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National & States Affairs

601. On June 26, the Assam Cabinet approved formation of a joint venture company called “ARIDCL” between the State Government and the Railway Ministry to increase the Railway Network in the state. In Assam Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (ARIDCL), the state government will hold a share of 51% and the remaining 49% will be held by the Ministry. The cabinet also approved the “Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment), 2022” for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and streamlining existing taxation regime by incorporating “Green Tax” on older vehicles. The Cabinet decided to launch a programme ‘Arohan’ for classes 9 to 12 from 2022-23 to guide talented students in the 13-18 age group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – formed a JV company “ARIDCL” between State Govt & Railway Ministry to increase the Railway Network
- Share in JV: State government – 51% | Railway Ministry – 49%
- Assam – launched a programme ‘Arohan’ for classes 9 to 12 from 2022-23 to guide students in the 13-18 age group
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

602. On June 25, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised a virtual event to celebrate 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched by PM Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015. The event was presided by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA. Manoj Joshi also released an eBook titled “7 years of PMAY (U) 2015-2022” highlighting the achievements of the mission in 7 years. At the event, winners of “Khushiyan Ka Aashiyana” short film contest were also declared. The contest was launched by MoHUA as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. With a total investment of Rs 8.31 Lakh Cr PMAY-U has so far sanctioned Rs 122.69 lakh houses, out of which more than 1 Cr houses have been grounded and over 61 lakh houses have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – organized a virtual event (presided by Manoj Joshi) – to celebrate 7 years of ‘PMAY-U’
- Manoj Joshi – released an eBook “7 years of PMAY(U) 2015-2022”
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

603. On June 24, the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), National Standard Body of India, has published standards (IS 17855: 2022) for Test Specifications for Lithium-ion Traction Battery Packs and Systems (Performance Testing) for Electrically Propelled Road Vehicles. This standard is formulated considering real life scenarios for an electric vehicle such as vehicle is in parking, battery system is being shipped, operating battery at low and high temperature etc., accordingly various tests are incorporated in this standard. The BIS is in the process of publishing 2 more standard related to batteries for various passenger and goods carrying vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BIS – published standards for Test Specifications for ‘Lithium-ion Traction Battery Packs & Systems’ for Electrically Propelled Road Vehicles
- BIS is in the process of publishing 2 more standard related to batteries for various passenger & goods carrying vehicles
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari



604. On June 25, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0), being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), launched the “Revised Swachh Certification Protocols” for ODF, ODF+, ODF++, and Water+ certifications. The launch event for this was held at Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi and was chaired by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). During PM Narendra Modi’s maiden Independence Day speech in 2014, Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th Birth Anniversary was chosen as the day by which all cities and statutory towns in urban India were to become 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF). While ‘SBM 2.0’ was launched by the Prime Minister on October 1, 2021 with the overall vision of creating ‘Garbage Free Cities’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBM 2.0 – launched an event “Revised Swachh Certification Protocols” for ODF, ODF+, ODF++ & Water+ certifications
- The event chaired by – Manoj Joshi | Held at – Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

605. On June 27, Tata Power Solar Systems (TPPS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has accomplished a remarkable feat by commissioning India's largest floating Solar Power Project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 MW Peak. Tata Power Solar successfully built a scaffolding platform on the water body to make the entire solar plant float on water. This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category. Earlier, the record was held by 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project, located in Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power Solar Systems – commissioned India’s largest floating Solar Power Project (101.6 MW) – in Kerala
- Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project (100 MW) – in Telangana
- HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

International Affairs

606. On June 14, China emerged as the top buyer of Indian rice during the pandemic, with the import of 16.34 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), or 7.7% of India’s total rice export of 212.10 LMT in financial year 2021-22, according to an analysis of trade data. The analysis shows that out of China’s total rice import from India, nearly 97% (15.76 LMT) was broken rice. China is now the top buyer of Indian broken rice, which was earlier exported mostly to African countries. During 2021-22, India exported 38.64 LMT of broken rice to 83 countries. In 2021-22, India’s total rice exports, both basmati and non-basmati, was 212.10 LMT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s total rice export in 2021-22 – 212.10 LMT (Broken Rice - 38.64 LMT)
- China – emerged as top buyer of Indian rice with import of 16.34 LMT (Broken Rice - 15.76 LMT)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



