



Current Affairs Supplement

June 2022

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National

PM Modi Inaugurates India's Biggest Drone Festival Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 in New Delhi

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival, **Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022**, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The two-day Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 took place on May 27–28, 2022.

ii. Over 1600 participants attended the Mahotsav, including government officials, foreign diplomats, armed forces, central armed police forces, Public Sector Units (PSUs), private companies, drone start-ups, and others.



At the Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 in New Delhi, **ePlane Company**, an aviation and aerospace component manufacturing company, displayed a static prototype of the 'e200' – India's first flying taxi.

At the Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 in New Delhi, Larsen & Toubro (L & T) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT), a Bengaluru (Karnataka) based start-up.

Supreme Court of India Recognised Sex Work as a "Profession"

The Supreme Court of India has recognised sex work as a "**Profession**", whose practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law.

The 3-judge bench led by **Justice L. Nageswara Rao** directed an order passed after invoking special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

- The court has stated that police should neither interfere nor take criminal action against adult and consenting sex workers
- The court also stated that a child of a sex worker should not be separated from the mother on the ground that she is in the sex trade.
- Section 354C, Indian Penal Code (IPC), introduced in 2020, makes voyeurism a criminal offence, should be strictly enforced against electronic media, in order to prohibit telecasting photos of sex workers with their clients in the garb of capturing the rescue operation



Maharashtra Became Top in Sugar Production in India

Maharashtra became the India's top sugar producer after a five-year gap, followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) in the lead. During the current season of 2021-22, the state is crushing the highest amount of cane and producing the highest ever amount of sugar. Till date, Maharashtra has crushed 1194.75 lt of cane and produced 124.75 lt of sugar.



i. The first is the abundant rainfall Maharashtra has received since the start of the 2019 southwest monsoon season (June-September).

- Resulting in the filling of reservoirs and refilled groundwater aquifers has prompted farmers to cultivate more sugarcane as a crop that lasts 12-18 months.

ii. The second is due to the farmer's extra care for their cultivation along with the third which is due to the huge jump in "unregistered" cane cultivation.

iii. The new move in Uttar Pradesh Policy to utilise the sugarcane for ethanol production to augment bio-fuels is also a main reason for the elevation of Maharashtra as top sugar producer.

Central Govt approves 8.1% EPF Interest Rate for 2021-22; Lowest since 1977-78

The Central Government has officially approved 8.1% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22, which is down by 40 basis points from 8.5% provided in 2020-21.

- This new interest rate is the lowest since 1977-78 (over four-decade low), when it stood at 8%.
- This approval has been made concurrently by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)**, and the **Ministry of Finance**.



Key Points:

i. This decision regarding interest rate cut was taken in March 2022 by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the highest decision-making body of the EPFO, decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22.

ii. Now, MoL&E will credit this fixed rate of interest for FY22 to each member of the EPF scheme.

iii. The EPFO invests 85% of its annual accruals in debt instruments, including government securities and bonds, and 15% in equity through ETFs (Exchange-Traded Fund). The earnings from both debt and equity are used to calculate the interest payment.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot Introduced Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in the State for Sportspersons

Rajasthan Chief Minister (CM) Ashok Gehlot announced that the state government is set to introduce the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** to the State's sportspersons. He made the announcement while addressing the inauguration and player award ceremony at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan.



- The CM inaugurated Rajasthan High-Performance Sports and Rehabilitation Centre, Renovated Synthetic Hockey Astro Turf and Badminton Indoor Hall, Olympic and also awarded Para Olympic medalists, Asian Games-2022 and Commonwealth Games-2022 players.
- He also informed that Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics will commence on 29th August 2022 in which more than 27 lakh players of all ages can participate.
- He also released the torch of the Rural Olympic during the event.

Nitin Gadkari Targets to Construct 60 Km of Highway Per Day; NHAI sets new Guinness World Record

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the target of constructing **60 kilometres** of highway per day.

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic and logistics cost the construction was slowed down to 28.64 km a day in 2021-22 by India's national highway construction
- **Highlights** – The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) are primarily responsible for the construction of national highways and expressways across India.



NHAI lays 75-km long highway in 105 hrs, sets new Guinness World Record

NHAI created a new Guinness world record in laying **75 km, in under 5 days**, of bituminous concrete in a single lane on **NH53 between Amravati to Akola Districts in 105 hours and 33 minutes**.

- The corridor connects major cities like Kolkata, Raipur, Nagpur and Surat.

Key Points

- i. NHAI and Raj Path Infracon Pvt Ltd** has jointly made the efficient implementation of the project with 720 workers including a team of independent consultants
- ii.** The total length of the 75 km of single-lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent to 37.5 km of two-lane paved shoulder road.
- iii.** Earlier the Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 km on Al-Khor Expressway in Doha, Qatar. In Feb. 2019, it was completed in 242 hours i.e. 10 days.

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

Established – NHAI was set up by an act of the Parliament, NHAI Act, 1988

Chairman – Mrs. Alka Upadhyaya

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

India set to launch 1st Human Space Mission Gaganyaan & 1st Human Ocean Mission in 2023

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); and Ministry of Science & Technology announced that India is set to simultaneously launch the first Human Space Mission “Gaganyaan” as well as the first manned Human Ocean Mission in 2023.



- The announcement was made during the event organised as a part of World Ocean Day 2022 (8th June) at Prithvi Bhawan, Delhi.
- He also announced that the government is set to unveil the Blue Economy Policy and more than 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Cabinet Committee on Security Approved New Scheme ‘Agnipath’ for Soldier Recruitment

Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the new scheme called “Agnipath” (Agnipath) for recruitment of soldiers in the Army, Navy and Air Force. This aims to reduce the increasing salary and pensions. This is a transformative initiative which will provide a youthful profile to the Indian Armed Forces.



- At present, the average age in the force is 32 years, this will be reduced to 26 in 6 to 7 years.
- The scheme was initially named as “Tour of Duty”, was launched in the presence of the chiefs of all the three services.

About Ministry of Defence:

Union Minister– Raj Nath Singh (Constituency- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)

Minister of State– Ajay Bhatt (Constituency- Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand)

Russia Overtakes Saudi Arabia to Become India’s 2nd Biggest Oil Supplier

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India’s 2nd-biggest oil supplier next to Iraq, as Russian crude is currently available at discount following the war in Ukraine.

- Indian refiners have bought Russian crude oil at discount as high as **USD 30 per barrel**.
- Iraq was the top supplier to India and Saudi Arabia stands 3rd biggest supplier to India.
- **Note** – India is the world’s 3rd biggest oil-importing and consuming nation after the United States (US) and China.



Key Points:

i. In May 2022, The Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil or more than 16 percent of

all their oil imports.

ii. The share of African oil in India's crude oil imports rose to 11.5% from 5.9% in April last month.

iii. Higher oil imports from Russia curbed India's overall imports of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)'s share to 65% in April.

IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2022: India jumps 6 places to 37th rank; Denmark tops

According to the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)'s annual World Competitiveness Index – 2022 (34th edition) India has jumped 6 positions from 43rd in 2021 to 37th in the 2022 ranking. India has recorded the sharpest rise among the Asian economies.

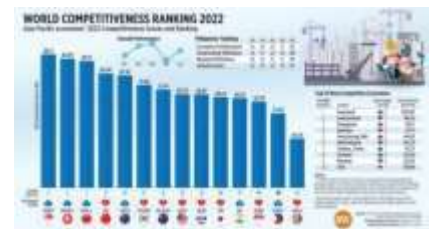
Denmark has topped the 2022 ranking featuring 63 economies, followed by Switzerland (2nd) and Singapore (3rd).

The major 4 factors in the ranking are Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure.

Highlights:

i. The economies among the top 10 include the Netherlands (6th), Taiwan (7th), Finland (8th), Norway (9th), and the USA (10th).

ii. According to the 2022 ranking, Singapore (3rd), Hong Kong (5th), Taiwan (7th), China (17th), and Australia (19th) were the top-performing Asian economies.



India, Israel, UAE And US Form New I2U2 Grouping: I2U2's First Virtual Summit To Be Held in July 2022

The United States of America (USA) has announced the formation of I2U2, a new group that includes India, Israel, the USA, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- The new grouping is known as "I2U2," with "I" standing for India and Israel and "U" standing for the USA and the UAE.

US President Joe Biden will host the first-of-its-kind virtual summit of I2U2 during his visit to West Asia from July 13 to 16, 2022 with Indian Prime

Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, Israel's PM Naftali Bennett, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



- The summit will focus on the food security challenge and other areas of cooperation across hemispheres, with the UAE and Israel serving as significant innovation hubs.

