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National & States Affairs

651. On June 28, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, launched "Dak Karmayogi", an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts at a function held at Stein Auditorium, Indian Habitat Centre in New Delhi. This portal has been developed 'In-House' under vision of 'Mission Karmayogi'. Moreover, 8 employees of Department of Posts were conferred with "Meghdoot Awards" for the year 2021. Meghdoot Award was introduced in the year 1984. This is the highest award of Department of Posts at National level for overall performance and excellence. This award is conferred in 8 categories. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw (MoC) launched "Dak Karmayogi", an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts
- MoC conferred 8 employees of Department of Posts with "Meghdoot Awards 2021"
- Meghdoot Award the highest award of Department of Posts at National level (introduced in 1984)

652. On June 28, an investment platform Pyse Fintech Pvt Ltd launched India's first fractionally-owned Solar Power Plant in Karnataka. The platform helps retail investors to invest in sustainable projects that create social and environmental impacts from a ticket size as low as Rs 5,000. The plant is designed to offset 65 lakh kgs of carbon footprint every year for the next 25 years. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Pyse Fintech Pvt Ltd launched India's first fractionally-owned Solar Power Plant in Karnataka
- The plant is designed to offset 65 lakh kgs of carbon footprint every year for the next 25 years

653. On June 28, Telangana chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the new facility of business incubator "T-Hub 2.0" (Technology Hub) in Hyderabad. The new building comes with a total built-up area of over 5.82 lakh square feet which makes it the world's largest innovation campus, as the second largest startup incubator "Station F" is based in France in an area of 3.66 lakh square feet. 'T-Hub' was initially established in 2015. While this (T-Hub 2.0) will be a microcosm of the Innovation Ecosystem which will house more than 2,000 startups, corporates, investors, academia, and national and international ecosystem enabler. {Read more}

Key Points:

- K. Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the new facility of business incubator "T-Hub 2.0" in Hyderabad
- 'T-Hub 2.0' (3.66 lakh sq ft) is the world's largest Innovation Campus | 2nd largest "Station F" in France
- 'T-Hub' was initially established in 2015
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad | CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan

654. On June 29, Maharashtra State Cabinet approved the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to Sambhajinagar and Dharashiv respectively, and also passed the proposal to extend name of farmer leader late D. B. Patil to under construction Navi Mumbai International Airport. The Congress too demanded renaming of Pune City to Jijaunagar and Sewri-Nhava Sheva trans harbour link to former CM late A. R. Antulay. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Maharashtra approved the renaming of 'Aurangabad' district to 'Sambhajinagar'
- Maharashtra also approved the renaming of 'Osmanabad' district to 'Dharashiv'
- Maharashtra: CM Eknath Shinde | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari



655. On June 25, Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the State's first "Disabled-friendly Park" in Jawaharlal Bal Bhavan (JBB), Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, for children with disabilities. It is built by Mindtree and Bal Bhavan Society at a cost of Rs 3 Cr under the guidance of Health and Child Development Experts. Designed in the shape of a turtle, the park consists of different zones for a wide range of physical, mental, therapeutic, and touch and feel activities. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated Karnataka's 1st "Disabled-friendly Park" for children with disabilities
- The Park is built by Mindtree & Bal Bhavan Society at a cost of Rs 3 Cr
- Karnataka: Capital Bangalore | CM Basavaraj Bommai | Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot

656. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is implementing the "One-Health" project in Karnataka and Uttarakhand. The DAHD launched the "One Health" pilot project in Bengaluru. On June 28, the pilot will help develop a roadmap for a national project to prevent future outbreaks of zoonotic disease by using better response mechanism and management while incorporating global best practices. {Read more}

Key Points:

- DAHD + BMGF + CII = implementing the "One-Health" project in Karnataka & Uttarakhand
- DAHD launched the "One Health" pilot project in Bengaluru
- Location of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation US | Location of Rabo Foundation Netherlands
- HQs of CII New Delhi | President T. V. Narendran | DG Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in 1895

International Affairs

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657. As on June 28, amid China's aggressive push to increase its Pacific sphere of influence, the US and its allies (Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the UK) launched a new initiative called "Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)" for effective and efficient cooperation with the region's small island nations. The PBP initiative is a five-nation "informal mechanism" to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- US + Australia + New Zealand + Japan + UK = launched a new initiative called "Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)"
- PBP initiative is to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region
- US Washington, D.C. US Dollar | 46th President Joe Biden | 49th VP Kamala Harris