607. On June 25, the European Commission (EC), the European Union's executive arm, unveiled a landmark legislation for halving pesticide use across Europe by 2030 and dismantling big dams to make rivers free-flowing. The legislation aims to restore nature and mitigate climate change on the European continent. It is also expected to contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EU – unveiled a landmark legislation for halving pesticide use across Europe by 2030
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

608. On June 25, the Commonwealth of Nations has admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members, respectively. Leaders accepted applications by these two west African countries at the closing session of the 26th “Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2022)” in Kigali, Rwanda under the new Chairmanship of Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Rwanda was the last country to join the Commonwealth, in 2009. The Commonwealth began with 8 nations in 1949. The CHOGM 2022 was held under the theme “Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming”. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation to the CHOGM 2022. During the event, S. Jaishankar and UK's Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced the establishment of a joint “India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy Programme” to train young and aspiring diplomats from both nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gabon & Togo – became 55th & 56th members of Commonwealth of Nations
- 26th CHOGM – held at Kigali, Rwanda | Theme – “Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming”
- Indian delegation at ‘CHOGM 2022’ was led by – S. Jaishankar
- India + UK = to establish a joint “India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy Programme”
- Rwanda – Kigali – Rwandan Franc | President – Paul Kagame
- Gabon – Libreville – CFA franc | President – Ali Bongo Ondimba | PM – Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda
- Togo – Lome – CFA franc | President – Faure Gnassingbe

609. On June 24, the United States Supreme Court overturned ‘Roe v. Wade’, the court's landmark judgment of 1973, that made abortion a constitutional right. The case is sometimes referred to simply as “Roe”, the listed name of the 22-year-old plaintiff, Norma McCorvey. ‘Wade’ was the defendant Henry Wade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US Supreme Court overturned ‘Roe v. Wade’, the court's landmark judgment of 1973
- The Judgement made ‘abortion’ a constitutional right
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

610. On June 29, the SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 7 Cr on the stock exchange, NSE in the dark fibre case. A penalty of Rs 5 Cr each is levied on former NSE officials Chitra Ramakrishna and Anand Subramanian. In this case, a total of 18 entities received penalties. NSE and its former officials including other entities have been under SEBI's radar over alleged irregularities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a 7 Cr penalty on NSE in dark fibre case
- A penalty of Rs 5 Cr each is also levied on former NSE officials – Chitra Ramakrishna & Anand Subramanian
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

611. On June 27, Mufin Finance, one of the leading NBFCs, has received in-principal approval from the RBI for issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments (PPIs). A semi-closed PPI licence allows digital banks, fintech firms and large consumer-facing applications to roll out features such as Digital Payment Solutions for lending. Mufin Finance is the 4th NBFC to receive such a licence from the RBI, after Bajaj Finserv, Manapurram and Paul Merchants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mufin Finance – 4th NBFC to receive in-principal approval from the RBI for issuance of semi-closed PPIs
- HQs of Mufin Finance – New Delhi | Founders – Kapil Garg & Rajat Goyal

612. On June 20, Bajaj Finance Limited partnered with Worldline to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network. With this tie-up, Bajaj Finance Limited aims to enhance its relationship with both existing and new network of merchant partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Finance + Worldline = partnership to develop PoS payments for its merchant network
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Sanjiv Bajaj

613. On June 20, Protean eGov Technologies Ltd (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd) and PayNearby announced a partnership to offer PAN-related services for PayNearby's retail partners through Aadhaar and biometric or SMS-based OTP authentication for their customers. The partnership looks to improve service delivery for millions of citizens. Under the collaboration, PayNearby will work as the PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean. PayNearby, through its tech-led DaaS (Distribution as a Service) network, serves 75% of India. Incepted in April 2016, PayNearby is a DPIIT-certified company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Protean eGov Technologies + PayNearby = partnership to offer PAN-related services through Aadhaar & biometric or SMS-based OTP authentication
- PayNearby – will work as the PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean
- PayNearby serves 75% of India through its tech-led DaaS (Distribution as a Service) network
- HQs of Protean eGov Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Sethi
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj



