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# National & States Affairs

**301.** In June 2022, Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) selected Tata Projects Ltd to undertake the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of the Noida International Airport (NIA). The new airport is expected to be functional by 2024. The company is working to deliver a passenger terminal, runway, and other airport infrastructure with a capacity of 12 million passengers annually, by 2024. The project is being developed as a public-private partnership between Zurich Airport and Uttar Pradesh government. In November 2021, PM Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of Jewar. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- YIAPL selected 'Tata Projects Ltd' to undertake the Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) of Noida Int. Airport
- Estimated capacity – 12 million passengers annually | Airport to be functional by 2024
- The project is being developed as a PPP between = Zurich Airport (Switzerland) + UP Govt.

**302.** On June 13, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a set of guidelines to the States and the Union Territories on the grant of special remission to prisoners to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence. As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the special remission would be granted to a certain category of prisoners, and they would be released in three phases - August 15, 2022, January 26, 2023 and August 15, 2023. The prisoners who would qualify for premature release under the scheme are women and transgender convicts of 50 years of age and male convicts of 60 years and above who have completed 50% of their total sentence period without counting the period of general remission earned. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MHA – issued a set of guidelines to the States & UTs on the grant of special remission to prisoners to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence
- Prisoners would be released in three phases – August 15, 2022, January 26, 2023 & August 15, 2023
- Criteria for premature release under the scheme:
  - For Women & Transgender: Age – minimum 50 years & 50% of their total sentence period should be completed
  - For Men: Age – minimum 60 years & 50% of their total sentence period should be completed

**303.** On June 1, the Punjab government launched the 'e-stamp facility' to abolish the physical stamp papers in an attempt to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue. Earlier, the e-stamping facility was applicable only to a value of above ₹20,000, but the government is extending this facility to stamp papers for all denominations starting from ₹1. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Punjab – launched the 'e-stamp facility' to abolish the physical stamp papers for all denominations starting from ₹1
- Earlier, the e-stamping facility was applicable only to a value of above ₹20,000
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**304.** In May & June, around 1,229 cattle across 5 districts of Gujarat have recently been infected with Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), an infectious viral disease. Some 39 of the animals have died. Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a viral disease of cattle caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), one of the animal poxviruses. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 'Lumpy Skin Disease' infected around 1,229 cattle – across 5 districts of Gujarat
- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) – a viral disease of cattle caused by 'Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV)', a Poxvirus
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**305.** In June 2022, Himachal Pradesh government approved 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022' and became India's first state to formally acknowledge the public use of drones. The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD). The policy aims to propagate the use of drone-enabled technology in different sectors such as defence, transport, health, agriculture and more. The Union Budget 2022, aims to boost the Indian drone industry as the budget includes Rs 120 Cr PLI scheme for the drone industry, intended to boost domestic manufacturing and ban of imported drones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HP – approved 'HP Drone Policy 2022' & became India's first state to formally acknowledge the public use of drones
- GARUD – **G**overnance **A**nd **R**eforms **U**sing **D**rones
- Union budget includes Rs 120 Cr PLI scheme for the 'Drone Industry'
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**306.** On June 14, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, awarded the first Type Certificate (TC) under "Drone Rules, 2021" to Gurugram-based IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd (IoTechWorld). The first Type Certificate (TC) is awarded in just 34 days after submission of online application. The 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on January 26, 2022. The scheme was developed by the Quality Council of India. There are 3 globally-renowned Certification Bodies (CB) approved by QCI namely - TQ Cert, UL India and Bureau Veritas. India has set a target to become a drone hub by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia – awarded first TC under "Drone Rules, 2021" to IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd ([Gurugram](#))
- The scheme was developed by – Quality Council of India
- India has set a target to become a drone hub – by 2030
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh

**307.** On June 14, the Indian Railways' Southern Railway Zone began the maiden service of privately-run 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu to Sainagar Shirdi in Maharashtra, the first train under the scheme. Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021 in a bid to connect historical places. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Southern Railway Zone – began 1<sup>st</sup> service of 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' – from Coimbatore (TN) to Sainagar Shirdi (MH)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi