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

658. On June 29, Airtel Payments Bank (APB) partnered with Axis Bank to digitise the cash collection system in Tier III cities and semi-urban regions. Through this tie-up, Axis Bank and its customers will benefit significantly by building operational efficiencies in the cash management process. Axis Bank customers will soon be able to make direct EMI deposits for loan payments at the 5 lakh banking points of Airtel Payments Bank. {Read more} **Key Points:**

• Airtel Payments Bank + Axis Bank = partnered to digitise the cash collection system in Tier III cities & semi-urban regions

- HQs of APB New Delhi | CEO Anubrata Biswas | Founded in 2017
- HQs of Axis Bank Mumbai | MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

659. On June 29, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance collaborated with Allianz Partners and launched "Global Health Care", a comprehensive health indemnity insurance product that provides cover to a policyholder for planned as well as emergency treatment both in India and abroad. The product is available with two plans - 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan'. Global Health Care offers one of the widest sums insured in the Indian market, from ₹37,50,000 to ₹3,75,00,000. {Read more} Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance + Allianz Partners = launched "Global Health Care"
- The product is available with two plans 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan'
- It offers sums insured in the Indian market from ₹37,50,000 to ₹3,75,00,000
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO Tapan Singhel

660. In June 2022, Cashfree Payments (India Pvt Ltd) partnered with Singapore-headquartered cross-border education payment services platform, EasyTransfer, to offer a faster, easier, and cheaper platform for Indian students to make fee payments to universities and educational institutions abroad. With this partnership, Indian students will be able to make payments directly through their existing bank accounts, eliminating the need to set up a new account specifically for making such payments. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Cashfree Payments + EasyTransfer = to offer faster, easier & cheaper platform for Indian students to make fee payments
- HQs of Cashfree Payments Bengaluru, Karnataka | HQs of EasyTransfer Singapore

661. On June 28, Star Health & Allied Insurance Company signed a Corporate Agency Agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for distribution of its health insurance products. Under the bancassurance agreement, Star Health will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers using the latter's digital platform and its distribution network. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Star Health & Allied Insurance + IDFC FIRST Bank = an agreement for distribution of its health insurance products
- HQs of IDFC First Bank Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO V. Vaidyanathan | Established in 2018
- HQs of Star Health & Allied Insurance Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO Venkatasamy Jagannathan



Defence Affairs

662. On June 28, "Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)", an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence. PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel. The launch marked the beginning of the Centralized Pay System (CPS). {Read more}

Key Points:

- Rajnish Kumar (CGDA) inaugurated "Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)"
- PADMA an automated Pay & Allowances module for Indian Coast Guard | CPS Centralized Pay System
- HQs of ICG New Delhi | DG Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in 1977

663. On June 29, the 9th Army to Army Staff Talks (AAST) between the Australian Army and Indian Army were conducted in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, as Australian Army delegation is on a visit to India from June 25 to August 1. During his visit, the Australian Army Chief called on the Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff and other senior military officers. The AAST focused on joint military exercises, training cooperation and preparing a roadmap for enhanced Defence Cooperation between both the Armies. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Australian Army + Indian Army = conducted 9th Army to Army Staff Talks (AAST) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- HQs of Indian Army New Delhi | Chief Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- Australia Canberra Australian Dollar | PM Anthony Albanese

664. On 28 June, in a major boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region North West, "835 Squadron", an indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) DHRUV MK III aircraft was commissioned by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at Porbandar, Gujarat. 835 Sqn (CG) is commanded by Commandant Sunil Dutt. ALH MK III helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). {Read more}

Key Points:

- "835 Squadron" (indigenous ALH DHRUV MK III aircraft) commissioned by the ICG at Porbandar, Gujarat
- ALH MK III helicopters manufactured by HAL
- HQs of HAL Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD R. Madhavan

Sports & Games

665. On June 28, Switzerland's sprinter Alex Wilson is banned for 4 years for anabolic steroid use after being judged by an Anti-doping Tribunal. Wilson is a 200 bronze medalist at the 2018 European Championships. The case flared at the Tokyo Olympics in July 2021. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Alex Wilson (Switzerland - Sprinter) – banned for 4 years for anabolic steroid use