614. In June 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has reduced the Solvency Margin requirement for General Insurers doing crop business. The decision can free up a capital of Rs 1,400 Cr, which IRDAI expects will increase the capacity of general insurers to underwrite more business. The IRDAI has been relaxing the period of admissibility of premiums due from state governments for solvency purposes from 180 days to 365 days since 2017-18.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – reduced the Solvency Margin requirement for General Insurers doing crop business
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda

615. In June 2022, while addressing an event organised by UNDP India, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said that India would become a \$5 trillion economy by 2026-27 and \$10 trillion by 2033-34. Currently, India is \$3.3 trillion economy. In 2019, PM Narendra Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25. India's economy grew 8.7% in FY 2021-22 against a 6.6% contraction in the previous year (FY21). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to V. Anantha Nageswaran: India would become \$5 trillion economy by 2026-27 & \$10 trillion by 2033-34
- Currently, India is \$3.3 trillion economy
- In 2019, PM Narendra Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy – by 2024-25
- India's GDP in FY 2021-22 was 8.7% (against -6.6% in FY21)

616. On June 27, State Bank of India (SBI) has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its proposed "Operations Support Subsidiary" aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio. The subsidiary will enable the lender to leverage its high-cost manpower for more productive services. SBI's cost to income ratio stood at 53.3% in FY22, an improvement of 240 basis points over FY19 levels. In FY22, SBI's net interest margin stood at 3.15%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – received in-principle approval from RBI for its propose "Operations Support Subsidiary"
- SBI's cost to income ratio in FY22 – 53.3% | SBI's net interest margin in FY22 – 3.15%
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

617. As per the "Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022", notified by the Finance Ministry, the compensation cess under 28% slab will continue to be levied from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026. The government extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by nearly 4 years. The GST was introduced in India with effect from July 1, 2017 and States were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for a period of 5 years. The Centre has released the entire amount of GST compensation payable to States up to May 31, 2022. In order to meet the resource gap of States due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released ₹1.1 lakh Cr in 2020-21 and ₹1.59 lakh Cr in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection. The Centre has repaid ₹7,500 Cr as interest cost for the borrowing in FY 2021-22 and ₹14,000 Cr is to be paid this fiscal year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess – to March 31, 2026 (from July 1, 2022)
- In 2017, States were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising due to GST – for 5 years
- Govt borrowed & released ₹1.59 lakh Cr in FY22
- Govt repaid ₹7,500 Cr as 'interest cost' for the borrowing in FY22 & ₹14,000 Cr is to be paid for FY23



618. On June 21, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a penalty of 30 lakh on Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and two of its compliance officers, Savithri Parekh and K. Sethuraman, for not promptly disclosing the stake sales in its subsidiary company, Jio Platforms to Facebook, Silver Lake and Vista Equity Partners in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI imposed penalty of Rs 30 lakh on RIL – for not promptly disclosing the stake sales in Jio Platforms in 2022
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

619. On June 25, the SEBI provided an additional payment option of UPI mechanism to retail investors to apply in the public issue of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and real estate investment trust (REIT) for application value up to Rs 5 lakh. The move is part of SEBI's effort to streamline the process of allotment and listing of units. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – provided additional UPI payment option to apply in InvIT & REIT
- REITs – Real Estate Investment Trusts | InvITs – Infrastructure Investment Trusts
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

Defence Affairs

620. On June 17, the government increased the upper-age limit for recruitment under the “Agnipath” scheme to 23 years from 21 years for the year 2022, amid widespread protests against the new model for enrolment of soldiers into the 3 services. Earlier, the age criterion was from 17.5 years to 21 years. At the end of 4-year tenure, each “Agniveer” will get an amount of ₹11.71 lakh as the “Seva Nidhi Package” and it will be exempted from Income Tax. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Upper-age limit for recruitment under the “Agnipath” scheme – increased to 23 years (from 21 years)
- Current “Agnipath” scheme age criterion – 17.5 to 23 years
- “Seva Nidhi Package” of Rs 11.71 lakh for each “Agniveer” at the end of 4-year tenure