## International Affairs

**308.** The new 'I2U2' grouping, consisting of India, Israel, the UAE and the US, will hold its first virtual summit in July 2022 as part of the Biden administration's efforts to re-energise and revitalise American alliances across the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is invited to attend the first-of-its-kind virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping from 13 July to 16 July for discussions of the food security crisis and other areas of cooperation. In "I2U2", 'I' stands for India & Israel, and 'U' stands for the USA & the UAE. The US has announced the formation of 'I2U2'. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- The new 'I2U2' grouping – to hold its First Virtual Summit in July 2022 – hosted by US
- 'I2U2' member countries: 4 – India, Israel, UAE & US (US announced the creation of the 'I2U2')

**309.** On June 14, Turkey alleges that Greece has been building a military presence in violation of international treaties that guarantee the unarmed status of the Aegean islands. Meanwhile, Greece maintains that Turkey has deliberately misinterpreted the treaties. Greece and Turkey have had long-standing rival claims over the Aegean territory. The Aegean Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. It is located in the East Mediterranean Basin with the Greek peninsula to its West and Anatolia to its East. There are more than a thousand islands in the Aegean Sea. Greece and Turkey have been regional adversaries on a host of issues concerning the Aegean sea since the 1970s, both asserting rival claims over their borders in the Sea. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Greece & Turkey – have had long-standing rival claims over the 'Aegean' territory
- 'Aegean Sea', an arm of the Mediterranean Sea – located in the East Mediterranean Basin
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan
- Greece – Athens – Euro | PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

**310.** On June 14, the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center signed an MoU with the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) to facilitate bilateral cooperation and promote the common development of BRICS countries. The BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center was launched in Xiamen in December 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- BRICS PartNIR + NDB = an MoU to facilitate bilateral cooperation & promote common development of BRICS countries
- 'BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center' was launched – in Xiamen (in Dec 2020)
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2022 – China

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**311.** On June 16, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) Life has renamed itself as 'Canara HSBC Life Insurance', following its third partner Punjab National Bank's (PNB's) decision to exit. PNB had acquired a stake in the company following the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC). Currently, Canara Bank holds 51%, HSBC holds 26% and PNB 23% in this insurance arm. The insurance company also launched its 1<sup>st</sup> brand campaign "#PromisesKaPartner". [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Canara HSBC OBC Life – renamed itself as ‘Canara HSBC Life Insurance’ (after PNB’s decision to exit)
- Currently, Canara Bank holds 51%, HSBC holds 26% & PNB 23% in Canara HSBC OBC Life (before PNB’s exit)
- [HQs of Canara HSBC Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & CEO – Anuj Mathur](#)

**312.** On June 10, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the “Use and File” procedure for most of life Insurance products as part of its efforts to make insurance more accessible to the general public. Now, life insurers are expected to have a board-approved product management and pricing policy (BAPMPP). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – extended the “Use and File” procedure for most of life Insurance products
- [HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana](#) | [Chairman – Debasish Panda](#)

**313.** On June 15, Mumbai-based financial wellness platform CASHe has launched an industry-first credit line service using its AI-powered chat capability on WhatsApp to provide customers with a fast, seamless and convenient way to access instant credit line by merely typing their name. The firm offers an instant credit limit without the need for any documents, app downloads or filling up tedious application forms. CASHe’s WhatsApp chat service is built on the WhatsApp Business Platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CASHe ([Mumbai](#)) – launched an industry-first credit line service using its AI-powered chat capability on WhatsApp

**314.** On June 14, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) launched “Out-of-Network Cash Advance” facility to help customers with monetary support at any hospital that is not part of EGI’s network. Under the new “Cash Advance” facility, customers will receive money up to Rs 10,000 to take care of admission charges or other expenses during the hospitalization. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- EGI – launched “Out-of-Network Cash Advance” facility
- It will help customers with monetary support (up to Rs 10,000) at any hospital that is not part of EGI’s network
- [HQs of EGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh](#)

**315.** On June 15, the central government appointed Anand Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra Dholakia as part-time Non-official Directors on the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointment will remain valid for 4 years with effect from June 14, 2022. Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Ajay Seth and Sanjay Malhotra are non-official directors of the central bank. The central board of the RBI comprises official directors, which include the governor and four deputy governors. The government appoints 10 non-official directors, 2 directors are government officials while 4 directors are appointed from each of the 4 local boards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anand Mahindra + Venu Srinivasan + Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel + Ravindra Dholakia = appointed as part-time Non-official Directors on the central board of RBI
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1st April, 1935](#)
- [Total Deputy Governors \(4\) – Mahesh Kumar Jain](#) | [T. Rabi Sankar](#) | [Michael D. Patra](#) | [M. Rajeshwar Rao](#)





