, Ruth Ozeki won the “2022 Women’s Prize for Fiction” for her novel, “The Book of Form and Emptiness”, published by Penguin Random House. She was in the shortlist with five other authors. The prize, which is now in its 27th year, is given for outstanding, ambitious, original fiction written in English by women from anywhere in the world. Ozeki received a £30,000 (\$36,500) prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ruth Ozeki – won the “2022 Women’s Prize for Fiction” for her novel, “The Book of Form and Emptiness”

489. In June 2022, Shreya Lenka became India’s first-ever K-pop star. 18-year-old girl Lenka has been chosen as the fifth member of the girl K-pop band Blackswan. She hails from Odisha’s Jharsuguda district. She was selected from a global audition held by South Korean Music Label DR Music Entertainment. Along with Sriya, Gabriela Dalcin of Brazil has also been selected as the 6th member of the group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shreya Lenka (Odisha) – became India’s first-ever K-pop star (5th member of the girl K-pop band Blackswan)
- Gabriela Dalcin (Brazil) – also selected as the 6th member of the group
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

490. On June 21, Ministry of AYUSH announced “Prime Minister’s Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga” for the year 2021. The recipients include - two individuals, namely Bhikkhu Sanghasena (Ladakh) & Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues (Brazil), and two organisations, namely The Divine Life Society (Uttarakhand) & British Wheel of Yoga (UK). Ministry of AYUSH developed the guidelines for this award. This award was initially announced by PM Modi on the occasion of the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh on 21st June, 2016. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of AYUSH – announced “Prime Minister’s Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga” for the year 2021 (initially announced by the PM Modi in 2016)
- The recipients include:
- Two individuals – Bhikkhu Sanghasena (Ladakh) & Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues (Brazil)
- Two organisations – The Divine Life Society (Uttarakhand) & British Wheel of Yoga (UK)

Schemes & Initiatives

491. In June 2022, at the “NASSCOM Future of Work 2022” event held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu’s Chief Minister MK Stalin launched a skilling programme called “Nalaya Thiran” (Tomorrow’s ability) under the ‘Naan Mudhalvan’ (I am the first) - the umbrella programme of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. The TN government will train nearly 50,000 college students with knowledge in computer science, electronics and IT domains, skilling them on problem solving using technologies. Annually about 4 lakh people are added to the workforce, of which, nearly 1 lakh are STEM-related. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “NASSCOM Future of Work 2022” event – held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu – launched a skilling programme called “Nalaya Thiran” (Tomorrow’s ability)
- ‘Naan Mudhalvan’ (I am the first) – the umbrella programme of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

Books & Authors

492. On June 20, Penguin Random House (PRHI) announced that the biography of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani titled “Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India”, written by journalist-author R. N. Bhaskar, will be published in October, 2022. It will be released under PRHI’s ‘Hamish’ imprint. Bhaskar is also the author of “Game India: Seven strategies that could steer India to wealth” (2019). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India” biography of Gautam Adani – authored by R. N. Bhaskar
- Publisher – Penguin Random House
- “Game India: Seven strategies that could steer India to wealth” book – also authored by R. N. Bhaskar

493. On June 21, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar released a book on “Ashtanga Yoga” written by Dr. Sonu Phogat, on the eve of International Yoga Day. Earlier, the CM also released “Kathasatisagar”, a book on folk literature of Jammu and Kashmir written by V-C Nehru and Dr CK Gariali. Moreover, the CM directed Shri Vishwakarma Skill University to open extension centres in other districts of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manohar Lal Khattar – released a book on “Ashtanga Yoga” – written by Dr. Sonu Phogat
- “Kathasatisagar”, a book on folk literature of J&K written by = V-C Nehru + CK Gariali
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

494. On June 20, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizer, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually addressed the inaugural session at the G20 Health Ministers meeting at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia hosted two Health Working Group Meetings in Yogyakarta and Lombok wherein priority issues of ‘Harmonizing Global Health Protocol Standards’ and ‘Building Global Health System Resilience’ were discussed. India has pledged to End TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global SDG target of 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – virtually addressed the inaugural session at the G20 Health Ministers meeting in Indonesia
- India – pledged to End TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global SDG target of 2030
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