Sports & Games

621. On June 26, Madhya Pradesh cricket team created history by winning their maiden “Ranji Trophy” title in 2022, beating the Mumbai team. Mumbai team has won the Ranji Trophy 41 times in the 88-year-old tournament. The current MP team is captained by Aditya Shrivastava of Bhopal. The Ranji Trophy (also known as Paytm Ranji Trophy for sponsorship reasons) is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations. The competition currently consists of 38 teams. The competition is named after the first Indian cricketer who played international cricket, Ranjitsinhji. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh team – won their maiden “Ranji Trophy” title in 2022 (beating - Mumbai team)
- Current MP team is captained by – Aditya Shrivastava (Bhopal)
- Ranji Trophy (also known as ‘Paytm Ranji Trophy’) – currently consists of 38 teams
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel



622. In June 2022, Indian Men's Hockey Team won the inaugural "Hero FIH Hockey5s Championship" held in Lausanne, Switzerland, beating Poland. India, who had topped the 5-team league standings with three wins and one draw en route final, ended their campaign with an unbeaten record. While the Indian women's team failed to make it to the final after drawing 4-4 with South Africa in the second match. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Men's Hockey Team – won the inaugural "Hero FIH Hockey5s Championship" held in Lausanne (beating - Poland)
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

Science & Technology

623. On June 25, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and the Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA), Bengaluru, found that non-humanoid robots can be used for teaching children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. The paper was presented at "IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation" in Xi'an, China in 2021. It has now won the IISc's Murthy Govindaraju 'Women in Computer Science' Research Endowment Award for one of its lead authors, Nabanita Paul. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc Bengaluru + ASHA = found that non-humanoid robots can be used for teaching children with Autism
- ASD – a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain
- The research was presented at "IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation" – in Xi'an, China
- The research won the IISc's Murthy Govindaraju 'Women in Computer Science' Research Endowment Award
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909

624. On June 24, Hyderabad's Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd and Bengaluru's Digantara Research & Technologies Pvt Ltd were authorised by Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to launch their payloads. With this, IN-SPACe marked the beginning of Private Space Sector launches in India. Dhruva Space's Dhruva Space Satellite Orbital Deployer and Digantara's ROBust Integrating Proton Fluence Meter (ROBI) were authorised. The payloads were launched onboard 'PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)' of 'PSLV-C53' on June 30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. PSLV-C53 is the 55th mission of the ISRO. Meanwhile, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, organised a 3-day training course on "Bhuvan" portal utilisation. Bhuvan is a Geoportal platform of ISRO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhruva Space + Digantara Research & Technologies = authorised by IN-SPACe to launch their payloads
- The payloads were launched onboard – 'PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)' of 'PSLV-C53'
- 'Bhuvan' – a Geoportal platform of ISRO
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- HQs of Dhruva Space – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sanjay Nekkanti
- HQs of Digantara – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Anirudh Sharma



625. On June 28, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully launched the first of a trio of sounding rocket missions, “Black Brant IX sounding rocket” to study Alpha Centauri from Arnhem Space Center, in Australia. The rocket is sent to examine X-rays in the zone of gas and dust between stars known as the interstellar medium. The second mission of the trio was the University of Colorado Boulder’s “Suborbital Imaging Spectrograph for Transition region Irradiance from Nearby Exoplanet (SISTINE)” host stars. The third mission, scheduled for July 12, was another UC Boulder mission called “Dual-channel Extreme Ultraviolet Continuum Experiment (DEUCE)”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched the 1st of “Black Brant IX sounding rocket” mission from Australia – to study Alpha Centauri
- 2nd mission – University of Colorado Boulder’s “SISTINE” host stars | 3rd mission – UC Boulder mission called “DEUCE”
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

