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# National & States Affairs

**301.** The year 2022 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> operational phase of the “Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme” which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The programme provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing the lives of local communities. The grants are given to NGOs working in particular landscapes; Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram have been chosen as two districts representing the Indian coastal region in Tamil Nadu. The project aims to study and work on the themes of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation through NGOs. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 2022 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> operational phase of the “Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme”
- The Programme is implemented by = MoEFCC + UNDP + TERI
- The project aims to study and work on the themes: Biodiversity, Climate Change & Land Degradation
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Vibha Dhawan | Established in – 1974

**302.** On September 15, NITI Aayog, with Rocky Mountain Institute’s (RMI) support, launched “Shoonya”, an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry. The campaign aims to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery. Urban freight vehicles account for 10% of freight transportation-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in India, and these emissions are expected to grow by 114% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + Rocky Mountain Institute = launched an initiative “Shoonya”
- ‘Shoonya’ aims to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles & accelerate adoption of EVs in urban deliveries segment
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery

**303.** This year, Indore is set to create history by implementing a fully digital addressing system, making it the first city in India to do so. Rishav Gupta (IAS), CEO of Indore Smart City, and Rajat Jain, co-founder of Pataa Navigations, signed an MoU for this purpose. Pataa has developed patented technology and is working with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to develop a digital addressing system for the nation. According to reports, India is reportedly losing an estimated 75,000 crores annually as a result of its complicated addressing system. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indore – will be the first city in India to implement a fully digital addressing system (in collaboration with Pataa)
- Pataa + ISRO = to develop a digital addressing system for the nation
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**304.** In September 2022, Maharashtra is the first state to enable e-registrations of first-sale property. The e-registration facility was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, e-registration facility was only available for leave and licence agreements, which was started in 2014. To promote e-registration of newly-bought property and instill confidence among home buyers, the Maharashtra government is adopting measure to protect the data linked to such transactions. Blockchain technology will be used to prevent duplication of original agreement documents. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – first state to enable e-registrations of first-sale property (using Blockchain technology)
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**305.** On September 14, the Election Commission of India released a new digital publication 'BLO e-Patrika' at an interactive session held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) spread across the states in the country. Over 350 BLOs joined via video-conferencing from the office of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) in states/UTs and 50 BLOs joined the launch event physically. The event was a first-of-its-kind direct interaction by the Commission with the BLOs across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Election Commission of India – released a new digital publication 'BLO e-Patrika'
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**306.** In September 2022, Uttar Pradesh government announced to provide a unique farm ID to the farmers, which will be linked with Aadhar to provide them benefits of all government schemes. Farm ID will be similar to Aadhar number. Aadhar verification will be used to implement this scheme in the coming days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UP Govt announced to provide a Unique Farm ID to the farmers, which will be linked with Aadhar
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**307.** On September 13, the Centre has constituted a 6-member Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of former SEBI Chairman M. Damodaran to suggest measures for scaling up of venture capital and private equity (VC/PE) investments. This move is an implementation of an announcement made by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech this year. The panel will also review issues, compliances and suggest simplifications and changes for further accelerating the growth of alternative capital to participate in the VC/PE industry. The Finance Ministry's move to set up this expert committee comes at a time when PE/VC investments have fallen to a 19-month low of \$2.2 billion in August 2022. In July this year, PE/VC investments stood at \$4.1 billion, according to a EY-IVCA report. The year 2021 saw a record PE/VC investment inflows of over \$70 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The Centre constituted a 6-member Expert Committee to suggest measures for scaling up of VC/PE investments
- The committee is headed by – M. Damodaran (former SEBI Chairman)
- The PE/VC investments – have fallen to a 19-month low of \$2.2 billion in August 2022 (from \$4.1 billion in July)
- PE/VC investment inflows in 2021 – over \$70 billion
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**308.** On September 14, the Union Cabinet, under the Chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi, approved the addition of several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) across five states. The Hatti tribe in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmour district in Himachal Pradesh, the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes of Tamil Nadu and the Binjhia in Chhattisgarh, were the communities newly added to the list. Further, the Cabinet approved a proposal to bring the Gond tribe residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, under the ST list from the Scheduled Caste list. In addition to this, the Cabinet also approved 'Betta-Kuruba' as a synonym for the Kadu Kuruba tribe in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the addition of several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) across 5 states:
  - Hatti tribe – Himachal Pradesh
  - Narikoravan & Kurivikkaran Hill tribes – Tamil Nadu
  - Binjhia tribe – Chhattisgarh
  - Gond tribe – Uttar Pradesh
  - Kadu Kuruba tribe (Betta-Kuruba) – Karnataka