666. Novak Djokovic became the first player in history to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams when he defeated Kwon Soon-woo for his 80th win in Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on June 27. Centre Court is a tennis court at the All England Club and is the main court used in the Championships at Wimbledon, the third annual Grand Slam event of the tennis calendar. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Novak Djokovic became the first player in history to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams
- He achieved this feat by defeating 'Kwon Soon-woo' in 'Wimbledon Tennis Championships' in London
- Wimbledon Tennis Championships the 3rd annual Grand Slam event of the Tennis Calendar

667. In June 2022, India's female discus thrower Navjeet Dhillon won the Gold medal with a throw of 56.24m at the "Qosanov Memorial 2022" athletics meet in Kazakhstan. Karina Vasilyeva of Kazakhstan threw 44.61m and Uzbekistan's Yulianna Shchukina threw 40.48m to win the silver and bronze medals in the event. In the men's 400m race, Tokyo Olympian Muhammed Anas Yahiya came second to win Silver with a timing of 46.27s, behind Kazakhstan's Mixail Litvin (46.04s). Sprinter Dutee Chand also won Silver in women's 100m, in 11.49s, behind Olga Safronova of Kazakhstan, who claimed gold in 11.40s. Overall, India won 14 medals at the tournament, including 7 gold medals. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- "Qosanov Memorial 2022" athletics meet held in Kazakhstan
- Navjeet Dhillon won Gold medal in women's discus throw (56.24m)
- Dutee Chand won Silver in women's 100m race (11.49s) | Gold Olga Safronova (Kazakhstan)
- Muhammed Anas Yahiya won Silver in men's 400m race (46.27s) | Gold Mixail Litvin (Kazakhstan)
- Overall, India won 14 medals at the tournament (including 7 Gold medals)

668. On June 28, Eoin Morgan (Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan) announced his retirement from international cricket and stepped down as England's white-ball captain after more than 7 years. He led England to its first 50-over title at the 2019 World Cup, and took the team to the No. 1 ranking in ODI and T20s. Morgan holds the team records for most ODIs (225) and T20s (115), and the most runs in both formats. Eoin represented both Ireland and England at the international level. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Eoin Morgan (England) retired from International Cricket
- He holds the team records for most ODIs (225) & T20s (115), and the most runs in both formats

669. In June 2022, Aman Sehrawat won a Gold medal in the 57kg event at the "Bolat Turlykhanov Cup" in Almaty, Kazakhstan. While Bajrang Punia won a Bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg event. India ended its campaign at the United World Wrestling ranking series event with 12 medals - 6 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze (in men's, women's & men's Greco-Roman). {Read more}

- "Bolat Turlykhanov Cup", a Wrestling tournament held in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Aman Sehrawat (Wrestler) won a Gold medal in the men's 57kg event
- Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) won a Bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg event
- India won total 12 medals (6 Gold + 1 Silver + 4 Bronze)
- Kazakhstan Nur-Sultan Tenge | President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev | PM Alikhan Smailov





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Persons in News

670. In June 2022, Bikram Mitra from Kolkata, West Bengal has made an outstanding example by utilising "Water Hyacinth", an Obnoxious Aquatic Weed Plant, to develop small-scale Cottage Industry that is both financially rewarding as well as environmentally friendly in approach. He has now successfully established his own, small cottage industry-based workshop in North Kolkata, along with his associates, under an organization named Earth Trust. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Bikram Mitra (West Bengal) utilized "Water Hyacinth" to develop small-scale Cottage Industry
- Water Hyacinth an Obnoxious Aquatic Weed
- West Bengal: Capital Kolkata | CM Mamta Banerjee | Governor Jagdeep Dhankar

Science & Technology

671. On June 29, a small NASA-financed spacecraft called "CAPSTONE" was launched from New Zealand, kicking off the space agency's plans to send astronauts back to the moon in a few years. The spacecraft is about the size of a microwave oven. It will study a specific orbit where NASA plans to build a small space station for astronauts to stop at before and after going to the moon's surface. CAPSTONE is inexpensive, costing just less than \$30 million. The full name of the mission is "Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment". Moreover, NASA did not design or build CAPSTONE, nor will it operate it. The spacecraft belongs to and will be managed by Advanced Space, a 45-employee company. It was also launched not by SpaceX or any of NASA's other big aerospace contractors, but by Rocket Lab, a U.S.-New Zealand company. {Read more}

- "CAPSTONE" (NASA-financed spacecraft) launched from New Zealand by Rocket Lab (US-New Zealand company)
- CAPSTONE Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment
- The spacecraft is about the size of a microwave oven & is inexpensive, costing just less than \$30 million
- New Zealand Wellington Dollar (NZD) | PM Jacinda Ardern