626. On June 27, the Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has received the Crew Module Fairing (CMF), a critical structure that will protect the Gaganyaan module carrying the astronauts during launch. The CMF was manufactured by Alpha Design Technology Limited’s (ADTL) fully owned subsidiary Alpha Tocol Engineering Services in Bengaluru, while the design and specifications came from the ISRO. Adani Group holds the majority stake in ADTL. Moreover, Alpha is scheduled to sign an agreement for transfer of technology of the small satellite platform - “Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) Bus”. The IMS-1, developed by ISRO’s UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), would enable low-cost access to space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- VSSC (ISRO) – received a critical structure ‘Crew Module Fairing (CMF)’ that will protect the Gaganyaan module
- Manufactured by – ADTL’s subsidiary ‘Alpha Tocol Engineering Services’ (Bengaluru) | Designed by – ISRO
- Alpha – will also sign an agreement for transfer of technology of the small satellite platform - “IMS-1 Bus”
- ‘IMS-1’ is developed by – ISRO’s UR Rao Satellite Centre (Bengaluru)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

Appointments & Resignations

627. On June 29, Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) formulated a new board for a term of 2 consecutive years 2022-2024 at the Annual General Meeting. Yashpal Sharma (MD of Skyways Group) was appointed as the President of ACFI for this period, replacing Cyrus Katgara. Katgara will be part of the current board as Ex Officio. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ACFI – appointed Yashpal Sharma as President of ACFI for 2 years (replacing - Cyrus Katgara)
- Yashpal Sharma – MD of Skyways Group
- HQs of ACFI – New Delhi | Chairman – Vipin Jain | Established in – 2012

628. In June 2022, Iraq's Mohamed Jalood was appointed as the President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), and 11 additional new members have been added to its executive board. The IWF was founded in 1905, and has 192 Member Federations. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Mohamed Jalood (Iraq) – appointed as the President of IWF
- HQs of IWF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohamed Jalood | Founded in – 1905 | Members – 192

629. On June 22, Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran was unanimously elected as the new President of the India International Centre (IIC). He succeeds N. N. Vohra. His first book “How India Sees the World” was published in 2017. He has recently published his second book “How China Sees India and the World”. Saran was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011 for his contributions to civil service. In May 2019, he was conferred the Spring Order Gold and Silver Star by the Emperor of Japan for promoting India-Japan relations. The President of the IIC is elected once in 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyam Saran – elected as new President of IIC (succeeding - N. N. Vohra)
- “How India Sees the World” (2017) & “How China Sees India and the World” – authored by Shyam Saran
- His awards: ‘Padma Bhushan’ (2011), ‘Spring Order Gold & Silver Star’ (2019) by the Emperor of Japan
- IIC President is elected once in 5 years

630. On June 27, IRS officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), replacing Sangeeta Singh. Sangeeta Singh was an incumbent Chairman of CBDT after J. B. Mohapatra’s retirement in April, 2022. Mr. Gupta is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board and is scheduled to retire in September, 2023. The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have 6 members who are in the rank of special secretary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gupta – appointed as new Chairman of CBDT (replacing - Sangeeta Singh)
- CBDT – is headed by Chairman & can have 6 members
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Nitin Gupta | Formed in – 1944

631. On June 24, the Central government gave 1-year extension in service to Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Chief Samant Goel and appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB). Mr. Tapan succeeded incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tapan Deka – appointed as Director of IB (succeeding - Arvind Kumar)
- Samant Goel – granted 1-year extension as Chief of RAW
- HQs of IB – New Delhi | DG – Tapan Deka
- HQs of RAW – New Delhi | Chief – Samant Goel