**316.** On June 14, HDFC Bank signed an MoU with 100X.VC, a leading early stage venture capital firm, to engage more deeply with the startup community. The Bank will extend its full-suite of specialised services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as Smart-Up, to all the firms associated with 100X.VC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank + 100X.VC = an MoU to engage more deeply with the startup community
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

## Sports & Games

**317.** On June 11, Shot putter Manpreet Kaur from Haryana qualified for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham by clocking 18.06m on Day 2 of the 61<sup>st</sup> “National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship” at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. The second and third place was bagged by Uttar Pradesh’s Kiran Baliyan (16.84m) and Maharashtra’s Abha Khatua (16.69m). Besides, Javelin throwers Manu DP (Karnataka) and Rohit Yadav (UP) too broke the CWG qualification mark of 81m. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manpreet Kaur – clocked highest at 18.06m in Shot put at the 61<sup>st</sup> “National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship”
- Players who recently qualified for the upcoming ‘2022 Commonwealth Games’ in Birmingham:
  - Manpreet Kaur ([Shot Putter - Haryana](#)), Manu DP ([Javelin Thrower - Karnataka](#)), Rohit Yadav ([Javelin Thrower - UP](#))

**318.** On June 13, the host Haryana crowned as the new champion of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021” bagging 52 gold, 39 silver and 46 bronze medals. Maharashtra finished second with 45 gold medals, followed by Karnataka with 22 golds. The 5<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled to be held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. State Bank of India (SBI) was the title sponsor of KIYG 2021. ‘Dhakad’ was the Mascot for Haryana for KIYG 2021. The mascots for the KIYG are ‘Jaya’ the blackbuck and ‘Vijay’ the tiger. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021” – hosted by Haryana
- Mascot (for Haryana) – Dhakad | Mascots (for KIYG) – ‘Jaya’ (Blackbuck) & ‘Vijay’ (Tiger) | Title Sponsor – SBI
- Winners: Top – Haryana (52 Gold medals) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karnataka
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

## Science & Technology

**319.** In June 2022, S. Somanath, Secretary of Dept. of Space and Chairman of the ISRO, inaugurated the new manufacturing facility of Ananth Technologies which will design and produce systems for Indian aerospace. The facility has set up a 15,000 square metre spacecraft manufacturing unit at KIADB Aerospace Park, Bengaluru. It is India’s first such facility in the Private sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ananth Technologies – opened its new Spacecraft Manufacturing Unit in Bengaluru (inaugurated by - S. Somanath)
- HQs of Ananth Technologies – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Adithya Anand



**320.** In June 2022, a group of Indian researchers from Delhi University have discovered unique dinosaur eggs which indicates that the species reproduce like birds. The egg hints towards the fact that that ovum-in-ovo pathology (fossilized egg within another egg) is not unique to birds, but also present in dinosaurs. The eggs were discovered in Madhya Pradesh's Dinosaur Fossil National Park and belong to a species of titanosaurs, a group of sauropod dinosaurs. The findings of the discovery were published in the journal "Scientific Reports". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Researchers from Delhi University – discovered unique dinosaur eggs with 'ovum-in-ovo' pathology
- The eggs were discovered from – Dinosaur Fossil National Park ([Madhya Pradesh](#)) | Species – Titanosaurs
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

**321.** On June 16, India successfully carried out a night launch of "Prithvi-II" - surface-to-surface nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missile, from an integrated test range in Chandipur, Odisha. Prithvi-II has been developed by the DRDO under its 'Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)'. Prithvi II class is a single-stage liquid-fueled missile that has a maximum warhead mounting capability of 500 kg, but with an extended range of 250 km (160 mi). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – successfully test launched surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile "Prithvi-II" from Chandipur, Odisha
- Warhead mounting capability – 500 kg | Extended range – 250 km | Developed by – DRDO