About the United States (US):**President** – Joe Biden**Capital** – Washington, DC.**WPI inflation rises to Record High of 15.88% in May 2022: NSO Data**

In accordance with the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to a record high of 15.88% in May 2022 from 15.08% in April 2022.

- This is the **highest WPI** in the 2011-12 series.
- The WPI based inflation was 13.11% in May 2021.

Reason behind this rise:

The high rate of inflation in May, 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, milk, manufacturing, fuel, power, mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, chemicals & chemical products and food products etc.

Key Points:

i. Inflation in food articles in May 2022 was 12.34%, as prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits and potato witnessed sharp as compared to May 2021.

ii. The rate of price rise in vegetables was 56.36%, while in wheat it was 10.55% and in egg, meat and fish, inflation was 7.78% in May 2022.

Delhi Airport Becomes India's 1st to Run Entirely on Hydro and Solar Energy

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport becomes the **1st airport in India** that switched to hydro and solar power for its consumption needs from 1st June 2022, to run entirely on a combination of these forms of green energy. The majority of the consumption is hydro dependent.



- This reduces energy emissions by **2 lakh tonnes** of carbon dioxide per year which would satisfy the airport's goal to achieve the 'Net Zero Carbon Emissions Airport' target by 2030.

Key Highlights:

i. Since 1st June 2022, around 6 percent of the airport's electricity requirement is being met from on-site solar power plants, while the remaining 94 percent energy is from hydropower plants.

- The Delhi IGI airport has **7.84 MW solar plants** on the **airside** and **5.3 MW of rooftop solar power plants** on the cargo terminals of the IGI airport.

- For **hydropower**, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (**PPA**) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company until 2036.

ii.The other green initiatives at the airport include green buildings, green transportation measures such as electric vehicles, improving operational efficiency to reduce emissions and management of greenhouse gases (GHG) as part of the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation.

Tata Power Solar Commissions India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project in Kerala

Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a **350-acre** water body, backwaters area with an installed capacity of **101.6 Megawatt (MW) Peak**.



- This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (**FSPV**) through Power Purchase Agreement category.
- This plant boasts a floating inverter platform having a **5 Megawatt (MW)** capacity.

Key Highlights:

i.The installation and commissioning of the solar plant have been the fastest in the FSPV category, with a Commercial Operation Date (**CoD**) certification.

ii.The entire project floats on the waterbed of Kerala backwater using 134 cast pile foundations that are bored to a depth of 20 metres underwater to support the Central Monitoring and Control Stations (**CMCS**) and the 33/220 kilovolts switchyard.

iii.The solar panel modules had to be towed for **3 kilometres** on a **15 metres** deep National waterway, exposing the solar modules to high winds and tides reaching upto 3.5 metres height.

- Tata Power Solar's execution team successfully synchronised the **33/220 Kilovolts** Air Insulated Substation (**AIS**) with **220 Kilovolts** existing Gas Insulated Substation (**GIS**) for operationalization.
- A power purchase agreement has been signed with a PSU client, wherein the entire power generated from this plant will be used by Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).

Agnipath Scheme: Govt Increased Upper Age Limit to 23 years; Defence Minister approves 10% reservation of jobs for Agniveers

Amid the protest against Agnipath Scheme(to recruit soldiers only for 4 years), The government of India(GoI) has granted a **one-time waiver for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022** and increased the upper age limit for the recruitment process for **Agnipath Scheme for 2022** from 21 years to **23 years**.

- Previously, on the commencement of the scheme the entry age for all new recruits has been fixed as **17 and half to 21 years of age.**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal for 10% reservation in job vacancies in Ministry of Defence for Agviveers meeting requisite eligibility criteria.

- The 10% reservation will be implemented in the Indian Coast Guard(ICG) and defence civilian posts, and all the 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings(PSUs). This reservation would be in addition to existing reservation for ex-servicemen.
- Up to 25 percent of the Agviveers will be retained while the rest will let go with a severance package at the end of their service.



International

Central African Republic becomes 2nd country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender

Central African Republic(CAR) becomes the 2nd country in the world, after El Salvador, to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender. CAR also became the first African country to adopt Bitcoin as its official currency. CAR has adopted bitcoin as legal tender along with the existing fiat currency, the Central African Franc(CAF) and established a legal and regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies on 27th April 2022.



- The CAF, governed by the Bank of Central African States(BEAC) is the official currency of 6 countries including the Central African Republic.
- CAR's parliament has adopted a bill to govern the use of cryptocurrency.

59th edition of Top500 : Frontier of US Overtakes Japan's Fugaku to Become the World's Fastest Supercomputer

According to the 59th edition of Top500 list of world's most powerful supercomputers was announced at the International Supercomputing Conference 2022 in Hamburg, Germany, ORNL's **Supercomputer, 'Frontier'** from US(United States), a supercomputer built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (**HPE**) architecture and equipped with Advanced Micro Devices (**AMD**) processors, outperformed Japan's Supercomputer **Fugaku** to become the world's fastest supercomputer.



Top 3 World's Fastest Supercomputers:-

1. Frontier,
2. Fugaku,
3. The new LUMI system, another HPE Cray EX system installed at EuroHPC center at CSC in Finland,

The supercomputer – Frontier

The supercomputer – Frontier, which was built for the US Department of Energy's **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)**, has broken the exascale speed barrier with a Linmark benchmark score of **1.1 exaflops**, making it the world's first supercomputer to do so. Whereas, **1 exaflop is equivalent to 1,000 petaflops**

The supercomputer Fugaku

The supercomputer Fugaku, installed at the RIKEN Centre for Computational Science in Kobe, Japan, has a Linmark benchmark score of 442 petaflops.

- Fugaku, the second-most powerful supercomputer in the world, now boasts 7,630,848 cores.

Note – In its previous listing as of November 2021, India’s highest ranking in the supercomputer list came in at 102, with the **Param Siddhi-AI**.

UN Agrees to Change Turkey’s Official Name to ‘Türkiye’

The United Nations (UN) has approved to recognise the Republic of Turkey as ‘Türkiye’, pronounced “tur-key-YAY”, following the request from the government of Turkey. “Türkiye” will now be used in all foreign languages and the country’s full official name will be “Republic of Türkiye”.



- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan noted that Türkiye is the best representation and expression of the Turkish people’s culture, civilization and values.
- The initiative of Turkey to change its name to ‘Türkiye’ on national and international platforms began in December 2021.

Key Points:

The President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has also advised the companies to use “Made in Türkiye” for their exported goods and has instructed the state agencies to use “Türkiye” in their correspondence.

Background:

- i. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkish’ Minister of Foreign Affairs, sent a letter addressed to Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, requesting the use of “Türkiye” instead of “Turkey” for all affairs.
- ii. Stéphane Dujarric, UN spokesman, stated that the change of the country’s official name to ‘Türkiye’ became effective from the moment the letter was received.

History:

- i. The use of the word Turkey dates back to the 14th century when the Latin term “Turchia/Turquia” meant “the land of Turks”.
- ii. Later the Latin name was transformed into “Türkiye” in Turkish, Turkey in English, “Turkei” in German and “Turquie” in French.
- iii. After the declaration of independence in 1923, the country called itself ‘Türkiye’
- iv. The name Turkey has been used by foreigners for centuries to define the core area of the Ottoman Empire and later its successor state, the Republic of Turkey.

About Türkiye:

President– Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Capital– Ankara

Currency- Turkish lira

Environmental Performance Index 2022: India Ranks Lowest among 180 Countries

According to the biennial Environmental Performance Index (**EPI**) 2022 released which was analysed by the researchers at the **Earth Institute of Yale** and **Columbia University**, India has been ranked 180 which is at the bottom amongst other countries with a total score of **18.9**. Denmark tops the index of emerging as the most sustainable country in the 2022 rankings.



- India's neighbouring nations have shown better rankings including Pakistan which ranked 176 and Bangladesh ranked 177.
- India had ranked 168 in the EPI 2020 and 177 in EPI 2018.
- Funding from the McCall MacBain Foundation of Canada supports the EPI work at both Yale and Columbia.

Countries and score:

Country	Rank	EPI Score	10-year change
Denmark	1	77.90	14.90
United Kingdom	2	77.70	23.00
Finland	3	76.50	21.00
India	180	18.90	-0.60

Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland Elected to Serve as Non-Permanent Members On UNSC

The United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) elected Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland to serve as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (**UNSC**) for a two-year term beginning January 01, 2023.

- The newly elected countries will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway, which will vacate their seats at the end of



2022.

- The UNSC is a United Nations (UN) organisation tasked with maintaining global peace and security.

On June 9, 2022, the UNGA held elections to elect the five non-permanent members for the two-year period 2023–24. Abdulla Shahid, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, announced the result.