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- STATE EXAMS
- CUET

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

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

632. On June 25, Khushi Patel, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, was declared the winner of the “Miss India Worldwide 2022”, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India. Vaidehi Dongre from the US was declared the first runner up, while Shrutika Mane was adjudged the second runner up. Roshani Razack from Guyana was declared “Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022”. Navya Paingol from the US was the first runner up, while Chiquita Malaha from Suriname was the second runner up. India Festival Committee (IFC) has been organising these events for the past 29 years. This year’s pageant was the 29th edition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Miss India Worldwide 2022”:
 - Winner – Khushi Patel (UK) | 1st runner up – Vaidehi Dongre | 2nd runner up – Shrutika Mane
- “Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022”:
 - Winner – Roshni Razack (Guyana) | 1st runner up – Navya Paingol | 2nd runner up – Chiquita Malaha

633. In recognition of his outstanding impact on the sport of tennis as a player, promoter, and humanitarian, India’s Vijay Amritraj has been named the recipient of the “Golden Achievement Award 2021”. The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually by the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) and International Tennis Federation (ITF) to a person who has made important contributions internationally to tennis in the fields of administration, promotion, or education and has devoted long and outstanding service to the sport. The award was presented at a special celebration hosted in Amritraj’s honour in London. Vijay Amritraj was the first Indian player to turn professional on the ATP Tour. Amritraj remains the highest-ranked ATP singles player from India in ATP history (No. 16), and he captured the most titles by an Asian singles player (15) during his career. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Amritraj (Tennis Player) – received the “Golden Achievement Award 2021” – presented by ITHF & ITF
- Vijay Amritraj – the first Indian player to turn professional on the ATP Tour
- Vijay Amritraj – remains the highest-ranked ATP singles player from India in ATP history
- HQs of ITF – London, UK | President – David Haggerty | Founded in – 1913

Schemes & Initiatives

634. On June 26, the Karnataka government launched the ‘Kashi Yatra’ project which offers around 30,000 pilgrims cash assistance of ₹5,000 each to take up a pilgrimage to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. For this scheme, the government will be using funds of up to ₹7 crores from the accounts head of “Assistance to Manasa Sarovara Pilgrims” which was announced in the chief minister’s budget speech for the financial year 2022-23. Shashikala Jolle, the Minister for Religious Endowment, Hajj and Wakf, stated that any pilgrim taking up the government-sponsored ‘Kashi Yatra’ would get the benefit only once in a life time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched ‘Kashi Yatra’ project for 30,000 pilgrims to take up a pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple
- Cash Assistance: ₹5,000 per pilgrim | Kashi Vishwanath Temple – Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

635. On June 26, Himachal Pradesh launched a “Buy-Back Scheme” in schools and colleges to purchase the single-use plastic items from students in a bid to instill a sense of environment preservation by ‘catching them young’. Under the novel scheme, the students would be encouraged to bring single-use plastic items from their home and deposit it with the school, for which they will be paid Rs 75 a kg by the government. Moreover, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE) is the State nodal agency for the “National Green Crops”, an Eco-club Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched ‘Buy-Back Scheme’ in schools/colleges to purchase single-use plastic items from students
- HIMCOSTE – a nodal agency for “National Green Crops”, an Eco-club Programme of MoEFCC
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

636. On June 26, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the “Nasha Nahin, Zindagi Chunne” initiative and flagged off vehicles of the Department of State Taxes and Excise to deal with drug peddling effectively in Shimla. A Special Task Force would also be constituted to curb the drug menace in Himachal Pradesh. A short film of Nasha Niwaran Board on various initiatives taken by various departments was also screened on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jai Ram Thakur (HP) – launched the “Nasha Nahin, Zindagi Chunne” initiative to curb the drug menace in the state
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



Important Days & Dates

637. A global campaign of the World Allergy Organisation (WAO), “World Allergy Week” is marked from June 5 to June 11 to raise awareness of the impact of allergic diseases in our communities. In 2022, the theme is “Bronchial Asthma and Respiratory Allergic Diseases”. According to reports, 2% of adults and 6% of children in India suffer from asthma and the disease can be influenced by different factors which include genetics, environment, diet and infections. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 5-11 – “World Allergy Week 2022” – by World Allergy Organisation
- 2022’s Theme – “Bronchial Asthma and Respiratory Allergic Diseases”
- HQs of World Allergy Organization – Wisconsin, US | President – Motohiro Ebisawa