672. On June 29, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd, a subsidiary of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd, received the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the office of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for its mRNA vaccine "GEMCOVAC[™]-19" against COVID-19. Developed in India, GEMCOVAC-19[™] is India's first mRNA vaccine and the third mRNA vaccine to be approved for COVID-19 in the world. It received approval for emergency use in 18 years and above. {Read more} Key Points:

- Gennova Biopharmaceuticals received EUA from DCGI for its mRNA vaccine "GEMCOVAC™-19" against COVID-19
- India's first mRNA vaccine "GEMCOVAC[™]-19" received approval for emergency use in 18 years & above
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) V G Somani
- HQs of Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd Pune, Maharashtra | CEO Dr. Sanjay Singh



673. On June 27, Researchers at IISc, Bengaluru developed a new Graphic Processing Unit (GPU) based machine learning algorithm called "Regularised, Accelerated, Linear Fascicle Evaluation (ReAI – LiFE)", which will help to obtain a better understanding and in the prediction of connectivity between different parts of human brain. This algorithm can help analyse extensive data generated from diffusion Magnetic Resonance Imaging (dMRI) scans. The study was published in the journal "Nature Computational Science". {Read more}

Key Points:

- IISc, Bengaluru researchers developed a new GPU-based machine learning algorithm called "ReAl LiFE"
- ReAl LiFE Regularised, Accelerated, Linear Fascicle Evaluation
- ReAl LiFE will help to obtain a better understanding & connectivity between different parts of human brain
- Director of IISc, Bangalore Govindan Rangarajan | Established in 1909

674. On June 29, India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), "ABHYAS", from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast. ABHYAS is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) lab of DRDO. {Read more} Key Points:

- India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed "ABHYAS" in Chandipur off the Odisha coast
- It is High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) weapon
- It is designed & developed by ADE-DRDO (Bengaluru)
- HQs of DRDO New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in 1958

Appointments & Resignations

675. On June 27, the digital arm of Reliance Industries, Reliance Jio Infocomm approved the appointment of Akash Ambani, its non-executive director, as the Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm. Mukesh Ambani stepped down as the company's Director. Among other appointments, Pankaj Mohan Pawar took over as the Managing Director of the company. Mukesh Ambani will continue to be the Chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd, the flagship company that owns all Jio digital services brands, including Reliance Jio Infocomm. Akash Ambani, the elder son of Mukesh Ambani, had joined Jio's Board of Directors in 2014. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Akash Ambani (the elder son of Mukesh Ambani) appointed as the Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm
- Mukesh Ambani will continue to be the Chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Mukesh Ambani | Founded in 1973

676. On June 28, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been sworn in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to Chief Justice designate Justice Ujjal Bhuyan. He succeeded Justice Satish Chandra Sharma. {Read more}

- Justice Ujjal Bhuyan sworn in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court (replacing Justice Satish Chandra Sharma)
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad | CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan



677. On June 29, President Ram Nath Kovind re-appointed K. K. Venugopal as Attorney General for India with effect from July 1, 2022 for a further period of 3 months or until further orders, whichever is earlier. His first term ended in 2020 and was re-appointed for 1 year term which was to end on June 30. He was an Additional Solicitor General of India between 1979 and 1980 and received Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015. The Attorney General usually has a tenure of 3 years. {Read more}

Key Points:

- K. K. Venugopal re-appointed as Attorney General for India for 3 months (from July 1, 2022)
- He was an Additional Solicitor General of India between 1979 & 1980
- K. K. Venugopal received Padma Bhushan (2002) & Padma Vibhushan (2015)
- Attorney General for India is appointed by the President of India

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

678. On June 28, Chennai-based Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (BIHER) was accorded with a rare honour in the UK called the "Asian UK Award 2022" at the UK's House of Commons in London. The award was received by BIHER's President Dr. J Sundeep Aanand for Best Edupreneur, for his impeccable track record in educating thousands of students and ensuring they get employment opportunities in the biggest companies the world over. The citation was given to Dr. Aanand by Virendra Sharma, an Indian-origin Member of Parliament in the UK's House of Commons. {Read more} Key Points:

- Dr. J Sundeep Aanand (BIHER) accorded with the "Asian UK Award 2022" for 'Best Edupreneur'
- HQs of BIHER Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President Dr. J Sundeep Aanand