**309.** On September 13, Indore-based carbon credit developer and supplier EKI Energy Services (EKI) has listed a plastic project from India under a global accreditation standard. With this, EKI has become the first ever firm to list a plastic project from India with an aim to generate India's first-ever international plastic credits. The project has been listed under the Plastic Waste Reduction Standard of Verra, a Washington-based accreditation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- EKI Energy Services (Indore) – became 1<sup>st</sup> firm to list a plastic project from India under a global accreditation standard
- The project will generate India's first-ever international plastic credits
- The project is listed under – Plastic Waste Reduction Standard of Verra (Washington, US)

**310.** On September 12, a model "Early Intervention Centre - Prayas" has been established at Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in New Delhi, aiming to alleviate the suffering and instil confidence in parents in dealing with differently-abled children. The Early Intervention Centre is a comprehensive state-of-the-art facility which is dedicated to children with special needs. Children of Armed Forces personnel upto 6 years of age suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, sleep and language delay and other disabilities will benefit immensely from this venture. The Centre was inaugurated by Archana Pande, President, Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Early Intervention Centre - Prayas", a comprehensive state-of-the-art facility – established at Army Hospital, New Delhi
- The Centre was inaugurated by – Archana Pande (President of Army Wives Welfare Association)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**311.** In September 2022, the first inter-modal digital TIR pilot transport between India and Iran, which facilitates seamless and paperless cross-border transit of goods under the customs guarantee of the TIR system, was flagged off from Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port) in Navi Mumbai. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is India's vision and initiative to reduce the time taken for EXIM (Export-Import) shipments to reach Russia and Europe, and enter the Central Asian markets. Iran's Chabahar Port is the commercial transit centre for the region, especially Central Asia. Moreover, India is also participating in the development of the first phase of the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port in cooperation with the Iranian government. The TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers' or International Road Transports) system plays an important role in facilitating cross-border trade. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- First inter-modal digital TIR pilot transport between India & Iran – flagged off from Nhava Sheva in Navi Mumbai
- 'Nhava Sheva' (also known as 'Jawaharlal Nehru Port') – located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- INSTC – India's initiative to reduce time taken for Export-Import shipments
- India is participating in the development of the first phase of the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port, Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ebrahim Raisi | Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei

**312.** On September 12, IIM Lucknow launched the first-of-its-kind “Chief Marketing Officer Programme” with Emeritus, the global leader in making high-quality education accessible and affordable to individuals, companies, and governments worldwide. This high-impact 10-month programme will enable business leaders, aspiring and new CMOs to lead marketing innovation and business growth towards delivering higher ROI. IIM Lucknow was ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> top B-School in India as per ‘NIRF, 2022’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIM Lucknow – launched the first-of-its-kind 10-month long “Chief Marketing Officer Programme” with Emeritus

## **International Affairs**

**313.** In September 2022, King Charles III was officially named monarch in Australia and New Zealand. Both former British colonies have been independent for decades but retain the monarch as their head of state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- King Charles III – officially named monarch in Australia and New Zealand
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