638. The “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture” is annually observed on 26 June. The United Nations General Assembly had first observed the day in 1998 to raise awareness about those who undergo torture and how it impacts their lives. The date marks the moment in 1987 when the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 26 – “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture” – by UNGA (since 1998)
- HQs of UNGA – New York, US | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193



639. “National Insurance Awareness Day” is observed on June 28 with the aim of creating awareness among the public about insurance policies. India’s insurance penetration stood at 4.2% as of 2020, according to the ‘Economic Survey 2022’. The penetration for life insurance in India is 3.2%. Moreover, HDFC Life presents Life Sessions partnered by ET Now is a joint initiative to create awareness amongst the consumers about insurance as a crucial financial planning tool. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 28 – “National Insurance Awareness Day”
- According to the ‘Economic Survey 2022’: India’s insurance penetration stood at 4.2% as of 2020

640. The “International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking” or “World Drug Day” is celebrated every year on June 26. In 2022, the theme is “Addressing Drug Challenges in Health and Humanitarian Crises”. On December 7, 1987, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe this day on June 26. The focus is to create awareness about the hazardous impacts of drug abuse on the society and to create a world without it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 26 – “International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking” or “World Drug Day” – by UNGA (since 1987)
- 2022’s Theme – “Addressing Drug Challenges in Health and Humanitarian Crises”
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, US](#) | [President – Abdulla Shahid](#) | [Member Countries – 193](#)

641. On June 2, the United States and other parts of the world come together to celebrate June month every year as “LGBTQ Pride Month”, also known as “Gay Pride Month”. The term ‘Gay Pride’ is believed to be coined by Thom Higgins. It is observed in June to honour the “1969 Stonewall Uprising” in Manhattan - a tipping point for Gay Liberation Movement in the US. The rainbow colours have been associated with the LGBTQ community for decades, with the ‘Rainbow Flag’ being the most common symbol of Gay Pride. LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (an umbrella term for non-straight people). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June – “LGBTQ Pride Month” or “Gay Pride Month” (to honour “1969 Stonewall Uprising” in Manhattan, New York, US)
- ‘Rainbow Flag’ – most common symbol of ‘Gay Pride’
- LGBTQ – Lesbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **T**ransgender & **Q**ueer

642. “Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day” is celebrated every year on June 27 to recognise the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide. This year, the International Trade Centre (ITC) marks the 5th anniversary of MSME Day. On this day, a hybrid event was organised under the theme “Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for Sustainable Development at the forefront of Building Back Better and Stronger from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Climate Crisis and Conflicts”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 27 – “MSME Day” – to recognize MSME’s contribution in implementation of SDGs
- MSMEs account for 90% of Businesses, 60-70% of Employment & 50% of GDP worldwide
- [Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane](#) | [Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma](#)



Obituaries

643. On June 26, Venkataraman Krishnamurthy, who is considered as the turnaround man of several Indian corporate houses like BHEL, Maruti Udyog, SAIL and Gail (India), passed away at the age of 97. Krishnamurthy is considered as the “Father of Public Sector Undertakings in India”. He served as the CEO of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Maruti Udyog, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) and GAIL (India). He was the founder Chairman of Maruti Udyog Ltd. In the academic field, he had served as the chairman of IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad and IIT Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Krishnamurthy – Indian Civil Servant – passed away (known as “Father of PSUs” in India)
- Served as CEO of – BHEL, SAIL, GAIL, Maruti Udyog & Chairman of – IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Delhi

644. On June 28, Pallonji Mistry, Chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group, passed away in Mumbai. He was 93. He was the largest individual shareholder in the Tata Group with 18.4% holding in the conglomerate. His son Cyrus Mistry succeeded Ratan Tata as Chairman of the Tata Group and was ousted by the board in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pallonji Mistry – Indian-Irish Business Tycoon – passed away (Chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group)
- He was the largest individual shareholder in Tata Group with 18.4% holding