679. On June 28, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) organized "National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2021" ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The event was organized under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. This year, the theme of the awards was "Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction". Welspun Enterprises Ltd won Gold award in 'Excellence in Project Management-PPP'. While the BIPL won Gold award in 'Excellence in Project Management-PPP'. Simhapuri Expressway Ltd won Silver award in 'Excellence in Highway Safety- Plain'. GR Infra Projects Ltd won Special award in 'Green Highway' category. Moreover, Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt Ltd won Gold award in 'Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition'. And in the same category, Special award was won by M/S Ceigall India Ltd. {Read more} Key Points:

- MoRTH organized "National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2021" ceremony in New Delhi
- Theme of the Awards "Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction"
- Awards:
 - Welspun Enterprises Ltd Gold award in 'Excellence in Project Management-PPP'
 - BIPL Gold award in 'Excellence in Project Management-EPC'
 - Simhapuri Expressway Ltd Silver award in 'Excellence in Highway Safety- Plain'
 - GR Infra Projects Ltd Special award in 'Green Highway'
 - Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt Ltd Gold award in 'Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition'
 - M/S Ceigall India Ltd Special award in 'Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition'

Important Days & Dates

680. The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on 30 June. The day acknowledges the role of parliaments in representing the voice of the people, introducing laws, and recognising policies. The UNGA passed a resolution in 2018 to designate this day. In 2022, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its Member Parliaments observed the day under the theme of "Public Engagement". This follows the recent launch of the "Global Parliamentary Report on Public Engagement in the Work of Parliament". {Read more}

Key Points:

- June 30 International Day of Parliamentarism by IPU (since 2018)
- 2022's Theme "Public Engagement"

681. India observes "National Statistics Day" on June 29 every year to honour the work and contribution of late Professor and Scientist Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the field of Statistics and Economic Planning. June 29 is the birth anniversary of Professor Mahalanobis, also known as the "Father of Indian Statistics". On this day, names of the winners of "Prof PC Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics" were also announced. The winners are - Dilip Kumar Sinha (MoSPI Deputy Director General), and K. P. Suresh (ICAR Principal Scientist). This year, the main event of the Statistics Day, 2022 was organized in New Delhi and it was chaired by Rao Inderjit Singh, MoS, MoSPI. Professor Mahalanobis also established the National Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1950. The day was observed for the first time in 2007. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- June 29 "National Statistics Day" (since 2007)
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis ('Father of Indian Statistics')
- Winners of "Prof PC Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics": Dilip Kumar Sinha & K. P. Suresh
- The main event of the 'Statistics Day 2022' was organized in New Delhi chaired by Rao Inderjit Singh

682. International Asteroid Day is observed June 30 to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat. The day was designated by the UNGA in 2016 and was first observed in 2017. June 30 marks the Tunguska Asteroid event in Siberia, Russia, the Earth's largest asteroid impact in recorded history. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- June 30 "International Asteroid Day" (since 2016)
- The Day marks the largest recorded asteroid impact that took place in Siberia, Russia

683. The International Day of the Tropics is observed every year on June 29 to highlight the challenges and opportunities faced by the nations of the Tropics. The Tropics are a region that is roughly defined as the area between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. The inaugural State of the Tropics Report was released on 29 June 2014. And in 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the anniversary of the report's publication, which called for 29 June to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics every year. {Read more} **Key Points:**

June 29 – "International Day of the Tropics"

Obituaries

684. On June 28, Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh passed away at the age of 75. Mr. Singh was part of the gold-medal winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This remains India's only gold medal at the prestigious tournament. In 2007, Mr. Singh was conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Varinder Singh (Hockey Player) an Olympic & World Cup medallist passed away
- He was part of the gold-medal winning Indian team at '1975 Men's Hockey World Cup' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- His Awards: Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award

685. On June 27, writer, lyricist and scenarist Chowalloor Krishnankutty passed away in Thrissur. He was 86. He was a recipient of the 'Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi' and 'Kerala Sahitya Akademi' awards. He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala Kalamandalam. He started out as a journalist and served the All India Radio's Kozhikode station as an artist for two years. He was also a percussionist. {Read more} Key Points:

- key Points:
- Chowalloor Krishnankutty a Writer, Lyricist & Scenarist passed away
- His Awards: 'Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi' & 'Kerala Sahitya Akademi'