**314.** In September 2022, President Joe Biden announced to appoint Dr. Renee Wegrzyn as the first director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), a new agency established by the US to drive biomedical innovation that supports the health of all Americans. President Biden created ARPA-H in March 2022 to push the limits of U.S. biomedical and health research and innovation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Renee Wegrzyn – appointed as the first Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
- ‘ARPA-H’ established by the US in March 2022
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**315.** According to the US Embassy in India, the US issued a record 82,000 student visas in India in the past year, with more Indian students heading to the United States to study than from any other country in the world. Over the last few years, China had the highest number of students in the US followed by India. As per data released by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) earlier this year, the number of Indian students in the United States increased by over 12% in 2021. Indian students comprise nearly 20% of all international students studying in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US issued a record 82,000 student visas in India in 2021-22, more Indian students in the US than any other country
- The number of Indian students in the United States increased by over 12% in 2021
- Currently, Indian students comprise nearly 20% of all international students studying in the US (highest)
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**316.** On September 14, ICICI Lombard, a private non-life insurance company, launched an AI-powered digital voice agent in collaboration with Skit.ai, an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform. The new feature will assist customers with the status of their insurance claims for health and motor insurance policies. The augmented voice intelligence platform is integrated with ICICI Lombard's customer relationship management (CRM) systems. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard + Skit.ai = launched an AI-powered digital voice agent
- The new feature will assist customers with their insurance claims for health & motor insurance
- Skit.ai – is an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

**317.** On September 15, the Finance Ministry has issued draft guidelines for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to raise resources from capital market, paving the way for raising funds via rights issue, private placement with select investors such as large banks and insurance companies, and initial public offerings (IPO). Currently, there are 43 RRBs sponsored by 12 Scheduled Commercial Banks with 21,892 branches across India. RRBs are jointly owned by the Government of India (GoI), the respective State Governments (SGs), and the Sponsor Banks (SBs), with equity contribution in the ratio (GoI : SG : SB :: 50 : 15 : 35). Among the parameter for selection on RRBs for capital raising include: net worth of at least ₹300 Cr in each of the preceding 3 years; minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio above the regulatory requirement of 9% in each of the preceding 3 years; track record of profitability - pre-tax operating profit of minimum ₹15 Cr for at least 3 out of previous 5 years, excluding extraordinary times. Further, RRBs should have return on equity of minimum 10% in 3 out of preceding 5 years; and return on assets of minimum 0.5% in 3 out of preceding 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – issued draft guidelines for RRBs to raise resources from capital market, private placement & IPOs
- Currently there are 43 RRBs sponsored by 12 Scheduled Commercial Banks in India (as of Sep 2022)
- RRBs – jointly owned by Government of India (GoI), respective State Governments, & Sponsor Banks
- Equity contribution ratio in RRBs – GoI : State Govt : Sponsor Bank :: 50 : 15 : 35
- Important Parameter for selection on RRBs for capital raising:
  - Net worth of at least ₹300 Cr in each of the preceding 3 years
  - Minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio above 9% in each of the preceding 3 years
  - Pre-tax operating profit of minimum ₹15 Cr for at least 3 out of previous 5 years
  - RRBs should have return on equity of minimum 10% in 3 out of preceding 5 years
  - RRBs should have return on assets of minimum 0.5% in 3 out of preceding 5 years

**318.** On September 14, State Bank of India (SBI) reached Rs 5-trillion market capitalisation (market cap) for the first time after its shares touched a record high of Rs 564.45 on September 14. With a market cap of Rs 5.03 trillion, SBI stood at the 7<sup>th</sup> position in the overall market cap ranking, according to the data from BSE. With this, SBI has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> lender in India to cross the market cap of Rs 5 trillion, after HDFC Bank & ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- SBI – reached Rs 5-trillion market capitalisation for the first time on September 14
- SBI – became the 3<sup>rd</sup> lender in India to cross the market cap of Rs 5 trillion after HDFC Bank & ICICI Bank
- According to BSE: SBI – stood at the 7<sup>th</sup> position in the overall market cap ranking
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