495. On June 18, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav represented India at the virtual meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF), hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden. He mentioned that India has already installed 159 GW of non-fossil fuel based electricity generation capacity. And during the last 7.5 years, India’s installed solar energy capacity has increased over 18 times. The Minister called upon the members of MEF to launch a global movement on “LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment” as espoused by PM Narendra Modi at the COP26 in Glasgow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – represented India at the meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy & Climate (hosted by US)
- “LIFE” – Lifestyle For Environment
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

496. On June 20, Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah addressed the “National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security” (Azadi from Cyber Crime - Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav) in New Delhi. In his address on the occasion, the Home Minister stated that the PM Narendra Modi has described the period of 25 years from the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ to the centenary of our Independence as “Amrit Kaal”. He further stated that Narendra Modi has digitally empowered crores of people by connecting them with the economy. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana 45 Cr new accounts have been opened so far. In 2021, 40% of the total global digital payments took place in India only. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Amit Shah – addressed the “National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security” in New Delhi
- In 2021, 40% of the total global digital payments took place in India only
- Ministry of Home Affairs & Cooperation: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

497. India has emerged as the 4th largest recycler of Gold in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes of Gold in 2021, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report titled “Gold Refining and Recycling”. China topped the global gold recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of Gold, followed by Italy with 80 tonnes and the US with 78 tonnes in 2021. From 300 tonnes in 2013, India’s gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) in 2021, as per the report. Despite being the 4th largest recycler in the world, India recycles little of its own stock of gold - about 8% of the gold recycled globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gold Refining and Recycling” report – released by World Gold Council
- India – emerged as the 4th largest recycler of Gold in the world | 1st – China | 2nd – Italy | 3rd – US
- India – recycled 75 tonnes of Gold in 2021 (about 8% of the gold recycled globally)
- HQs of WGC – London | CEO – David Tait | MD (India) – Somasundaram PR



Amount & Agreements

498. On June 21, GE Steam Power signed a USD 165 million pact with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for the supply of 3 Nuclear Steam Turbines out of 6 units for NPCIL’s domestic nuclear program. This domestic program includes 12 units of 700 MWe being developed by NPCIL with their own nuclear reactor technology. At present, GE’s steam turbine technology operates in 50% of the world’s nuclear power plants, producing 200 gigawatts (GWs) for the global grid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GE Steam Power + BHEL = a \$165 million pact for supply of 3 Nuclear Steam Turbines out of 6 units for NPCIL’s domestic nuclear program
- GE’s steam turbine technology operates in 50% of the world’s nuclear power plants, producing 200 GWs
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

499. On June 19, Odisha (Department of Mission Shakti) signed an agreement with Apparel Made-ups and Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC), New Delhi to launch an initiative for skill development of 10,000 Mission Shakti SHG members on apparel manufacturing. This initiative is titled as “Skill-based training of Mission Shakti Women Self Help Group Members as Sewing Machine Operators”. The initiative will ensure the generation of skilled manpower in the apparel sector and provide self-employment opportunities across the state. [{Read more}](#)

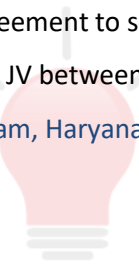
Key Points:

- Odisha + AMHSSC = agreement to launch “Skill-based training of Mission Shakti Women Self Help Group Members as Sewing Machine Operators”
- The initiative is for skill development of 10,000 Mission Shakti SHG members on apparel manufacturing
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

500. In June 2022, Zomato and Jio-bp signed an agreement to support Zomato’s commitment towards the Climate Group’s “EV100” initiative of 100% EV fleet by 2030. Jio-bp, the fuel and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd and bp, will provide EV mobility services to Zomato and access to ‘Jio-bp pulse’ battery swapping stations for last-mile delivery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zomato + Jio-bp = an agreement to support towards the Climate Group’s “EV100” initiative of 100% EV fleet by 2030
- Jio-bp – a fuel & mobility JV between Reliance Industries Ltd & bp
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Deepinder Goyal | Founded in – 2008



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