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

686. On June 27, the G7 nations and its 5 invited partner countries (including India) signed a joint statement titled '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement' during the G7 Summit. They pledged to protect the 'Freedom of Expression'. The joint statement came amidst allegations that the Indian Government was stifling the freedom of speech and the civil society actors. The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political grouping consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S. Besides India, Germany (the host of the G7 Summit) had also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as Guests for the Summit. {Read more}

- G7 nations signed a joint statement titled '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement'
- The G7 Summit was hosted by Germany
- G7 member countries US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in 1975



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

687. Bengaluru topped the 'Sustainability Index' amongst the Indian cities and ranked 14th in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, according to the latest report on "Active Capital Asia-Pacific - Rising Capital in Uncertain Times, 2021" prepared by Knight Frank. While Bengaluru achieved the Gold standard category, New Delhi (17th), Hyderabad (18th), and Mumbai (20th) achieved the Silver standard category. Singapore, Sydney (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Perth (Australia), and Melbourne (Australia), are the top 5 Green-rated cities in the APAC region. They achieved the Platinum standard, the highest category of the index. The report also noted that India's Green Bonds issuance increased 523% year-on-year (YoY), from \$1.1 billion in 2020 to \$6.8 billion in 2021. India is the 6th largest country in APAC in terms of the total amount of Green Bonds issued in 2021. According to statistics provided by the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), APAC issued \$126 billion in Green Bonds in 2021, with China issuing the largest amount, \$68 billion. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- "Active Capital Asia-Pacific Rising Capital in Uncertain Times, 2021" prepared by Knight Frank
 - APAC region issued total \$126 billion in Green Bonds in 2021 | Largest amount issued by China (\$68 billion)
 - India 6th largest country in APAC in terms of the total amount of Green Bonds issued in 2021 (\$6.8 billion)
 - India's Green Bonds issuance increased 523% YoY to \$6.8 billion in 2021 (from \$1.1 billion in 2020)
- 'APAC Sustainability Index 2021': Topped in India Bengaluru (14th) | Topped in APAC Singapore
 - Top 5 in APAC with Platinum standard: Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth & Melbourne
 - In India: Gold standard Bengaluru | Silver standard Delhi, Hyderabad & Mumbai

688. On June 30, NITI Aayog, in its report titled "Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India", has forecast a 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers (e-2W) in the Indian market by FY 2026–27 in case of an 'optimistic scenario'. NITI Aayog also forecast that e-2W sales may cross 2.2 Crore units in FY 2028–29 under the 'optimistic', 'same performance' and 'battery cost challenged' scenarios. e-2W sales in FY 2022 stood at 2.31 lakh units, up 460% over FY21. Its penetration was nearly 2% of 2-wheelers sales. Major research firms in India believe that EV penetration will reach 15-20% in total 2Ws by FY 2026 in terms of sales. The report was released in collaboration with the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). {Read more}

Key Points:

- "Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India" released by NITI Aayog + TIFAC
- As per the report, 100% penetration of e-2W will happen in the Indian market by FY 2026–27 (in 'optimistic scenario')
- HQs of NITI Aayog New Delhi | CEO Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson Narendra Modi | VC Suman Bery

689. India will have 122 new unicorns in the next 2 to 4 years, according to the Hurun Research Institute's "ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022". Hurun Research identified 122 future unicorns in 25 Indian cities. The index has classified companies as would-be Unicorns (those founded after 2000 and valued at least \$1 billion), Gazelles (those most likely to become unicorns in 2 years), and Cheetahs (start-ups that could go unicorn in 4 years). India has 84 unicorns, 51 Gazelles, and 71 Cheetahs in the 2022 Index. Bengaluru continues to be the unicorn-capital of India with 46 unicorns. Delhi-NCR and Mumbai are in the 2nd and 3rd spots, with 25 and 16 unicorns. India has emerged as the 3rd largest ecosystem for start-ups, after US and China. {Read more}



Key Points:

- "ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022" by Hurun Research Institute
- Hurun Research identified 122 future unicorns in 25 Indian cities (in next 2 to 4 years)
- The index classified companies into 3 categories:
 - Unicorns those founded after 2000 & valued at least \$1 billion
 - Gazelles those most likely to become unicorns in 2 years
 - Cheetahs those start-ups that could go unicorn in 4 years
- In the 2022 Index, India has 84 Unicorns, 51 Gazelles & 71 Cheetahs
- India the 3rd largest Ecosystem for Start-ups (after US & China)
- Bengaluru continues to be the unicorn-capital of India with 46 unicorns