Selecting Members for the UNSC

- i.** A total of 15 countries make up the United Nations Security Council. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US) are the five permanent members (Permanent Five (P5) members), with veto power.
- ii.** The UN General Assembly, which is made up of all 193 UN Member States, elects the 10 non-permanent members, who are elected for two-year terms.
- iii.** Even if they run unopposed, countries must win a two-thirds majority, or 128 votes, to secure a seat on the UNSC.

Crux Of the UNSC Election 2022

- i.** In total, 192 UN Member States took part in the election. The five new non-permanent members were elected nearly unopposed.
- ii.** The five newly-elected countries will join Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) around the Security Council's signature horseshoe table.
- iii.** Candidates competed for five seats in three regional groupings in 2022: two for African and Asia-Pacific countries, one for Latin America and the Caribbean, and two for Western Europe and other countries.

About United Nations (UN):

Secretary-General – António Guterres

Establishment – 1945

Headquarters – New York, USA

25th Foundation Day of BIMSTEC celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh – June 6th 2022

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) celebrated the **Foundation Day of BIMSTEC 2022** or **BIMSTEC Day 2022** on **6th June 2022** in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- **6th June 2022** also marks the celebration of the **25th foundation Day** of BIMSTEC, **Silver Jubilee Anniversary** (25th anniversary) of the foundation of BIMSTEC.
- BIMSTEC, the sub-regional organization, came into being on 6th June 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.



History of BIMSTEC:

- i. BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- ii. BIMSTEC was initially formed with **4 member states**, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, with the acronym of **BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation)**.
- iii. On 22nd December 1997, Myanmar was included into the economic bloc and the group was renamed as “BIMSTEC”
- iv. Following the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan in February 2004, the group was renamed as “**Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**” BIMSTEC.

Milestone achievements of BIMSTEC:

- i. In 2014, the BIMSTEC Secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- BIMSTEC charter was adopted at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit hosted by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2022.

Highlights of the event:

During the celebration of the 25th Foundation day of BIMSTEC Day, BIMSTEC Secretariat released a publication titled “

25 Years of BIMSTEC – Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region”.
About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

Chair of BIMSTEC– Thailand(2022-2023)

Theme of Thailand’s chairmanship- Prosperous, Resilient and Robust, Open BIMSTEC

Secretary General– Tenzin Lekphell

Members of BIMSTEC– Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

Headquarters– Dhaka, Bangladesh

European Parliament votes to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035

The **European Parliament** approved a proposal made by the European Commission in 2021 to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by **2035** to fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles.

- i. The vote was held on an amendment which upholds a key pillar of the European Union’s plans to cut net planet-warming emissions 55 percent by 2030, from 1990 levels – a target that requires faster emissions reductions from industry, energy and transport.



- ii The European Union assembly voted in Strasbourg, France (Headquarters of European Parliament) to require automakers to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 100 percent by the middle of the next decade. The

mandate would amount to a prohibition on the sale in the 27-nation EU of new cars powered by gasoline or diesel.

Delhi's IGI Airport Stands Best in India and South Asia, 37th among World's top 50

The 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards named Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport the finest in India and South Asia for the 4th consecutive year at the ceremony conducted at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris on 16th June 2022.



- The airport rose to 37th position from **45th** position in 2021, and it is the only airport from India to be featured in the world's top 50 airports.
- **Qatar's Hamad International Airport** has been named the World's Best Airport for the 2nd year followed by **Tokyo Haneda International Airport, Japan** and **Singapore Changi Airport**.

About Skytrax:

Skytrax are specialist Research and Quality Advisors to the air transport industry.

CEO – Edward Plaisted

Establishment- 1989

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom.

Global Liveability Index 2022: New Delhi Ranks 112 & Mumbai Ranks 117

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit's (EIU) 'The Global Liveability Index 2022', which examined 173 cities worldwide, **New Delhi**, the capital of India, is

ranked **112th** on the list of the most liveable cities, whereas India's financial capital, **Mumbai**, (Maharashtra) is ranked **117th**.

The EIU's index assigns rankings to cities based on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative characteristics in five categories: infrastructure, stability, healthcare, education, culture and the environment, and healthcare.



- The list is topped by **Vienna**, Austria's capital, which made a successful comeback, being crowned the "**most liveable city**" in the world once again.
- Vienna has recaptured the top spot from Auckland, New Zealand, which fell to 34th place in 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Top 5 entries in the list of 'most liveable city':

Rank	City	Country

1	Vienna (99.1 points)	Austria
2	Copenhagen (98 points)	Denmark
3	Zurich (96.3 points)	Switzerland
	Calgary (96.3 points)	Canada
5	Vancouver (96.1 points)	Canada

Essential Facts

i. Six of the top ten cities were located in Europe.

ii. Vienna, located on the Danube River, got a score of 99.1 on the list.

- Notably, due to pandemic restrictions, Vienna was ranked 12th in 2021. It held the first position in 2018 and 2019.
- For seven years starting in 2011, Melbourne, Australia, held the title of the most liveable city in the world. Vienna replaced Melbourne in 2018.

iii. Syria's capital, **Damascus**, has retained its title as the **least liveable city on the planet**.



Defence

Ex SAMPRITI-X 2022: India-Bangladesh hold Joint Military Exercise in Bangladesh

A joint military training exercise between the armies of India and Bangladesh, 'Ex SAMPRITI-X 2022' commenced at Jessore military station in Bangladesh from June 5 to June 16, 2022. It is a part of the ongoing India Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation.

Aim:

To strengthen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both armies

Key Points:

- i. The Indian contingent is represented by a battalion of the **Dogra regiment** and Bangladesh is represented by **Border Guards**.
- ii. During the exercise both sides will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief under the United Nations (UN) mandate. This will contribute to peace and stability in the region.
- iii. The exercise will culminate with a final validation exercise in which army troops of both nations will jointly practice a counter-terrorism operation in a simulated environment.
- iv. This exercise will also enable greater cultural understanding to further strengthen trust and cooperation between India and Bangladesh.



WDMMA's Global Air Powers Ranking (2022): India ranked 6th Globally & 3rd among Air Force

According to the **Global Air Powers Ranking (2022)**, the current ranking of various armed air services across the globe, released by the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA), the Indian Air Force (IAF) has secured the **6th Global Rank**.

IAF has emerged as the **3rd strongest Air Force**, only after the **United States Air Force (USAF)** and **Russian Air Force**.

Note:

The 2022 ranking has tracked 124 air services, which includes Army, Navy, and Marine branches of service where applicable, of 98 countries and following a total of 47,840 aircraft.



Defence Ministry Amends Service Rule: Retired Chiefs of Tri Service Eligible for the Post of CDS

The Ministry of Defence has amended the service rule of the Army, Air Force and Navy, inserting the clause allowing the retired Chief and their second in command in the armed forces, not older than **62**, eligible for the post of Chief of Defence Staff (**CDS**), the topmost military assignment.

The government may extend the service of the CDS for such a period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65 years.

The clause has been inserted after sub-rule (4) of rule 16A of the Army Rules, 1954,



- This will enable the retired 3 star generals from Army, Navy and Air force to become eligible for the post of CDS.
- The post of CDS has been vacant since the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on 8th December 2021 in Coonoor, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

China's navy has the world's largest fleet- To build a naval facility in Cambodia

China is secretly building a naval facility on the northern portion of Cambodia's Ream Naval Base that would help extend its military's currently limited reach in foreign waters.

i. China commands the world's largest naval fleet with more than 350 vessels compared to the US Navy has 296 ships and submarines.

ii. China currently has only one foreign naval base at Djibouti in East Africa.

iii. The project in Cambodia would give China a foothold in Southeast Asia and a position in the western region of the South China Sea, part of China's ambition to grow its military influence worldwide.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Justice PK Mohanty gets Additional Charge as Lokpal Chairperson

Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, has given justice Pradip Kumar (PK) Mohanty the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term as Chairperson of Lokpal on 27th May 2022. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose was appointed as the 1st chairperson of Lokpal in 2019.



Justice Mohanty, former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, has been serving as Member (Judicial), Lokpal since March 2019.

The Lokpal is headed by a chairperson and can have 8 members. At present, there are 6 members in the Lokpal.

- The chairperson of Lokpal and members are appointed for a term of 5 years or until attaining the age of 70 years.
- The members and Chief of Lokpal are appointed by the President of India following the recommendations of the selection committee headed by the Prime Minister and consists of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Leader of Opposition; Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him and a jurist recommended by the chairperson and members of the selection panel.

Sachin Tendulkar to continue as UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador for a record 20th Year

Indian former Cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** is set to continue as **Goodwill Ambassador** of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) working towards the welfare of underprivileged children, for a record 20th year. He has been associated with UNICEF for over 2 decades and played a major role in furthering the campaigns aimed at the betterment of underprivileged children.