**322.** On June 14, a senior engineer at Google claimed that the company's artificial intelligence-based chatbot "LaMDA" (Language Model for Dialogue Applications) had become "sentient". Sentience is the capacity to experience feelings and sensations. Google first announced LaMDA at its flagship developer conference I/O in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – claimed that its AI-based Chatbot "LaMDA" had become 'sentient' (to experience feelings & sensations)
- LaMDA" – **L**anguage **M**odel for **D**ialogue **A**pplications
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)

**323.** On June 14, India's newest recorded snail, recorded from the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra, is named after Western Ghats. The "Haploptychius Sahyadriensis" is the third member of the genus Haploptychius. The other two - H. andamanicus and H. pfeifferi, were recorded in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 1860s. The discovery was published in the "Molluscan Research", an international journal. This species is endemic to Vishalgad Conservation Reserve in Shahuwadi tehsil of Maharashtra's Kolhapur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Haploptychius Sahyadriensis", a new snail – recorded from the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra
- Genus – Haploptychius
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

**324.** On June 9, 'HomoSEP', a robot developed by researchers from IIT Madras to clean septic tanks without human intervention, is deployed in Tamil Nadu. After numerous tests and trials, the IIT-M is now deploying 10 such robots in various parts of Tamil Nadu. This robot will eliminate manual scavenging in India. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 'HomoSEP' – a robot developed by researchers from IIT Madras to clean septic tanks without human intervention
- The robot is currently deployed in – Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**325.** On June 15, Somali Parliament unanimously approved the appointment of Hamza Abdi Barre as the country's new Prime Minister. He was appointed by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Mr. Hamza succeeds Mohamed Hussein Roble who served as the PM of Somalia from 23 September, 2020 to 26 June, 2022. Mogadishu is the capital of Somalia and Dollar/Shilling is the currency of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hamza Abdi Barre – appointed as Somalia's new Prime Minister
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | President – Hassan Sheikh Mohamud | PM – Hamza Abdi Barre

**326.** On June 15, Air Marshal Vibhas Pande assumed charge as the 37<sup>th</sup> Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the IAF's Maintenance Command headquartered in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Air Marshal Pande succeeded Air Marshal Shashiker Choudhary, who superannuated on May 31. Air Marshal Pande is a recipient of Aiti Vishist Seva Medal and Vishist Seva Medal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vibhas Pande – assumed charge as 37<sup>th</sup> AOC-in-C of the IAF's Maintenance Command (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- Air Marshal Pande succeeded – Air Marshal Shashiker Choudhary
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**327.** On June 10, the Delhi High Court has appointed former Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Pankaj Naqvi, as the Administrator of the Judo Federation of India (JFI) and directed the erstwhile committee to hand over charge to him for the running of day-to-day affairs of the federation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Justice Pankaj Naqvi – appointed as the Administrator of the Judo Federation of India (JFI) – by Delhi High Court
- HQs of JFI – New Delhi | Administrator – Pankaj Naqvi





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# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**328.** On June 9, recognising its efforts in advancing tobacco control, the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC) of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh with the “Regional Director Special Recognition Award”. The Resource Center for Tobacco Control, a joint initiative of the PGIMER and the UNION-SEA, was set up in 2018 by 25 organisations working over tobacco control in India with an aim to showcase tobacco control initiatives.

[{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- e-RCTC – awarded with the “Regional Director Special Recognition Award” – by the WHO
- e-RCTC – a joint initiative of PGIMER & UNION-SEA | Set up in – 2018
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

# Important Days & Dates

**329.** 15<sup>th</sup> June is celebrated as Global Wind Day across the world, annually and it is marked as a day of discovering the possibilities of wind power. It is a day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems. In the year, 2007, the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) organized the 1<sup>st</sup> wind day. This year, the day marks the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- June 15 – Global Wind Day by – European Wind Energy Association (since 2007)
- 2022 – marks the celebration of ‘Silver Jubilee’ of the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)

**330.** The world marks International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) on June 16 to recognise the importance of over 200 million migrant workers who send money at their homes. According to the United Nations, over 800 million people receive money as foreign remittances from their loved ones. In 2022, the UN continues the last year’s theme which is “Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- June 16 – International Day of Family Remittances
- 2022’s Theme – “Recovery and Resilience through Digital and Financial Inclusion”