690. Bengaluru is the strongest startup ecosystem in India and 8th globally, according to the "Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) 2022" released by Israel-based StartupBlink in June 2022. The Index has been updated annually since 2017 and is the world's most comprehensive startup ecosystem ranking of 100 countries and 1,000 cities globally. Among Indian cities, Bengaluru was at No. 1. Globally, New Delhi ranks 13th, Mumbai is 17th, Pune is 90th, and Hyderabad is 97th. San Francisco Bay in the US topped the Index globally. In the country-wise rankings for 2022, India is among the top-20 startup ecosystems globally and ranked 19th, while in the Asia Pacific region, it is 4th after Singapore, Australia, and China. The US topped the index, followed by UK & Israel. {Read more}

Key Points:

- "Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) 2022" released by StartupBlink (Israel) | Top San Francisco Bay (US)
- Bengaluru the strongest Startup Ecosystem in India (8th globally) | New Delhi 13th | Mumbai 17th
- In Asia-Pacific region: India ranks 4th | 1st Singapore, 2nd Australia, 3rd China
- Globally : India ranks 19th | 1st US, 2nd UK, 3rd Israel
- Israel Jerusalem Israeli Shekel | President Isaac Herzog | PM Naftali Bennett

691. The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective (led by Kerala Agricultural University) and the Bird Count India will conduct the Regional Red List Assessment of birds. Once it gets ready, Kerala will be India's first state to have a Region-specific Red List of birds. Assessment will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines. According to the global IUCN Red List, Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds. {Read more} **Key Points:**

- Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective + Bird Count India will conduct 'Regional Red List Assessment of Birds'
- Kerala to be India's first state to have a 'Region-specific Red List of Birds'
- IUCN Red List: Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds
- Kerala: Capital Thiruvananthapuram | CM Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

692. On June 30, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) released a report titled "World Cities Report 2022". According to report, India's urban population is estimated to reach 675 million in 2035, the second highest behind China's estimated at 1.05 billion. By 2035, the percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2%. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050. The urban population is forecast to grow from 56% of the global total in 2021 to 68% by 2050. {Read more}



Key Points:

- Report "World Cities Report 2022" released by UN-Habitat
- According to the report: {Dynamic Data}
 - India's urban population is estimated to reach 675 million in 2035 (2nd highest behind China's 1.05 billion)
 - The percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2% by 2035
 - Global urban population will grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050
 - The urban population is forecast to grow to 68% of the global total by 2050 (from 56% in 2021)
- HQs of UN-Habitat Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif

693. On June 27, NITI Aayog launched a report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy". The report is a first-of-itskind study that presents comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the gig-platform economy in India. The report provides a scientific methodological approach to estimate the current size and job-generation potential of the sector. The report estimates that in 2020-21, 77 lakh (7.7 million) workers were engaged in the gig economy. They constituted 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce in India. At present, about 47% of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, about 22% in high skilled, and about 31% in low skilled jobs. Gig workers are expected to form 6.7% of the nonagricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood in India by 2029-30. {Read more} Key Points:

- "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy" report by NITI Aayog
- 77 lakh workers were engaged in the gig economy in FY 2020-21 (1.5% of the total workforce in India)
- Gig workers are expected to form 6.7% of Non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of total livelihood in India by 2029-30
- HQs of NITI Aayog New Delhi | CEO Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson Narendra Modi | VC Suman Bery

694. As on June 27, the "Performance Grade Index-District (PGI-D) 2019-20" was released by the Ministry of Education. The PGI-D report graded 733 districts in 2019-20 across the States/UTs. Rajasthan leads in performance in School Education with all of the three districts with 'Utkarsh' grade (scoring 81% to 90% in a scale of 100). The top three districts in terms of performance are Sikar (488), Jhunjhuni (486) and Jaipur (482) out of a score of 1,000 points. The other states whose districts have performed best in the latest index are Punjab with 14 districts in 'Ati-uttam' grade (scoring 71% to 80% in a scale of 100), followed by Gujarat and Kerala with each having 13 districts in this category. This is the third PGI report and so far, no districts have managed to secure the 'Daksh' grade (districts scoring more than 90% of the total points). The data was sourced from the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE). {Read more}