## Defence Affairs

**319.** On September 13, Ministry of Defence has launched the 'SRIJAN' portal to promote indigenization by the Indian defence industry. 19,509 defence items, which were earlier imported by India, have been uploaded on the portal for indigenisation till date. Out of them, the Indian industry has shown interest for indigenisation of 4,006 defence items so far. To supplement this public-private endeavour, Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology, supports Ghaziabad Precision Products Pvt Ltd in manufacturing of indigenous components critical to SUKHOI-30MK1 aircraft & 1500 HP Battle Tank Engine. Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircrafts, developed by Russia, are being built by Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd (HAL). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence – launched 'SRIJAN' portal to promote indigenization by the Indian defence industry
- TDB supports Ghaziabad Precision Products Pvt Ltd in manufacturing of indigenous components critical to SUKHOI-30MK1 aircraft & 1500 HP Battle Tank Engine
- Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircrafts – are being built by Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd (developed by Russia)

## Sports & Games

**320.** In September 2022, Ravindra Jadeja became India's highest wicket-taker in the history of the "Asia Cup 2022" tournament which was held in Dubai, UAE. Now, Jadeja has 23 wickets across six Asia Cup tournaments held from 2010 to 2022. Besides, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (83 wickets) overtook Yuzvendra Chahal and became India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is. [{Read more}](#).

### Key Points:

- Ravindra Jadeja (23 wickets) – became India's highest wicket-taker in the history of the "Asia Cup 2022"
- "Asia Cup 2022" – held in Dubai, UAE
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar (83 wickets) – became India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is (overtook - Yuzvendra Chahal)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**321.** On September 14, Karnataka's Robin Uthappa announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket. He thanked his former IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders and current team Chennai Super Kings. He scored 934 and 249 runs in ODIs and T20Is. Uthappa has won two IPL trophies, one for KKR and one for CSK, in 2014 and 2021 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Robin Uthappa (Karnataka) – announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket
- He has played for – Kolkata Knight Riders & Chennai Super Kings in IPL



**322.** On September 14, the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the signing of guarantees for hosting the “FIFA Under 17 Women’s World Cup 2022” in India. The World Cup was scheduled to take place from 11-30 October, with matches to be held in Bhubaneshwar, Navi Mumbai and Goa. This 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial youth tournament is the first-ever FIFA women’s competition to be hosted by India. The Cabinet also announced that a financial outlay of Rs 10 Crore for All India Football Federation (AIFF) will be met from the budgetary allocation for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India will host the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of “FIFA Under 17 Women’s World Cup 2022” – in Bhubaneshwar, Navi Mumbai & Goa
- Cabinet announced a financial outlay of Rs 10 Crore for All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Kalyan Chaubey | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das

**323.** In September 2022, India clinched the “SAFF U-17 Championship” title, defeating Nepal in the Final at the Racecourse International Stadium, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With this, India emerged as the champion of the “SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship” for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – defeated Nepal & clinched the “SAFF U-17 Championship” title for the 4<sup>th</sup> time – in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

**324.** In September 2022, Karnataka team was the overall champion at the 75<sup>th</sup> Senior National Aquatic Championships which concluded at the Dr. Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex in Guwahati, Assam. Karnataka finished overall swimming champions with 250 points (129 points from men & 121 points from women). Karnataka finished with 14 gold, 4 silver and 11 bronze medals, ahead of the second-placed Services Sports Control Board (SSCB). Karnataka’s Siva S was adjudged the Best Swimmer in the men’s division. In the women’s division, Maana Patel of Gujarat was adjudged the Best Swimmer, with 3 gold and 1 bronze medal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka – the overall champion at the 75<sup>th</sup> Senior National Aquatic Championships – held in Guwahati, Assam
- Karnataka – finished with 14 Gold, 4 Silver & 11 Bronze | 2<sup>nd</sup> – SSCB
- Best Swimmer (Men’s) – Siva S (Karnataka) | Best Swimmer (Women’s) – Maana Patel (Gujarat)