**331.** The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), designated on June 15, was initiated by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) in 2006, and was first observed in the year 2012. According to WHO estimates, 1 in 6 people over 60 years of age suffers from abuse, which results 141 million people globally. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- June 15 – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by – INPEA (Since 2006)
- WHO report: 1 in 6 people over 60 years of age suffers from abuse (141 million people globally)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**332.** On June 13, Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Canada passed the “Turban Day Act” to celebrate April 13 as Turban Day across the province every year. The bill was introduced by Diljeet Singh Brar, the MLA of Burrows in Manitoba. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Canada – passed the “Turban Day Act” to celebrate April 13 as “Turban Day”
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

## Obituaries

**333.** On June 16, Eminent Urdu scholar and former President of Sahitya Akademi Prof. Gopi Chand Narang passed away in the United States at the age of 91. The prolific writer with has some 60 books to his credit. Prof. Narang’s seminal work Urdu Ghazal aur Hindustani Zehn-o Tahzeeb is remembered for examining and tracing the roots of the genesis of the Urdu ghazal. In 1995, Prof. Narang won the Sahitya Akademi Award. He was the first Urdu scholar who received the Padma Bhushan and Pakistan’s Sitara-e-Imtiaz. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Gopi Chand Narang – Urdu Scholar & former President of Sahitya Akademi – passed away
- Awards: Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Pakistan’s Sitara-e-Imtiaz

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**334.** On June 15, Secretary (East), Saurabh Kumar co-chaired the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) held in Delhi, with Permanent Secretary of Singapore Albert Chua. The two sides decided to celebrate the year 2022 as “ASEAN-India Friendship Year” to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-India Partnership. The meeting also deliberated on the steps for further implementation of the ‘ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025)’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Saurabh Kumar – co-chaired the 24<sup>th</sup> “ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM)” held in Delhi
- 2022 – to be celebrated as “ASEAN-India Friendship Year” to mark 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-India Partnership

**335.** On June 12, India and the European Union discussed increasing Maritime Security Cooperation and the prospect of co-development and co-production of Defence Equipment at the first-ever “India-EU Security and Defence Consultations” held in Brussels, Belgium. India participated in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), a part of the EU’s security and defence policy. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The first-ever “India-EU Security & Defence Consultations” – held in Brussels, Belgium
- India participated in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), a part of the EU’s Security & Defence Policy
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

**336.** On June 16, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated “Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022” in New Delhi. During the summit, he emphasized maintaining equilibrium among Ecology, Environment and Development. The summit focused on the Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated “Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022” in New Delhi
- Focus: Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070



**337.** Chief of Nagaland BJP Mahila Morcha, S. Phangon Konyak represented India at the 2-day 8<sup>th</sup> “IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians” hosted in Egypt. She is Nagaland's first woman elected as Member of Parliament (MP) to Rajya Sabha. She shared her thoughts on the ‘Young MPs for Climate Actions’. The Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) annually to provide a platform to young MPs from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance the youth empowerment. According to official information shared by IPU, there are 35,177 parliamentary seats globally but just 2.66% of these are held by young MPs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Phangon Konyak – represented India at the 8<sup>th</sup> “IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians” hosted in Egypt
- Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians is annually organized by – IPU
- HQs of IPU – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Duarte Pacheco | SG – Martin Chungong | Formed in – 1889

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**338.** As per Coursera’s latest annual “Global Skills Report 2022 (GSR 2022)”, India slipped 4 places to be ranked at the 68<sup>th</sup> position globally in overall skills proficiency. In Asia, India stands at the 19<sup>th</sup> position. However, India’s technology proficiency levels rose from 38% to 46%. On the other hand, proficiency in data science has dipped from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022. West Bengal leads the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency. Industry reports estimate that 28 million new technology jobs will be created in India by 2025. For the second year in a row, Switzerland had the highest-skilled learners followed by Denmark and Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Skills Report 2022 (GSR 2022)” – released by Coursera (US)
- India – 68<sup>th</sup> globally & 19<sup>th</sup> in Asia | Globally: 1<sup>st</sup> - Switzerland, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Denmark, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Indonesia
- India’s technology proficiency levels – 46% | West Bengal – topped among Indian states in terms of skills proficiency
- Estimates: 28 million new technology jobs will be created in India by 2025