- In 2003, UNICEF selected him to lead the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India.
- In 2008, he was roped in to promote hygiene and sanitation among communities and in 2013 he was appointed as UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.

AR Rahman Appointed as Ambassador of India-UK Culture Platform

'India-United Kingdom (UK) Together Season of Culture' appoints Music Maestro AR Rahman as its ambassador which was officially launched by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India **Jan Thomson** and Director (India) of the British Council **Barbara Wickham**.

- The launch marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- AR Rahman was a key consultant to the **Season of Culture**.

About Season of Culture

i. Over 1,400 artists from India, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will present their collaborations to millions of people in India, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

- Variety of arts such as theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech-art, and new media art will be exhibited.



S L Thaosen appointed as Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Sujoy Lal Thaosen (S L Thaosen), Madhya Pradesh-cadre 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the new Director-General (DG) of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Thaosen has been serving as the Special Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

i. The post of SSB chief has been lying vacant after incumbent DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra retired on 31st December 2021. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Sanjay Arora has been holding the additional charge of the SashastraSeema Bal DG since December 2021.

ii. The SashastraSeema Bal force guards the India's borders with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km).



Other Appointment:

West Bengal-cadre 1988-batch IPS officer, **Zulfiquar Hasan** has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) for a tenure up to his superannuation on 31st October 2024.

i. Zulfiquar Hasan has been serving as the Special Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi. The post of the Director-General, BCAS has been vacant since 4th January 2022 after incumbent Nasir Kamal opted for voluntary retirement.

President Appoints New Chief Justices to Six High Courts

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, has appointed new Chief Justices for six High Courts: Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati, and Telangana in exercise of the power conferred under **clause (1) of Article 217** of the Constitution of India, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana (N V Ramana).

- Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court **Satish Chandra Sharma** has been **transferred** to the Delhi High Court in the same capacity as the Chief Justice of the **Delhi High Court**. Madhya Pradesh is his parent High Court.
- The other five High Court Judges have been elevated to the position of Chief Justice.

Note: The Gauhati High Court in Assam is the High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh

Five Judges Elevated as Chief Justices of Various High Courts

i. Justice Vipin Sanghi, Judge, Delhi High Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Uttarakhand High Court**.

Sanghi will be taking over from Uttarakhand HC's current acting chief justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

ii. Justice Amjad A. Sayed, Judge, Bombay High Court, was made Chief Justice of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**.

He will be taking over from Justice Mohammad Rafiq, the present chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, is likely to retire on May 24.

iii. Justice Sambhaji Shivaji Shinde (S S Shinde), Judge, Bombay High Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Rajasthan High Court**.

He will be replacing Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava.

iv. Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, Judge, Gujarat High Court, was elevated as the Chief Justice of the **Gauhati High Court**.

Justice Chhaya will replace Justice N Kotiswar Singh who is the Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

v. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who is currently a judge in Telangana High Court, was elevated as Chief Justice of **Telangana High Court**. His parent high court is Gauhati.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan will replace Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma of the Telangana High Court

Key Information:

i. Four of these high courts – Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gauhati – were headed by Acting Chief Justices.

- Since Justice D N Patel retired, the Delhi High Court has been without a regular Chief Justice, and Justice Sanghi has served as Acting Chief Justice since March 13, 2022.

ii. The names of new Chief Justices were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium led by CJI N V Ramana on May 17, 2022.

iii. The new Chief Justices will assume their new charge in the following days, and their appointments will take effect from the day they assume office.

iv. Judicial vacancies: The number of judicial vacancies in the High Courts remained at 400 as of June 1, 2022, while the working strength of judges is 708. The sanctioned number of judges in the 25 High Courts is 1,108.

Note: clause (1) of Article 217: – Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the **Chief Justice of the High Court**, and shall hold office, in the case of an additional or acting Judge, as provided in article 224, and in any other case, until he attains the age of sixty-two years.

Ruchira Kamboj Becomes next Permanent Representative of India to the UN

Senior diplomat **Ruchira Kamboj** was appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

- She is the **1st female Ambassador of India** to the Kingdom of Bhutan and will succeed T S Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the UN.



About Ruchira Kamboj:

i. Ruchira Kamboj is a **1987**-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, presently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan.

- She was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch and the topper of the 1987 Foreign Service batch.

ii. Ruchira Kamboj was posted as Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to UN in New York from 2002-2005, where she dealt with issues related to UN Peacekeeping, UN Security Council reform, the Middle East crisis.

- During the period 2006-2009, she was India's Consul General in Cape Town, South Africa.
- India is in the second year of a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

Parameswaran Iyer to take over as CEO of Niti Aayog; Succeeds Amitabh Kant

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Parameswaran Iyer**, 1981 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Uttar Pradesh (UP) cadre as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India) for a period of 2 years or until further orders.



- He takes over as the new CEO of NITI Aayog succeeding **Amitabh Kant** who is set to complete his 6-year stint as CEO of NITI Aayog by the end of June 2022.

- At Present, Parameswaran Iyer functions as the Programme Manager of 2030 Water Resources Group, a platform hosted by the World Bank for water conservation.

Note: Amitabh Kant, 1980-batch retired IAS officer of Kerala cadre took over as the CEO of NITI Aayog in February 2016 and got three extensions during his tenure. In June 2021 he was given a 1-year extension till June 2022.

About Parameswaran Iyer:

- i. Parameswaran Iyer took voluntary retirement from IAS in 2009 after completing his 17 years of service.
- ii. After his voluntary retirement he worked with World Bank as a water and sanitation specialist
- iii. In 2016, he was appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. In 2020 he resigned from the post of Secretary.
- iv. He played a major role in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan aimed to eradicate open defecation by constructing over 90 million toilets in rural India.
- v. He has also worked with the government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) led by Mayawati, in the field of education.

About NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015.

Chairman– Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)

Vice Chairman– Suman Bery

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Mohammed Jalood became New President of the International Weightlifting Federation

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has elected Mohammed Hasan Jalood from Iraq as its new president at the 2022 IWF Special and Electoral Congress in Tirana, Albania. He is also the first Asian who became president in International Weightlifting Federation. He succeeds out-going Interim President Dr. Michael Irani.

- Mohammed Jalood was a former weightlifter and also holds citizenship status in Kazakhstan and also a former general secretary of the Asian Weightlifting Federation.

i. Ursula Garza Papandrea from America became the first female vice president of the IWF. The American is a former two-time national champion and is the first and only woman to attain USA Weightlifting's highest coaching level.

ii. José Quinones of Peru was elected General Secretary Treasurer.

iii. Pyrros Dimas of Greece, Petr Krol of the Czech Republic, Doris Travieso of Venezuela and former IWF director general Attila Adamfi of Hungary are four other vice presidents who will serve under Papandrea.

International Weightlifting Federation (IWF):-

Founded in – 1905

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Note – In response to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the IWF suspended athletes, coaches, and

support personnel from Russia and Belarus on March 3, 2022, and banned Russia from hosting any IWF competitions.

Nitin Gupta named as New CBDT chairman; Tapan Kumar Deka is a New IB Chief; Shyam Saran is IIC's New President

A Committee of Secretaries has selected **Nitin Gupta**, a 1986 batch IRS officer, as a new **Chairman** of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**), an apex body of the Income Tax Department.

Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) **Tapan Deka** has been appointed the **new chief** of the IB, central intelligence agency.

- **Samant Kumar Goel**, current chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been given an **extension** of one year in his tenure which comes to an end on 30th June 2022.
- Former Punjab Director General of Police (**DGP**) **Dinkar Gupta** has been appointed as the **new chief** of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Special Director in the IB Swagat Das as Special Secretary in the Home Ministry.
- Former foreign secretary **Shyam Saran** has been unanimously elected as the new **president** of the India International Centre (**IIC**).

About Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

The CBDT, an administrative body frames policy for the income tax department and the office of member (investigation) supervises the activities of all its wings that undertake search and seizure operations as part of their mandate to check tax evasion.

Mukesh Ambani Resigns from Board of Reliance Jio, Akash Ambani Became Chairman

The Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairperson & Managing Director(MD), **Mukesh Ambani** resigned from the Board of Directors (BoD) of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd(Reliance Jio), the digital and telecom arm of RIL.

- **Akash M. Ambani**, Non-executive Director of Reliance Jio Infocomm and son of Mukesh Ambani takes over as the Chairman of the board of directors of Reliance Jio. The resignation of Mukesh Ambani as Director of the company with effect from June 27, 2022.



Highlights:

- 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.
 - The Reliance Jio BoDs approved the appointment of **Pankaj Mohan Pawar** as Managing Director (MD) of the company for a period of 5 years commencing from June 27, 2022.
- The BoD also approved the appointment of Raminder Singh Gujral and K.V. Chowdary, as Additional Directors of the company, designated as Independent Directors for a period of 5 years.