## **Persons in News**

**325.** On September 14, PM Narendra Modi met with His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in New Delhi. Both the dignitaries discussed the various ideas to further strengthen the close and unique India-Bhutan friendship. Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 after the then Indian government established a special office in Thimphu. Moreover, India has constructed three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan - Chukha HEP, Kurichhu HEP, and Tala HEP. Recently, India completed a 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – met with His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi
- India constructed 3 Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan: Chukha HEP, Kurichhu HEP & Tala HEP
- India also constructed a 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project in Bhutan
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering | Monarch – Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck





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## Science & Technology

**326.** On September 13, MeitY Startup Hub (an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology) and Meta launched an accelerator programme called “XR Startup Program” to support and accelerate XR technology startups across India. This initiative focuses on skilling and building technological capabilities for the metaverse, and will help shape the ecosystem for these emerging technologies, including Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) in the country. The Accelerator Program will support 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each. The XR Startup Program will be implemented by four institutions - IIIT Hyderabad, AIC SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation (AIC-SMUTBI) in Sikkim, Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC) in Ahmedabad, and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi. The XR Startup Program is supported by Meta’s XR Programs and Research Fund, a two-year \$50 million investment in programs. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- MeitY Startup Hub + Meta = launched an accelerator programme called “XR Startup Program”
- The program will support 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each
- The program will be implemented by 4 institutions: IIIT Hyderabad, AIC-SMUTBI, GUSEC, FITT (IIT Delhi)
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

**327.** On September 14, IBM and Bharti Airtel tied up to deploy Airtel’s edge computing platform that will enable large enterprises across multiple industries including manufacturing and automotive to accelerate innovative solutions. To begin with, Maruti Suzuki, India’s largest passenger car maker, intends to use the edge platform to increase accuracy and efficiency for quality inspections on the factory floor. Airtel’s edge computing platform in India includes 120 network data centers across 20 cities, under its data center arm, Nxtra Digital. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- IBM + Bharti Airtel = tied up to deploy Airtel’s edge computing platform for large firms
- In a first, Maruti Suzuki intends to use Airtel’s edge platform to increase accuracy & efficiency
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, US | CEO – Arvind Krishna | Founded in – 1911

**328.** On September 14, Rattanindia Enterprises launched its first anti-drone product “Defender” by its unit Throttle Aerospace Systems (TAS). Defender is an indigenously developed tracking and capturing system for rogue drones loaded with 13 artificial intelligence features to neutralize the rogue drones. Defender employs a soft kill approach wherein a net capture mechanism is utilized. It can move at top speeds of 26 meter per second. This will be manufactured completely in India using technologies which contribute to the ‘Make in India’ program. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Rattanindia Enterprises – launched its first anti-drone product “Defender” by its unit Throttle Aerospace Systems

## Appointments & Resignations

**329.** On September 13, BP Kanungo, former Deputy Governor of RBI, and Kaushik Dutta, current Chairman and Independent Director at Zomato, have been appointed to BharatPe’s board. This decision was taken after months-long tussle between Ashneer Grover and BharatPe’s board. The board of directors of BharatPe now includes two executive directors, five non-executive directors, four investor nominees, and two independent directors. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- BP Kanungo & Kaushik Dutta – appointed to BharatPe’s board
- BP Kanungo – Former Deputy Governor of RBI | Kaushik Dutta – Chairman & Independent Director at Zomato
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram | Founder & CEO – Deepinder Goyal | Chairman – Kaushik Dutta | Founded in – 2008
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | CEO – Suhail Sameer

**330.** On September 11, President Draupadi Murmu has appointed Gulam Ali, a Gurjar Muslim from Jammu & Kashmir, to the Rajya Sabha. The President is pleased to nominate Shri Gulam Ali to the Council of the state to fill the vacancy caused due to the retirement of one of the nominated members. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Gulam Ali (Gurjar Muslim from J & K) – nominated by President Draupadi Murmu to the Rajya Sabha

**331.** On September 13, Senior diplomat Sibi George was appointed as the next Indian ambassador to Japan. George, a 1993-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently the Ambassador of India to Kuwait. He will replace Sanjay Kumar Verma as India’s envoy to Japan. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sibi George – appointed as the next Indian ambassador to Japan (replacing - Sanjay Kumar Verma)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