**339.** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the “Migration in India Report 2020-21”. The report separates the categories of ‘Temporary Visitors’ and ‘Migrants’. This report is based on first-time collection of additional data during the annual round of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020 - June 2021. The all-India migration rate was 28.9% for July 2020-June 2021, with 26.5% migration rate in rural areas and 34.9% in urban areas. As per the report, after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, 0.7% of India’s population was recorded as a ‘temporary visitor’ across households. A total of 48.9% of the temporary visitors moved to meet family/relatives/friends between July 2020 to June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Migration in India Report 2020-21” – released by MoSPI
- All-India migration rate for July 2020-June 2021 – 28.9% (26.5% in rural & 34.9% in urban)
- 0.7% of India’s population was recorded as a ‘temporary visitor’ in March 2020

**340.** India witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a 6-position jump from 43<sup>rd</sup> to 37<sup>th</sup> rank on the annual “World Competitiveness Index” compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list, followed by Switzerland & Singapore. While Singapore is top-performing among Asian economies. The domestic economy has experienced a stratospheric rise from 30<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> position in a year. The labour market moved up from 15<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “World Competitiveness Index” – released by Institute for Management Development (IMD)
- India – 37<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> - Denmark, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Switzerland, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Singapore
- HQs of IMD – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Jean-Francois Manzoni

**341.** According to the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2022”, the average level of trust in news was found at 42%, lower than the previous year. Trust levels fell in 21 of the 46 markets surveyed, rising in just 7. India registered a small increase in the level of trust, with 41% trusting news overall. YouTube (53%) and WhatsApp (51%) were the top social media platforms for sourcing news. In India, 58% mostly read the news while 17% mostly watch it. Finland has a historic pattern of high newspaper consumption. This year’s edition is based on a survey conducted by YouGuv, a British market research and data analytics firm, in January/February 2022 through online questionnaires. It covers 46 markets in 6 continents. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Digital News Report 2022” – released by Reuters Institute
- Average level of trust in news was – 42% | In India – it was 41% (Top Sources: YouTube - 53% & WhatsApp - 51%)
- In India, 58% mostly read the news while 17% mostly watch it
- Finland – has a historic pattern of high newspaper consumption

**342.** As per the “Global Startup Ecosystem 2022” report released by Startup Genome, Bengaluru ranked 22<sup>nd</sup>, Delhi moved up an impressive 11 places coming in at No. 26, and Mumbai at No. 36. Silicon Valley ranked No. 1 in the Global Startup Ecosystem, followed by New York City & London. According to the research, a record 540 companies achieved unicorn status in 2021, up from 150 in 2020. Bengaluru is aptly named the “Silicon Valley of India”. The report highlighted Bengaluru's formidable status as the tech capital of India, with an ecosystem value of \$105 billion - higher than Singapore (\$89 billion) and Tokyo (\$62 billion). Besides, research from Dealroom.Co for London & Partners, showed that Bengaluru is the leading Asian city and 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked hub in the world for tech venture capital (VC) investment in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2022” – released by Startup Genome | Top – Silicon Valley (California, US)
- Among Top 50: Bengaluru – 22<sup>nd</sup> | Delhi – 26<sup>th</sup> | Mumbai – 36<sup>th</sup>
- Dealroom.Co: Bengaluru – ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for tech venture capital (VC) investment in 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> in Asia)

**343.** India’s Unemployment Rate (UR) fell further to 4.2% in 2020-21 with a decline of 0.6%, as per the “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report (July 2020 to June 2021)” released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The unemployment rates (UR) in India stood at 4.8% in 2019-20. As per the annual report, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India has gone up year-on-year to 41.6% in 2020-21. Female labour force participation rate jumped to 25.1% in 2020-21. The annual data also points to a surge in Worker Population Ratio (WPR) to 39.8% in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report (July 2020 to June 2021)” – released by the MoSPI
- Unemployment Rate (UR) in India fell further to 4.2% in 2020-21 (4.8% in 2019-20)
- LFPR in India increased year-on-year to – 41.6% in 2020-21 | Worker Population Ratio rose to – 39.8% in 2020-21