About Mukesh Ambani:

i. He is the son of the great industrialist Dhirubhai Ambani. Currently, he is the chairman, managing director, and the largest shareholder of Reliance Industries Ltd., a Fortune Global 500 company.



Honours/ Awards

Overview of 75th Cannes film Festival at Cannes, France

- i. The 75th annual Cannes Film Festival was held at Cannes, France. Its official poster was designed as homage to American Film, The Truman Show (1998).
- ii. An Indian Filmmaker from Delhi, Shaunak Sen's '**All That Breathes**' won the prestigious – 2022 L'Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) for the best documentary at the 75th Cannes Film Festival.
- iii. A Swedish comedy movie 'Triangle of Sadness' directed by Ruben Östlund won the Palme d'Or award 2022. The movie also won **Prix C.S.T. de l'Artiste-Technicien**, 2022 award.
- iv. An American Actor/Script Writer Tom Cruise, and Actor Forest Whitaker conferred with Honorary Palme d'Or Award 2022.
- v. India has been named the first 'Country of Honour' at Marche du Film or Cannes Market which was also organized alongside Cannes Festival.



About Cannes Festival:

Establishment– 1946

Frequency– Annual

Location– Cannes, France

Fortune 500 World's top 10 Highest-Paid CEOs in 2021

Elon Musk, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla and SpaceX has topped the **Fortune 500's list of the World's top 10 highest paid CEO** in 2021. According to the Fortune 500 list, he has also topped the list of the world's most highly compensated CEOs in 2021 with compensation worth around USD 23.5 billion.



- Elon Musk is followed by Tim Cook, CEO of Apple (USD 770.5 million) ranked 2nd and Jensen Huang, co-founder of NVIDIA (USD 561 million) ranked 3rd.
- Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, who received a salary of USD 309.4 million in 2021, has secured the 7th rank on the list. He is the only Indian origin person to feature on the list.

Forbes: LeBron James became the 1st Active NBA Player to Become Billionaire

According to the Forbes estimation, LeBron Raymone James Sr., an American professional basketball player representing the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA), has officially become a billionaire with a net worth of USD 1 billion.

- LeBron James nicknamed as “King James” has become the **1st ever active NBA player** to become a billionaire.
- LeBron James has won 4 NBA championships and has been named NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award 4 times. He was selected to play in the NBA All-Star Game a record 18 consecutive times.



Michael Jordan became the first NBA player to become a billionaire in 2014, almost 11 years after he retired as a player.

Burgundy Private Hurun India 500-SR: RIL becomes India’s most valuable company followed by TCS & HDFC Bank

According to the **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Special Report(SR)**, Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) has become India’s most valuable company with a value of Rs 18.9 lakh crore followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with Rs 12.9 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with Rs 7.7 lakh crore.



- The report states that the value of the top 500 companies in India has increased by 2% to Rs 232 lakh crore from Rs 221 lakh crore as on 30th October 2021.

About the report:

Burgundy Private, a private banking platform of Axis Bank, and Hurun India launched “Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Special Report(SR)” a 6-month update(from 30th October 2021 to 30th April 2022) of the 2021 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500, a list of 500 most valuable non-state-owned companies in India, released in December 2021.

Highlights of Adani Group:

- Adani Group Companies made the maximum gain during the review period and surpassed all others by a huge margin.
- 9 companies in the Adani Group have a combined value of Rs 17.6 lakh crore which constitutes 7.6% of the total value of 500 top companies.

Four Indian Companies Join Apple, Google & Amazon as World’s Top 100 Brands

As per **Kantar Brandz, 2022 ‘Most Valuable Global Brands report’**, 4 Indian companies namely, Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) were featured among the top 100 global biggest brands. **Apple** retains its 1st position to become the first trillion-dollar brand with a brand value of USD 947.1 billion followed by Google, Amazon and



Microsoft.

- The combined value of the world's Top 100 most valuable brands has increased by 23 percent to USD 8.7 trillion compared to the 2021 report.
- **French** luxury Cartier became the fastest-rising brand across all categories, growing its value by 88% to \$10bn.
- 11 new entrants joined the 2022 Global Top 100 ranking, led by Aramco (No.16), India's Infosys (No.64), Mercado Libre (No.71) and Kuaishou (No.82).
- The brands which doubling their brand value over the past year include: YouTube (No.24, \$86bn), Google (No.2, \$819bn), Tesla (No.29, \$75bn) and Hermès (No.27, \$80bn).

Indian Brands:

Rank	Brand	Value (in USD)
46	TCS	50 billion
61	HDFC Bank	35 billion
64	Infosys	33 billion
92	LIC	23 billion

About Kantar:

CEO – Chris Jansen

Global Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

Shreyas G. Hosur becomes the first Indian Railways officer to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon

Shreyas G. Hosur became the **first officer** from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon, considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world. This event includes 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running.

- Shreyas G. Hosur also became first officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the event. He completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes in Hamburg, Germany.



- Shreyas G. Hosur, is an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch. He is returned from deputation to National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), Delhi and he is currently serving as Dy. FA&CAO in Construction/SWR.

IIFA Awards 2022 Announced; Vishnu Vardhan; Kriti Sanon & Vicky Kaushal won top awards

The 22nd Edition of the NEXA International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA Award) for 2022 was held on 3rd and 4th June 2022 at Etihad Arena in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

The event was hosted by Salman Khan, Riteish Deshmukh and Maniesh Paul.

The IIFA Awards, the annual ceremony that recognises the best technical talent in the Hindi film industry, was held after a 2-year gap due to COVID-19 pandemic.

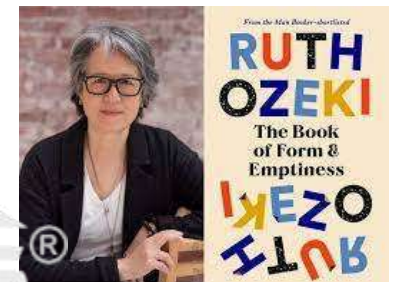


- Shershaah the biopic of Kargil martyr Captain Vikram Batra, won the Best Picture Award and its director Vishnu Vardhan won the award for best Directions. Shershaah dominated the 2022 Awards with 6 Awards.
- Vicky Kaushal won the Best Actor award for his role in Sardar Udham and Kriti Sanon won the Best Actress Award for her performance in Mimi.

US-Canadian Author and Zen Buddhist priest Ruth Ozeki won Women's Prize for Fiction 2022

Ruth Ozeki, American-Canadian author, film-maker and Zen Buddhist priest, has won the **Women's Prize for Fiction 2022** for her novel title **"The Book of Form & Emptiness"**.

2022 marked the **27th anniversary** of the Women's Prize for Fiction. The award with **30,000 pound (USD 36,000)** prize was presented by **Mary Ann Sieghart**, 2022 Chair of Judges at the award ceremony was held in Bedford Square Gardens, London, the United Kingdom(UK) hosted by novelist and Women's Prize Founder Director, **Kate Mosse**.



- The award recognises any woman writing in english irrespective of her nationality, country of residence, age or subject matter.
- The award recognises the novel published in the UK between 1 April in the year the Prize and 31 March the following year.

Khushi Patel from United Kingdom Wins Miss India Worldwide 2022

According to the New-York based India Festival



Committee (IFC), **Khushi Patel**, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom (UK), has been declared the winner of the **Miss India Worldwide 2022**, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India. This is the **29th edition** of the pageant. The previous event (28th edition) was held in 2019.

- **Vaidehi Dongre** from the United States was declared the 1st runner up while **Shrutika Mane** became the 2nd runner up.
- The top 12 contestants at the pageant were the winners of various other contests globally.
- 2022's pageant was held after 3 years with the last one being organised at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai, Maharashtra in **September 2019**.

Other winners:

Roshani Razack from Guyana was declared Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022.

- **Navya Paingol** from the US was the 1st runner up, while **Chiquita Malaha** from Suriname was the 2nd runner up.

About India Festival Committee (IFC):

Founder & Chairman – Dharmatma Saran

Headquarters – New York, US



Sports

2022 Norway Chess Blitz Tournament Won by GM Wesley So; GM Viswanathan Anand Secured Fourth

The Filipino-American chess Grandmaster (GM) **Wesley Barbossa So** won the 10th edition of the **2022 Norway Chess Blitz tournament** held in Finansparken, Stavanger, Norway.



- The Indian GM **Viswanathan Anand** defeated Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the blitz event and secured fourth position.

Key Points:

- The Norway Chess 2022 will take place between May 30 to June 10 2022. It consists of Blitz tournament and Classical tournament.
- According to the FIDE (International Federation of Chess) Laws of Chess, the Blitz tournament was played to decide the play order for the main tournament and the winner has the right to choose the number in the table on his own.
- The first edition of the Norway Chess was held in 2013.