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

645. On June 25, the National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) organized a one-day seminar on ‘Anti Human Trafficking Awareness’ in New Delhi. Ms Rekha Sharma (Chairperson of NCW) and Balaji Srivastava (DG of BPR&D) presided over the seminar. Moreover, in April 2022, the NCW established its own ‘Anti-Human Trafficking Cell (AHTC)’ to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW + BPR&D = organized a one-day seminar on ‘Anti Human Trafficking Awareness’ in New Delhi
- In April, the NCW also established its own ‘Anti-Human Trafficking Cell (AHTC)’
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992
- HQs of BPR&D – New Delhi | DG – Balaji Srivastava

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

646. According to a recent research paper titled “40 years of Dutch Disease Literature: Lessons for Developing Countries”, by Edouard Mien and Michael Goujon, the framework of the model of the phenomenon called “Dutch Disease” is based on 3 sectors: Energy (oil, gas or mining resources), Tradeables, and Non-tradeables of a small Economy. Dutch Disease in economics refers to a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses uneven growth across sectors due to the discovery of natural resources, especially large oil reserves. The term ‘Dutch disease’ was first coined by The Economist in 1977. While the idea was first proposed by economists Peter Neary and Max Corden in 1982. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “40 years of Dutch Disease Literature: Lessons for Developing Countries” – by Edouard Mien & Michael Goujon
- Research Paper: Dutch Disease is based on 3 sectors: Energy, Tradeables & Non-tradeables of a small Economy
- ‘Dutch Disease’ (in economics) – a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses Uneven Growth across Sectors
- The term ‘Dutch disease’ was first coined by – The Economist (in 1977)

647. Data center capacity in India is expected to double to about 1,700-1,800 MW by fiscal 2025 from 870 MW in fiscal 2022, powered by the combination of data boom, digital adoption and local data storage mandates, according to a report by ratings agency CRISIL. This will require investments of over Rs 40,000 Cr. The industry is expected to add almost 850-900 MW capacity during fiscals 2023-25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRISIL: Data center capacity in India is expected to double about 1,700-1,800 MW by 2025 from 870 MW in 2022
- This will require investments of over – Rs 40,000 Cr
- HQs of CRISIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Amish Mehta | Established in – 1987

Amount & Agreements

648. On June 27, World Bank approved a \$250 million loan to support the Government of India’s road safety programme called “India State Support Program for Road Safety” for 7 States. The program, financed by the World Bank, will be implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The \$250 million variable spread loan from the World Bank’s arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18 years including a grace period of 5.5 years. The project will also establish a “National Harmonised Crash Database System” in order to analyse accidents. According to a World Bank study, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between 5% to 7% of GDP a year. Official government data show that each year road accidents in India kill about 1,50,000 people and injure another 4,50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved \$250 million loan to support Govt’s “India State Support Program for Road Safety” for 7 States
- The loan will be released by – IBRD (World Bank’s arm) | Maturity – 18 years
- The project will also establish a “National Harmonised Crash Database System” to analyse accidents
- According to World Bank: Road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between 5-7% of GDP a year
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

Acquisitions & Mergers

649. On July 27, the investors of food delivery platform Zomato voted in favour of the company’s acquisition of quick commerce grocery company Blinkit (formerly Grofers) for 4,447 Cr (\$570 million) in an all-stock deal. Among all the voters, about 97% voted in favour of the acquisition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zomato investors – voted in favour of company’s acquisition of a commerce grocery company ‘Blinkit’ for 4,447 Cr
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Deepinder Goyal | Founded in – 2008



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

650. On June 26, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) collaborated with the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) to promote and create awareness in the state on the benefits of listing on its SME platform. Through this partnership, BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to enterprises registered with the MACCIA to get listed on the BSE SME platform. Till date, 375 companies have been listed on the BSE SME Platform and have raised a little over Rs 3,997 Cr from the market. Recently, BSE also signed an MoU with Federal Bank to promote the listing of SMEs and startups.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE + MACCIA = collaborated to promote & create awareness in the state on the benefits of listing on its SME platform
- BSE + Federal Bank = signed an MoU to promote the listing of SMEs & startups
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | MD & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari





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