**344.** Tamil Nadu displaced West Bengal to emerge as the largest State in terms of the outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans, according to “MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22”, a quarterly report published by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN). The gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Tamil Nadu as of March 31, 2022 stood at Rs 36,806 Cr, followed by Bihar (Rs 35,941 Cr) and West Bengal (Rs 34,016 Cr). According to the 41<sup>st</sup> issue of the Micrometer report, the overall microfinance industry had a total GLP of Rs 2,85,441 Cr as of March 31, 2022, an increase of 10% year-on-year (YoY). The proportion of NBFC-MFI portfolios in the universe portfolio increased by 4.1% to 35.2% as of March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the “Micrometer Q4 FY21-22” – a quarterly report published by the MFIN
- Tamil Nadu – largest State in terms of the outstanding portfolio of Microfinance Loans | 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bihar, 3<sup>rd</sup> - West Bengal
- Overall Microfinance Industry had a total GLP of Rs 2,85,441 Cr as of March 31, 2022 (increase of 10%)

## Amount & Agreements

**345.** On June 15, LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional network, will invest USD 5,00,000 (Rs 3.88 Cr) in partnership with UN Women to advance women’s economic empowerment. The project will be launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra for 15 months to cultivate the digital, soft and employability skills of 2,000 women. It will digitally upskill women, providing them greater access to jobs and equipping them to fully participate in the formal economy. The partnership will be guided by the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LinkedIn – to invest USD 5,00,000 to advance Women’s Economic Empowerment (in partnership with UN Women)
- HQs of LinkedIn – California, US | CEO – Jeff Weiner

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**346.** In June 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 24.98 percent stake in IIFL Wealth Management (IIFLWM) by BC Asia Investments X Ltd. BC Asia Investments X Ltd is indirectly held by Bain Capital Investors LLC. The CCI also approved the sale of the global biosimilars portfolio of Viatrix Inc to Biocon Biologics Limited. In another notice, the CCI approved the corporate restructuring of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Holdings Ltd (JVCO) under a green channel route. Moreover, Air India got the CCI’s approval to acquire entire stake in AirAsia India. Tata Sons Private Limited (TSPL) holds 83.67% of the equity share capital of AirAsia India at present. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI – approved the acquisition of 24.98 percent stake in IIFL Wealth Management – by BC Asia Investments X Ltd
- CCI – approved the sale of the global biosimilars portfolio of ‘Viatrix Inc’ – to Biocon Biologics Ltd
- CCI – approved the corporate restructuring of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Holdings Ltd under ‘Green Route’
- CCI – approved Air India’s proposal to acquire entire stake in AirAsia India
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**347.** On June 14, the Union Cabinet approved the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of youth work among the authorized bodies of the member states the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese. Moreover, the cabinet approved the proposal for development of Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs 1305 Cr, to be completed within 48 months. The Airport is planned for operationalization from the year 2025-26. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the Agreement in the field of youth work among the authorized bodies of the SCO members
- Cabinet approved the proposal for development of Phase I of 'New Greenfield Airport' at Dholera, Gujarat
- Estimated cost of the airport – Rs 1305 Cr | To be functional – from 2025-26

**348.** On June 17, to check the depleting groundwater level in the state, the Israel and Haryana government agreed to work together in the field of integrated water resource management and capacity building. Israel will transfer knowledge, capacity building and technologies for the development of the water management sector in the state. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Israel + Haryana = agreed to work together in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management & Capacity Building
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**349.** On June 14, Pontaq, an innovation fund that invests in early-stage technology businesses in the UK, India, US & Canada, signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission, which is backed by state government. The TN government will help Pontaq-supported companies expand business operations in the State. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Pontaq + Tamil Nadu = an MoU to help Pontaq-supported companies expand business operations in the State
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**350.** On June 14, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the signing of an agreement between the Government of India and the United Nations on a 'Way Finding Application' to be used in the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The project of development of the application has been conceptualized as donation from India to the UN on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. In another decision, the Cabinet also approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for the establishment of the "BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF)". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Gol + UN = an agreement on a 'Way Finding Application' to be used in the Palais des Nations, UN
- Union Cabinet – approved an MoA for the establishment of "BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF)"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945





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