Rank Table:

Rank	Name	Country
1	GM Wesley Barbossa So	USA
2	GM Magnus Carlsen	Norway
3	GM Anish Giri	Dutch
4	GM Viswanathan Anand	India

FIH World Ranking 2022; Indian Women hockey team ranked 6th; Men's Team Ranked 4th

International Hockey Federation's (FIH – Fédération Internationale de Hockey) World Rankings 2022 has ranked the **Indian Women's Hockey team**, at the **6th position**, for the first time, with 2029.396 points. The

women's ranking is topped by the Netherlands (Rank 1) followed by Argentina (rank 2) And Australia (rank 3).

Indian Men's Hockey Team has slipped to the **4th rank** in the **FIH World Rankings 2022**.



- Australia (rank 1) tops the list followed by Belgium (rank 2) and The Netherlands (Rank 3)

Top 3 in FIH World Ranking 2022

Rank	Country	Points
Women		
1	The Netherlands	3049.495
2	Argentina	2674.837
3	Australia	2440.750
6	India	2029.396
Men		
1	Australia	2842.258
2	Belgium	2764.735
3	The Netherlands	2465.707
4	India	2355.296

Gujarat Titans – Winners Of The 15th Edition Of TATA IPL 2022

On May 29, 2022, **Gujarat Titans** (GT) led by Captain Hardik Himanshu Pandya won the 15th edition of

TATA sponsored Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 and lifted their maiden IPL trophy in their first IPL season, by defeating Rajasthan Royals (RR) at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



- Gujarat Titans were awarded the TATA IPL 2022 trophy with the prize amount of **Rs 20 crore**.

Ashish Nehra

- Ashish Nehra becomes the first Indian Head coach (Gujarat Titans) to win an IPL trophy.

Women's T20 Challenge 2022

The **Fourth** edition of Women's T20 Challenge (2022) took place in India, in which a total of 3 teams participated. **Supernovas women** (Supernovas) won the Women's T20 Challenge 2022, defeating Velocity by 4 runs in the final of the tournament, which was held at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune, Maharashtra.

India won Bronze Medal at 2022 Men's Asia Cup Hockey

India beat Japan and won the bronze medal at **2022 Hero Men's Hockey Asia Cup**, the quadrennial international men's field hockey championship of Asia. It is the 11th edition of Men's Hockey Asia Cup which was held at the GBK Sports Complex in Jakarta, Indonesia from May 23 – June 1, 2022.



- South Korea won the gold in the 11th edition and grabbed its men's Hockey Asia Cup title. South Korea 5 times Gold Medalist (1994, 1999, 2009, 2013, 2022). Malaysia placed second and won the silver medal.
- It was organised by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

Key Points:-

- Birendra Lakra was the Captain of the Indian team and SV Sunil was the Vice Captain.
- India's Uttam Kumar became the Rising Star of the Tournament.
- India & Pakistan each won the title three times.

Ranking Table:-

Rank	Team
1	South Korea

2	Malaysia
3	India

The top three teams not already qualified will qualify for the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.

Note :- India will host the **2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup** or 15th edition of the Men's International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Cup.

Awards & Recognition :-

i. Key Awards bestowed in 2022 Edition of Asia Cup are:

- Top scorer of the tournament: Razie Rahim of Malaysia who scored 13 goals.
- Promising Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Akmal Hussain of Pakistan
- Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Takashi Yoshikawa of Japan
- Rising Star of the Tournament: India's Uttam Singh
- Hero Best Player of the Tournament: Jang Jonghyun of Korea

Nadal Clinches 22nd Grand Slam Title in ROLAND-GARROS 2022

Rafael Nadal Parera 'Rafa', the legendary Spanish professional tennis player clinched his 22nd Grand Slam title (Men's singles category) in ROLAND-GARROS (French Open) 2022, held at Court Philippe-Chatrier, Paris, France. Nadal defeated **Casper Ruud** (Norway) in the final of French open 2022 and added his 14th ROLAND-GARROS 2022 trophy to his cabinet with the prize money of **2.2 million euros**.



- The French Open 2022 was played on **clay courts**. Rafael Nadal is known as "The King of Clay (for 14 titles in French Open)".

Winner of Women's Singles:

Iga Swiatek of Poland (Rank 1) defeated Coco Gauff of United States (US) (Rank 13) to win second career Grand Slam title at French open 2022.

About ROLAND-GARROS:

Founded – 1891

Main Sponsor – BNP Paribas



Mithali Raj Retires From All Forms of International Cricket

On 8th June 2022, Indian women's cricket team captain, **Mithali**

Raj(39 years old), hailing from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket, completing her 23 years of international career.

- Previously in September 2019, she retired from twenty 20 International (**T20Is**) but continued to play One Day Internationals(**ODIs**) and Test cricket.

About Mithali Raj:

Career overview:

- Mithali Raj made her International debut in the ODI against Ireland at Milton Keynes in 1999.
- She has represented India in around 232 ODI matches and scored 7805 runs (50.68 on average). She is the only female cricketer to reach the 7,000-run mark. She holds the record for most runs in Women's ODI.
- She has played 12 Test Matches for India scoring 699 runs and 89 T20Is scoring 2,364 runs.
- She has scored a tally of 10,868 runs across all three formats and became the "leading run-scorer of all-time in women's international cricket". In March 2021, she became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats. She went past Charlotte Edwards' tally of 10273 runs.
- India reached the final of the 2017 ICC Women's World Cup under her captaincy, where they were narrowly defeated by England.
- She was also the team's captain in the 2005 ICC Women's World Cup, where India was defeated by Australia in the finals.

Awards & honours:

- The government of India(GoI) honoured her with Arjuna Award in 2003 for her outstanding achievement in cricket and the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021.
- GoI honoured her with Padma Shri in 2015 for her contribution to sports.
- She was honoured with the Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer in the World in 2017.

Norway Chess 2022: Carlsen, Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa, Viswanathan Anand are Winners

The 10th edition of the Norway Chess 2022 was held at Finansparken in Stavanger, Norway from 30th May 2022 to 10th June 2022.

- **Magnus Carlsen** won the Armageddon against Bulgarian GrandMaster Veselin Topalov to keep the title for the fourth successive year and for the fifth time in 10 editions.



Viswanathan Anand at the Tournament:

- Former world champion and first grandmaster from

India, **Viswanathan Anand** won the final round against Norwegian chess player Aryan Tari to place **3rd** in the Norway Chess tournament. But he won current world champion **Magnus Carlsen** in the fifth round of the tournament.

- He finished with 14.5 points to sign off at the third place behind **Carlsen (16.5 points)** and Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (15.5).

R Pragganandhaa at the Group A Tournament

- Indian Grand Master, top-seeded player **R Pragganandhaa** wins Norway Chess **Group 'A'** event with 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- The second place and third place went to IM Marsel Efroimski of Israel and IM Jung Min Seo of Sweden.

Final Results:

Place	Winners	Points
1	Magnus Carlsen (Norway)	16.5
2	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan)	15.5
3	Viswanathan Anand (India)	14.5
4	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France)	14
5	Wesley So (USA)	12.5

About Norway chess:

The Norway chess tournament was started in 2012 with the idea to create the world's strongest chess tournament.

Founder & Chairman – Kjell Madland

Headquarters – Norway

Formula One: Max Verstappen wins Azerbaijan GP to Become Red Bull's Most Successful Driver

On 12th June 2022 Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Belgium) won the **Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022** held at Baku, Azerbaijan to extend his Formula One (**F1**) championship lead over

Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** (Monaco).

Verstappen's 25th career win ties him with Jim Clark and Niki Lauda for ninth on the all-time list.

- Formula One championships are held by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (**FIA**)

Highlights:

- The 24-year-old Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time and at present, he has 66 podiums for Red Bull and is tied 9th for the most race wins alongside Jim Clark and Niki Lauda.
- Red Bull racing driver Sergio Perez (Mexico) stood second in the pole position, followed by him was the Mercedes racing driver George Russell (British). Lewis Hamilton (British) was named as the Driver of the Day.

About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

President – Mohammed Ben Sulayem

Headquarters – Paris, France

4th Khelo India Youth Games 2021: Hosted and topped by Haryana

i. The 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021 was hosted by Haryana at the **Tau Devi Lal Stadium** in Panchkula, Haryana from June 4-13 2022.

ii. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Anurag Thakur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), among others.

iii. The sporting events were held in five different cities viz. Panchkula (Haryana), Shahabad (Haryana), Ambala (Haryana), Chandigarh and Delhi.

iv. **Haryana** won the KIYG 2021 with 52 gold medals, followed by **Maharashtra** with 45 and **Karnataka** with 22.