**332.** On September 13, Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi was appointed as 16<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of India for a second time effective from October 1. The tenure of the incumbent Attorney General, K. K. Venugopal ends on September 30. Mr. Rohatgi (67) had served as the 14<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of India when the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014. He had served for three years, till 2017. Mr. Rohatgi has recently represented the Special Investigation Team in the Zakia Jafri case. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mukul Rohatgi – appointed as 16<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of India for a second time (replacing - K. K. Venugopal)
- He served the first time from 2014 to 2017

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**333.** On September 14, the Cabinet approved the “Value-Added Agriculture Mission (VAAM)”, aimed at doubling farmers’ income in Kerala. The VAAM will help identify profitable national/international markets for Kerala products by focusing on procurement, standardisation, quality control, branding and labelling. For the VAAM, the Agriculture department will be supported by other departments, including Industries, Water Resources and Local Self-Government. Moreover, ‘Njanganalum Krishiyilekku’ campaign was launched by the Kerala Agriculture Department to promote agriculture as a household activity. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the “Value-Added Agriculture Mission (VAAM)”, aimed at doubling farmers’ income in Kerala
- ‘Njanganalum Krishiyilekku’ campaign – launched by Kerala Agriculture Department
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



## Important Days & Dates

**334.** Tibetan refugees across the world in their traditional dress, chupa, celebrated the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Tibetan Democracy Day on September 2. The day, widely known within the community as ‘Mangsto Duchen’ (‘Mangsto’: democracy; ‘Duchen’: occasion) marks the inception of the Tibetan democratic system in exile. In 1963, the Dalai Lama enacted the Tibetan constitution based on the ideals of democracy and universal values. In 1975, Kashag, the apex body of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), declared September 2 as the founding day of Tibetan democracy. In 2011, in a first, His Holiness the Dalai Lama handed over all his political and executive power to the Sikyong, also known as the President of CTA. Currently, the incumbent President of CTA is Penpa Tsering. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- September 2 – 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Tibetan Democracy Day (known as ‘Mangsto Duchen’ within the community)
- Current President of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) – Penpa Tsering

**335.** Engineers Day 2022 in India is observed on September 15, 2022. It is celebrated every year in honour of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who is credited as the first Indian civil engineer, statesman and was also the 19<sup>th</sup> Diwan of Mysore. Engineers Day is celebrated to honour and recognise the achievements of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. He received Bharat Ratna in 1955 and passed away in 1962. Joining India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania also celebrate Engineers Day on September 15, 2022 in honour of Sir MV. The Theme for Engineer’s Day 2022 is not announced yet. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- September 15 – Engineers Day – since 1968 (birth anniversary of 1<sup>st</sup> Indian civil engineer Sir M. Visvesvaraya)
- Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya – was the 19<sup>th</sup> Diwan of Mysore & received Bharat Ratna in 1955
- The day is celebrated by – India, Sri Lanka & Tanzania

**336.** On September 13, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of Ayush, launched the 6-week long “Ayurveda Day 2022” programme (September 12 - October 23). AIIA has been chosen as the nodal agency for driving the Ministry’s mandate for Ayurveda Day this year. The theme for the celebration of the Ayurveda Day 2022 is “Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda”. The Ministry celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanvantari Jayanti. This year, it will be celebrated on October 23. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 23 – 7<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day (on Dhanwantari Jayanti) | First Ayurveda Day – in 2016
- 2022’s Theme – “Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda”
- AIIA – chosen as the nodal agency for driving the Ayush Ministry’s mandate for ‘Ayurveda Day in 2022’
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**337.** The ‘International Day of Democracy’ is observed every year on September 15. This year, the Day will focus on the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace, and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. According to UNESCO, 85% of the world’s population has experienced a decline in press freedom in their country in the past 5 years. The International Day of Democracy was established in 2007 through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- September 15 – International Day of Democracy (since 2007)
- UNESCO: 85% of the world's population has experienced a decline in press freedom in their country in the past 5 years
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