- Ministry of Education released "Performance Grade Index-District (PGI-D) 2019-20"
- Rajasthan leads in performance in School Education with all of the three districts with 'Utkarsh' grade
- Top three districts in terms of performance Sikar, Jhunjhuni & Jaipur
- Other top states: Punjab (14 districts in 'Ati-uttam' grade), Gujarat & Kerala (each with 13 districts in 'Ati-uttam' grade)
- No district has managed to secure the 'Daksh' grade (more than 90% of the total points)
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar



Amount & Agreements

695. On June 28, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector. The two loans, Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP) and Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP), are designed to be complementary and transformational in impact. Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across India. According to World Bank estimates, India's performance in health has improved over time. India's life expectancy was at 69.8 in 2020, up from 58 in 1990. {Read more}

- World Bank approved two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector
- These loans will support India's 'PM-ABHIM' (launched in Oct 2021)
- World Bank: India's life expectancy was at 69.8 in 2020 (up from 58 in 1990)
- HQs of World Bank Washington D.C., US | Members 189 | President David Malpass | MD & CFO Anshula Kant

Acquisitions & Mergers

696. On June 28, State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank acquired a 9.54% stake each in Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA). These banks acquired 8,05,520 equity shares each by paying Rs 4.03 Cr each for the stakes. {Read more}

Key Points:

• SBI + HDFC Bank + ICICI Bank – acquired a 9.54% stake each in Perfios AA (by paying Rs 4.03 Cr each)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

697. On June 29, Social media giant Meta and Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced to extend their collaboration to launch the 2nd phase of "Going Online As Leaders (GOAL)" programme. The second phase of the GOAL programme was launched by Union tribal affairs minister Arjun Munda. The 'GOAL 2.0' will look to digitally upskill, connect and empower 10 lakh youth and women from the tribal communities of India. Tribal population constitutes about 8.6% of the total population in India. Through this programme, the identified GOAL participants will have access to 'Meta Business Coach', a WhatsApp-based learning bot, which will give the participants an opportunity to learn skills on how to build and expand their business using Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. {Read more}

- Meta + Tribal Affairs Ministry = collaborated to launch 2nd phase of "Going Online As Leaders (GOAL)" programme
- GOAL participants will have access to 'Meta Business Coach', a WhatsApp-based learning bot
- Tribal population constitutes about 8.6% of the total population in India
- HQs of Meta California, US | CEO Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in 2004
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu



698. In June 2022, Chennai-based drone startup Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd partnered with Malaysia-based HiiLSE Global Sdn Bhd (HiiLSE Drones) to set up a Drone Factory in Malaysia with an investment of Rs 115 Crore. Garuda Aerospace recently deployed "White Knight Delivery Drones" in Assam to support the state disaster management department's rescue efforts amid the ongoing floods. Moreover, in February 2022, PM Narendra Modi had launched 'Kisan Drone Yatra', a project by Garuda Aerospace that sent 100 drones to various locations in India to apply pesticides on farms. {Read more} Key Points:

- Garuda Aerospace (Chennai) + HiiLSE Drones (Malaysia) = to set up a Drone Factory in Malaysia
- Garuda Aerospace deployed "White Knight Delivery Drones" in Assam
- 'Kisan Drone Yatra' an initiative of Garuda Aerospace

699. On June 29, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) signed an MoU to create a Collaborative Ecosystem for imparting skill development training in the Capital Goods Sector. The partnership is aimed at facilitating training in several engineering trades through Qualification Packs (QPs) developed by MHI related Sector Skill Councils under the "Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector Phase II". MHI, on its part, will provide grants to Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) for developing new industry-led National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) Level 6 and QPs. {Read more}

- Key Points:
- MSDE + MHI = an MoU to create a Collaborative Ecosystem to impart skill development training in Capital Goods Sector
- 'Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector' belongs to MHI
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal

700. On June 29, Maharashtra government's Energy Department signed an MoU with Adani Green Energy Group Ltd (AGEL) to generate 11,000 MW Green Power in the next 5 years. It would entail an investment of Rs 60,000 Cr and provide employment to 30,000 persons. The AGEL will set up 'Pumped Storage Projects (PSP)' under the agreement. {Read more} Key Points:

- Maharashtra + Adani Green Energy (AGEL) = an MoU to generate 11,000 MW Green Power in next 5 years
- It would entail an investment of Rs 60,000 Cr
- AGEL to set up 'Pumped Storage Projects (PSP)' under the agreement
- Maharashtra: CM Uddhav Thackeray | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Adani Green Energy Ltd Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO Vneet S. Jaain



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