- This was Haryana's second KIYG title. It won the inaugural title in 2018.

v. For the 1st time ever, KIYG roped in sponsors. The **State Bank of India** (SBI) was the title sponsor of KIYG 2021 while **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) is Associate Sponsor.

About Khelo India:

KIYG, formerly Khelo India School Games (KISG) is the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroot games in India. It is the flagship event of the Indian Government's Khelo India (Let's play India) proposed in 2017.

Under this movement, KIYG and the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) were set up as annual events where youngsters, representing their states and universities, respectively, showcased their skills and competed for medals.

US, Canada, & Mexico To Host FIFA World Cup 2026; 1st time to be Hosted by 3 Countries

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA - International Federation of Association Football) announced that the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be jointly hosted by the **United States (US), Canada, and Mexico**. For the **first** time in the history of FIFA World Cup the event will be **hosted** by **3 countries**. FIFA has selected 16 cities from these countries through a bid.



- **Los Angeles (US), Toronto (Canada) and Mexico City (Mexico)** are among the host cities for the tournament.
- This will be the first World Cup hosted by more than one nation since 2002. Japan and South Korea jointly hosted the 2002 World Cup.

The 16 selected cities are:

i. US– Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, Philadelphia, Miami and New York/New Jersey.

ii. Mexico– Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey

iii. Canada– Vancouver and Toronto.

Key Points:

- It will also be the **first time** that 48 teams will feature in the tournament, an increase from the 32 that will contest in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 from November 21 – December 18.
- 60 matches will take place in the US, including all matches from the quarter-finals onward, while Canada and Mexico will host 10 games each.
- Mexico also hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1970 and 1986.
- US will be the second-time host (following 1994). This will be Canada's first men's FIFA World Cup, having hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2015.

About FIFA World Cup:

The FIFA World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of the FIFA, the sport's global governing body. The championship has been awarded every **four years**.

- The 2018 world cup was hosted by Russia & France won the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri becomes 5th Highest Goalscorer; Equals Ferenc Puskás

Indian Men's football team captain **Sunil Chhetri** scored his 84th International goal against Hong Kong during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers. He has equalled the record of Real Madrid and Hungarian Football Legend **Ferenc Puskás** and became the



joint **fifth highest goalscorer** in international football.

Sunil Chhetri scored 84 goals in 129 appearances while Ferenc Puskás (who died in 2006 aged 79) scored 84 goals in 85 international matches.

- Sunil Chhetri is the 3rd highest goal scorer in international football among active players, after Cristiano Ronaldo with 117 goals and Lionel Messi with 86 goals.
- He is also the highest active goal scorer from Asia and India.

Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra won Gold at Kuortane Games 2022, Finland

Indian javelin ace and Olympic Gold Medalist **Neeraj Chopra** has won the **gold medal** by winning the Javelin throw event (86.69 meters) at the **Kuortane Games 2022** in Kuortane, **Finland**. This marks the first top podium finish of the season. He won the gold defeating reigning world champion **Anderson Peters** of Grenada.

Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott (86.64 meters), champion of the 2012 Olympics(London), has secured 2nd place and Anderson Peters (84.75 meters) secured the 3rd.



- Neeraj Chopra's previous national record was 88.07 meters, set in Patiala in March 2021.
- He won the Gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58 meters on 7th August 2021.

Paytm T20I Series: India and South Africa Shared the Trophy Due to Tie-Break In The Decider

The Paytm sponsored 5 match Twenty20 International (T20I) was hosted by India (IND) against South Africa (SA) from June 09 to June 19, 2022. The 5 match T20I series ended in a tie-breaker (2-2) as the first two matches were won by South African Cricket team led by Temba Bavuma and 3rd and 4th match was won by Indian cricket team led by Rishabh Pant and the decider (5th match) was called-off due to rain and the trophy was shared between both the teams.



Player of the Series and Player of the Match:

Player of the Series

Senior India fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar was adjudged the **player of the series** for his prolific performance with the ball by picking up a total of 6 wickets in 4 matches.

Player of the Match

- 1st T20I: David Miller (SA) was given man of the match award for his 64 runs (not out).

- 2nd T20I: Heinrich Klaasen (SA) was given man of the match award for his 81 runs.
- 3rd T20I: Yuzvendra Chahal (IND) was given man of the match award for his 3 (Wickets) /20
- 4th T20I: Dinesh Karthik (IND) was given man of the match award for his 55runs.

Obituaries

Santoor Maestro Padma Shri Pandit Bhajan Sopori Passed Away

Santoor Maestro and Padma Shri awardee Shri Pandit Bhajan Lal Sopori passed away. He often referred to as the ‘saint of santoor’ and ‘king of strings’ for his mastery over the instrument.

Key Information

i. He was born in Sopore in Kashmir Valley in 1948 and belonged to the Sufiana gharana of Indian classical music.

iii. Awards & Recognition:-

- He received Padma Shri in 2004 (Art-Music-Instrumental), the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992, and the Jammu and Kashmir State Lifetime Achievement Award.
- In 2009 he was honoured with the Baba Allaudin Khan Award and M N Mathur award in 2011 for his contribution to Indian classical music.
- The Indian Postal Department honoured Bhajan Sopori with a Rs 5 stamp in 2011 as a special tribute for his exceptional work in the world of art and culture.

iii. He was great-grandson of Krishnarao Shankar Pandit, who had developed the style popularly known as the ‘Sufi Baaj’ (style)

iv. Santoor Sopori wrote music for nearly 6,000 songs in almost every Indian language, including Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Sindhi, Urdu, Bhojpuri, even Persian and Arabic.

About Santoor Instrument

i. The Indian santoor is a trapezoid-shaped hammered dulcimer that is a variant of the Iranian Santur.

ii. The instrument is built primarily of walnut and has 25 bridges. Each bridge has four strings, for a total of 100.



Former SAIL Chairman V Krishnamurthy Passes Away At 97 In Chennai

Venkataraman Krishnamurthy, a former chairman of steel Public Sector Unit (PSU) SAIL and Maruti Udyog Ltd (now, Maruti Suzuki), passed away at the age of 97 in Chennai. He was born in a Karuveli village of Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu.

- Krishnamurthy was **chairman of SAIL** from 1985 to 1990 and was known as the father of PSUs in India.



Highlights:

i. Krishnamurthy was also a former chairman of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore and Ahmedabad; Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi; Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar; the Centre for Organisation Development, Hyderabad; and also the Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council.

ii. He was a member of the National Advisory Council from **2004-2008**, also a Member of the Planning Commission and Secretary to the Government of India (GOI) in the Ministry of Industry.

- Further, he was also the Chairman of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and held the rank of Cabinet Minister till 2014.

iii. Awards :- Under civil services category, he received Padma Shri (1973) , Padma Bhushan (1986) , and Padma Vibhushan (2007). Japan also awarded him with its highest civilian honour ‘ The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun’ in 2009 for his contribution towards the promotion of bilateral economic relations between India and Japan and had earned a reputation of a ‘**Turnaround Man**’.

Chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group, Pallonji Mistry Passes Away in Mumbai

An Indian-born Irish billionaire **Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry** (nicknamed -“Phantom of Bombay House”), a 93-year-old industrialist and chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji group passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born in Bombay (Mumbai), Maharashtra and was a member of Parsi community in Bombay.

- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he accumulated a net worth of almost **USD 29 billion** by being the largest minority shareholder with 18.4% stake in Tata Sons.
- He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 2016** for his contributions in the field of trade and industry.
- A short biography of Mistry titled *The Moguls of Real Estate* was written by Manoj Namburu.

Key Points:

i. In 1970, Pallonji Mistry expanded his company into the Middle East to Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Dubai, after which, in 1971, the company won a contract to build the Sultan of Oman’s palace and many ministerial buildings in Middle East.

ii. His son, Cyrus Mistry, was chairman of Tata Sons from November 2011 to October 2016.

iii. In 2021, Shapoorji Pallonji sold its consumer durables business under the Eureka Forbes label to the American private equity fund Advent International that operates with brands like Aquaguard and Forbes .

About Shapoorji Pallonji group:

Shapoorji Pallonji Group’s landmark projects include the buildings of Reserve Bank of India and the Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai and the blue-and-gold Al Alam palace for the Sultan of Oman.

Other works:

The company also built the Mumbai World Trade Centre in 1970, the Imperial, two 60-story residential towers, in 2010 and an 80-acre (32-hectare) information-technology (IT) park called Ozone, in the western

Indian city of Pune.

Establishment – 1865

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra



Important Days with theme

World No Tobacco Day 2022 – May 31

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is annually observed across the globe on **31st May** to create awareness about the harmful effects of using tobacco and inform the public about the dangers of tobacco use and the business practices of tobacco companies.