## **Books & Authors**

**338.** A latest book titled “Crimson Spring” is authored by Navtej Sarna. The novel that intertwines history and fiction has been longlisted for the 2022 JCB Prize for Literature. The book starts with the Jalianwalla Bagh massacre that took place on April 13, 1919, and goes back and forth in time to bring that era and the aftermath of the event alive. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Crimson Spring” book authored by – Navtej Sarna
- The book has been longlisted for – ‘2022 JCB Prize for Literature’

## **Obituaries**

**339.** On September 14, former Indian tennis player and Davis Cup captain Naresh Kumar, who was a mentor to Olympic medallist Leander Paes and several others, died due to natural causes in Kolkata at the age of 93. Naresh Kumar was conferred with the Dronacharya Lifetime Achievement award by the Indian government in 2020, becoming the first tennis coach to receive the honour. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naresh Kumar – former Indian tennis player & Davis Cup captain – passed away
- He was a mentor to Olympic medallist Leander Paes and several others
- He was the first tennis coach to receive the ‘Dronacharya Lifetime Achievement Award’ in 2020

**340.** On September 15, Tun Dr S. Samy Vellu, former Cabinet Minister of Malaysia and the first Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee (in 2003) from Malaysia, passed away at the age of 86. Samy Vellu was appointed as Malaysia's Special Envoy of Infrastructure to India and Southern Asia. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest Indian award for Non-resident Indian and Overseas Citizen of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tun Dr S. Samy Vellu – first Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee from Malaysia – passed away
- Samy Vellu – was appointed as Malaysia's Special Envoy of Infrastructure to India and Southern Asia
- ‘Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award’ – the highest Indian award for NRI & Overseas Citizen of India (started in 2003)
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah





## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**341.** On September 14, Union Minister of MSME, Narayan Rane, chaired the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Board of MSME (NBMSME). Shri Rane inaugurated the portal for the scheme for promotion of MSMEs in North East Region (NER) and Sikkim. Narayan Rane launched the integration of Udyam and National Career Service (NCS) portals, which was announced in Budget 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Point-s:

- Narayan Rane – chaired the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Board of MSME
- Narayan Rane – inaugurated the portal for the scheme for promotion of MSMEs in NER & Sikkim
- Narayan Rane – launched the integration of Udyam & National Career Service (NCS) portals
- [Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma](#)

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**342.** On September 14, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has emerged as India's most valuable brand according to the "Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2022" report. TCS took the top spot with its brand value pegged at \$45.5 billion followed by HDFC Bank (\$32.7 billion) and Infosys (\$29.2 billion) grabbed the second and third spot, respectively. India's top 75 brands are worth a combined \$393 billion, equivalent to 11% of India's national GDP. Brands from 23 different categories made it to the 2022 Indian Top 75. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2022" report:
- 1<sup>st</sup> – TCS (\$45.5 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – HDFC Bank (\$32.7 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Infosys (\$29.2 billion)

**343.** The gross domestic product (GDP) of G20 economies fell 0.4% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) in Q2 2022, reflecting the sharp contraction in the Chinese economy, as per the provisional estimates released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in September 2022. In contrast, the GDP of OECD countries, which doesn't include China, grew by 0.4% over the same period. India's GDP fell 1.4% on a quarterly basis over the same period. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- According to the provisional estimates released by the OECD:
  - The GDP of G20 economies fell 0.4% quarter-on-quarter in Q2 2022
  - GDP of OECD countries grew by 0.4% over the same period
  - India's GDP fell 1.4% on a quarterly basis
- China is part of G20 but not a part of OECD countries (China registered a sharp contraction in its economy in Q2 2022)
- [HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Mathias Cormann | Member countries – 38](#)



**344.** Around 50 million people globally were living in modern slavery in 2021, according to a report “The Global Estimates of Modern Slavery” published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and international human rights group Walk Free. Of these, 28 million were in forced labour and 22 million trapped in forced marriage. The most cases of forced labour are found in the private sector at 86%. When regional population is accounted for, the Arab States is the region with the highest prevalence at 4.8 per thousand people, followed by Asia and the Pacific at 3.3 per thousand. The Americas has the lowest prevalence of forced marriage at 1.5 per thousand people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Global Estimates of Modern Slavery” report published by = ILO + IOM + Walk Free
- 50 million people globally were living in modern slavery in 2021 (28mn in forced labour + 22mn in forced marriage)
- Region-wise population of forced labour: 1<sup>st</sup> - Arab States, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Asia, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pacific
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | DG – Gilbert Hounbo (from Oct 1, 2022) | Founded in – 1919
- HQs of IOM – Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland | Director General – Antonio Vitorino

## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**345.** On September 13, Google Cloud chief executive officer (CEO) Thomas Kurian announced that Google has completed the \$5.4 billion acquisition of cyber-security firm Mandiant. Mandiant will join Google Cloud to help organisations improve their threat, incident and exposure management. Mandiant is known for unearthing the SolarWinds hack that shook the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – completed the \$5.4 billion acquisition of cyber-security firm Mandiant
- Mandiant + Google Cloud = will work to help organisations improve their threat, incident & exposure management
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- CEO of Google Cloud – Thomas Kurian

**346.** On September 14, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reduced its 2.045% stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals from 6.402% to 4.357%. In a disclosure to the stock exchanges, LIC said that it has sold about 34.20 lakh shares in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals during September 2018-22 period. Besides LIC, General Insurance Corporation of India (GICI), too, holds 1.42% stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharma. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC – reduced its 2.045% stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals from 6.402% to 4.357%
- General Insurance Corporation of India – also holds 1.42% stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharma
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership**

**347.** On September 13, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat signed an MoU to give an impetus to the strengthening and capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions across India. MoPR and IRMA will collaborate in the area of Gram Panchayat Development Planning for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). They would work together for finding gaps and possible solutions to overcome gaps in preparation of model Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) linkages with LSDGs. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- MoPR + IRMA (Gujarat) = an MoU to strengthen capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions across India
- MoPR & IRMA will collaborate in the area of Gram Panchayat Development Planning for LSDGs through PRIs
- Ministry of & Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

**348.** On September 13, French renewable energy major Engie, through its SolaireDirect Energy India unit, collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train 600 young people as solar module technicians. The goal is to impart knowledge, skills, and training which young graduates need to enter the employment market. The training will be provided in Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadappa, and Bikaner. The project is part of Engie’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) for 2022-23, and will continue until the first quarter of 2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SolaireDirect Energy India unit of Engie (France) + NSDC = will train 600 young people as solar module technicians
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik (works under MoSDE)

**349.** On September 13, Mastercard partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Mastercard’s “Lighthouse MASSIV” program, a free of charge startup partnership program dedicated to helping one billion people live more prosperous and secure lives by 2025. The purpose of the partnership is to support impact tech companies on their impact measurement and management and connect them to the broader United Nations network and initiatives. The program was launched in 2019. MASSIV stands for Make And Scale Social Impact Vision. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mastercard + UNDP = partnered on Mastercard’s “Lighthouse MASSIV” program
- The partnership is to support impact tech companies & connect them to the broader UN network & initiatives
- MASSIV – **M**ake **A**nd **S**cale **S**ocial **I**mpact **V**ision
- “Lighthouse MASSIV” – launched in 2019 to help 1 billion people live more prosperous & secure lives by 2025
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

**350.** On September 14, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) signed an MoU with the country’s largest energy conglomerate NTPC Ltd and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd, with the two PSUs pledging Rs 215 Crore to the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). Under its CSR initiative, NTPC will provide Rs 115 Crore for the development of Archery, while REC will give Rs 100 Crore towards women’s hockey and boxing. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- MoYAS + NTPC + REC Ltd = an MoU pledging Rs 215 Cr to the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)
- NTPC will provide Rs 115 Cr for the development of Archery
- REC will provide Rs 100 Cr towards Women’s Hockey & Boxing
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangan | Founded in – 1969





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