- The observance of World No Tobacco Day is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The **theme** of World No Tobacco Day 2022 is **“Tobacco: Threat to our environment”**.

Background:

- In 1987, the member states of WHO created the observance of World No Tobacco Day to highlight the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.
- The World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the resolution WHA40.38 in 1987 and proclaimed the 7th April of every year as World No Smoking Day.
- In 1988, WHA passed a resolution WHA42.19 and called for the celebration of 31st May of every year as World No Tobacco Day.

International Everest Day 2022 – May 29

International Everest Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 29th May to commemorate the first summit of Mount Everest by **Sir Edmund Hillary** of New Zealand and **Tenzing Norgay**, a Nepali-Indian Sherpa mountaineer on **29th May 1953**.

The day recognises and celebrates the achievement of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.



Background:

- In 2008, the year Sir Edmund Hillary passed away, the government of Nepal has decided to proclaim the 29th May of every year as the International Everest Day.
- The celebration of International Everest Day is a special event which is a part of the promotion of Nepal's tourism.

World Milk Day 2022 – June 1

World Milk Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st June to recognize milk as global food and to celebrate the dairy industry. The day



aims to create awareness about the benefits of milk and dairy products highlighting the contribution of Dairy industries in providing livelihood to billions of people across the globe.

- The annual observance of World Milk Day is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The theme of World Milk Day 2022 highlights the work being done to accelerate climate action and help reduce the impact of the dairy industry on the planet.

- The World Milk Day offers a platform to create awareness of the messaging and actions towards **Dairy Net-Zero**.

Background:

i. World Milk Day was established by the FAO in 2001 to recognize the importance of milk as a global food.

ii. The **first-ever** World Milk Day was observed on **1st June 2001**.

World Bicycle Day 2022 – June 3rd

The United Nations (UN)'s World Bicycle Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd June to create awareness about the social, economic and environmental benefits of cycling.

The day also celebrates the uniqueness, durability, and versatility of the bicycle and promotes Bicycles as a simple, sustainable means of transportation.



Background:

i. In April 2018, during the 72nd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/72/272 and proclaimed the 3rd June of every year as World Bicycle Day. The resolution was adopted by a consensus of 193 members.

ii. The first UN-designated World Bicycle Day was observed on **3rd June 2018**.

Events in India:

On 3rd June 2022, The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised World Bicycle Day 2022 as a part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-India@75.

Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports launched the Nationwide programmes from Major Dhyani Chand Stadium, Delhi. He also participated along with 750 Young Cyclists in a rally.

World Environment Day 2022 – June 5

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Environment Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th June** to create awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.



- The day also aims to promote the involvement of various stakeholders like government, corporate, and individuals to focus on environmental issues.
- The annual observance of World Environment Day has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since **1973**.

The theme of World Environment Day 2022 is **Only One Earth**.

Note: “Only One Earth” was the slogan for the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972.

Host of World Environment Day 2022:

World Environment Day 2022 is hosted by **Sweden**.

- The year 2022 also marks the **50-year anniversary** of the 1972 Stockholm Conference.

World Oceans Day 2022 – June 8

The United Nations(UN)’s **World Oceans Day** is annually observed across the globe on **8th June** to create awareness about the importance of the Oceans as the major source of food and medicine and a critical part of the biosphere. The day also highlights the various measures taken toward the protection of the oceans.

The **World Ocean Network** has been instrumental in building support for ocean awareness events on World Oceans Day.



- World Ocean Network is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

The theme of World Oceans Day 2022 is “**Revitalization: collective action for the ocean**”.

Note: SIDBI is one of the five All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The other 3 are Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) & National Housing Bank (NHB).

iii. The Indian government has made significant progress in the form of policies and schemes, including the establishment of Defence Industrial Corridors, with a major focus on self-reliance in defence sector.

World Blood Donor Day 2022 – June 14

World Blood Donor Day(WBDD) is annually observed across the globe on **14th June** to create awareness about the importance of blood donation and to promote voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.



The day also aims to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products like Red blood cells (RBCs), Fresh frozen plasma, White blood cells (WBCs), Immune globulins, etc.

- The observance of WBDD is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Host of WBDD 2022 events: The WBDD 2022 is hosted by **Mexico** through its National Blood Centre. The theme/slogan of WBDD 2022 is **“Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives”**.

World Music Day 2022 – June 21

World Music Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 21st June to encourage young and talented musicians across the globe.

The day also aims to provide a platform for young artists to showcase their talents.

World Music Day is also known as “Fête de la Musique” which means “Festival of Music” in French.



- The year **2022** marks the **40th anniversary** of the celebration of “Fête de la Musique”.

The theme of World Music Day 2022 is **“Music on the intersections”**.

Note: The annual celebration of “Fête de la Musique” across the globe coincides with the day of the **summer solstice**.

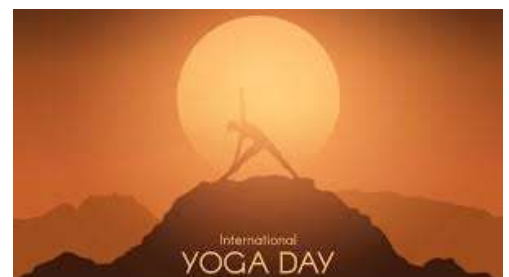
Background:

The World Music Day was first celebrated as “Fête de la Musique” in France, organised by Maurice Fleuret, Director of Music and Dance of France’s ministry of culture and Jack Lang, the then French minister of culture in 1982.

International Day of Yoga 2022 – June 21

The United Nations (UN)’s International Day of Yoga (IDY) is annually observed across the globe on **21st June** to create awareness about the importance of Yoga and promote the benefits of practising yoga.

- **21st June 2022** marks the observance of the **8th International Day of Yoga**.
- The theme of International Day of Yoga 2022 is **“Yoga for Humanity”**.



Background:

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/69/131 on 11th December

2014 and proclaimed the 21st June of every year as the International Day of Yoga.

ii. The first ever International Day of Yoga was observed at the United Nations on **21st June 2015**.

Observance in India:

- On the occasion of the 8th IDY, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the Mass yoga Demonstration at Mysore Palace ground, Mysuru, Karnataka.
- As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Mass yoga demonstrations are organised at 75 iconic locations across India under the leadership of 75 Union Ministers.
- As a part of the 8th International Day of Yoga, the government of India has envisaged a unique, one of a kind and innovative programme “**The Guardian Ring**” to celebrate the movement of the Sun, underlining the concept of ‘**One Sun, One Earth**’.

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice 2022 – 21st June

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is annually celebrated across the globe on 21st June to create awareness about the importance and significance of the solstice in various religions and ethnic cultures across the globe.

Background:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/73/300 on 20th June 2019 and proclaimed the 21st June of every year as the International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice in its different manifestations

What is Solstice?

- The word Solstice is derived from the Latin word “**Sol**” which means ‘**sun**’ and “**Sistere**” which means ‘**to stand still**’.
- Solstice is the seasonal movement of the sun's daily path, seen from earth, appears to be still at a northern or southern limit before reversing direction.

International Olympic Day 2022 – June 23

International Olympic Day is annually observed across the world on 23rd June as a day to promote the Olympic Movement. The day also celebrates the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the Sorbonne, Paris, on 23rd June **1894**, where the **Olympic games** were revived by **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**.

The theme of 2022 International Olympic Day is “**Together, For a Peaceful World**” and it is accompanied by #MoveForPeace and #OlympicDay.



- Together, For a Peaceful World was introduced as a new pillar of the Olympic Day.

Background:

i. In 1947, Dr Josef Gruss member of the IOC from Czechoslovakia proposed to organise an event to commemorate the founding of the Modern Olympic movement and to promote Olympic ideals.

ii. At the 42nd IOC Session in St Moritz, Switzerland in January 1948, the members of the IOC adopted the project of a World Olympic Day.

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

President– Thomas Bach

Headquarters– Lausanne, Switzerland

National Statistics Day 2022 – June 29

National Statistics Day(Statistics Day) is annually observed across India on 29th June to recognise the role and importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. 29th June 2022 marks the observance of the **16th Statistics Day**.

- The day marks the celebration of the birth anniversary of **Professor(late) Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** (PC Mahalanobis), known as the “**Father of Indian Statistics**” and recognises his notable contributions in the fields of statistics and economic planning.
- The theme of National Statistics Day(Statistics Day) 2022 is “**Data for Sustainable Development**”.
- The **first ever** National Statistics Day was celebrated on **29th June 2007**.

About National Statistical Commission (NSC):

NSC was established by the Government of India through a resolution dated 1st June 2005.

Chairperson– Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi



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