



Current Affairs Supplement

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STUDY CAMPUS®

National

Kerala leads in hosting legislative sessions in 2021

- **Kerala**, which dropped to eighth place in terms of convening Assembly sessions during the initial **COVID-19** pandemic in 2020, regained first place in 2021 with the nation's longest House session at 61 days.
- The **PRS Legislative Research**, a think tank with its headquarters in New Delhi, published the research on the **operation of State Assemblies for 2021**.
- Karnataka came in second with 40 sitting days, followed by **Tamil Nadu** with 34, and **Odisha** with 43.
- The guidelines for how legislatures should operate were set forth by the **National Commission** to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000–2002), which was presided over by former Chief Justice of India **M.N. Venkatachaliah**.
- The Houses of State/UT legislatures should convene for at least 50 days a year for those with fewer than 70 members, like **Puducherry**, and at least 90 days for those with more members.



Indian Women Savitri Jindal replaces China's Yang Huiyan to become Asia's Richest Woman

- **Savitri Jindal**, the Chairperson Emeritus of **OP Jindal Group**, has surpassed **China's Yang Huiyan** to become Asia's richest woman, as per the real-time **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. The 72-year-old Savitri Jindal who also holds the position of the richest woman in India has a total fortune of **\$11.3 billion**.
- The fortune of Yang Huiyan, owner of China's largest real estate developer 'Country Garden Holdings', dropped by more than half in 2022, from \$ 24 billion to \$11 billion. She had been Asia's richest woman for the past five years.



NSE and BSE approve of Zee's merger with Sony Pictures

- The BSE and NSE stock exchanges have given **Zee Entertainment** their approval for Zee Entertainment's proposed merger with **Sony Pictures Networks India**.
- According to a statement by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., both the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** and the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** have accepted the planned merger with **Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited** (formerly Sony Pictures Networks India).
- The stock exchanges' approval is a decisive and encouraging step in the merger approval process as a whole.

Key Pint

- CEO of ZEEL: **PunitGoenka**
- CEO of Sony Pictures Network: **Anthony "Tony" Vinciguerra**

Monkeypox virus: Centre creates special task force under VK Paul

- The Centre announced that it will set up a **task force** to keep track of **monkeypox** cases in India. **Dr. VK Paul**, Member (Health), NitiAayog, will serve as the team's leader, and members will include the Secretaries of the Union Health Ministry, Pharma, and Biotech.
- **Dr. Paul** countered that there was no need for excessive alarm but that society and the nation should remain on guard.
- After India reported its first fatality from monkeypox, this step was taken. A man from Kerala who had tested positive for monkeypox in another nation passed away in **Thrissur**.

Aurangabad: First smart city in India to receive data from Google's EIE

- The **Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE)** data from **Google** was officially released in **Aurangabad** on Wednesday, according to the **Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL)**.
- This makes Aurangabad the first city in the nation to experience this. The data would aid research groups in formulating sustainable solutions for the city, according to ASCDCL authorities, who noted that the EIE dashboard for Aurangabad was introduced by Google during an event in **New Delhi**.



GoI released a commemorative postage stamp to honour Tricolour designer P Venkayya

- The **government of India** released a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the **146th birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya**, the designer of India's national flag.
- The stamp was released by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during an event "**Tiranga Utsav**" organised by the Ministry of Culture at **Indira Gandhi Stadium, in New Delhi**.
- The event will also display the original design of the national flag made by Pingali Venkayya. The current flag is the modified version of the first design of the flag.
- The Tiranga Utsav will also witness the grand launch of the "**Har Ghar Tiranga**" anthem and video. Venkayya, born on August 02, 1876, near Machilipatnam town in Andhra Pradesh, was a freedom fighter and a follower of Gandhian principles.



Jio getting ready to launch World's Most Advanced 5G Network across India

- **Reliance Jio**, owned by billionaire **Mukesh Ambani**, became the highest bidder for 5G spectrum, paying Rs 88,078 crore to buy over half of the airwaves offered in the most recent auction.
- The **Adani** group paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than 1% of all spectrum sold, according to Telecom Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**. Jio has also acquired the 700 MHz band.
- While **Jio** purchased spectrum across several bands, including the coveted 700 MHz band, which can provide 6-10 km of signal range and serves as a good foundation for fifth generation (5G) in all 22 circles in the country.
- **Adani** Group purchased spectrum in the 26 GHz band, which is not for public networks.
- If 700 Mhz is used, a single tower can cover a larger area.

Key Pint

- Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

- Founder of BhartiAirtel: **Sunil Bharti Mittal**

Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 approved by Lok Sabha

- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 is approved by the **Lok Sabha**. The **Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972** already protects a number of species, but the proposed legislation would also implement **CITES**, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of **Wild Fauna and Flora**. The **Rajya Sabha** still needs to pass the Bill, though.
- According to **Bhupender Yadav**, the Union Environment Minister, the government operates under the **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam principle** and strives to improve both humankind and all other animal species.
- The Union Environment Minister has also urged people to avoid purchasing upscale goods derived from animals from threatened or endangered species.



Fortune Global 500 list: LIC breaks into Fortune 500 list

- Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation, **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has broken into the **latest Fortune Global 500 list**.
- The nation's biggest life insurer with revenue of **USD 97.26 billion** and a profit of **USD 553.8 million**, was ranked 98th on the just released Fortune 500 list. This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales.

India's Trade Deficit At Record High: 31 billion Dollar

- **India's trade deficit widened to a record \$31.02 billion in July**, as imports of goods surged despite curbs and merchandise exports contracted for the first time in 20 months.
- July merchandise exports declined by 0.76% from a year ago to \$37.24 billion, while imports grew 44% to \$66.26 billion during the month because of high commodity prices and a weak rupee, data released by the ministry of commerce and industry showed.
- Trade deficit is said to take place **when the imports done by a country exceed that of the exports done by a country in a fiscal year**.



Nation observes 80th anniversary of Quit India movement

- **The 80th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on **8 August 2022**.
- The slogans **"Quit India"** and **"Do or Die"** became battle cries for the freedom fighters during the Quit India movement.
- **On 8 Aug 1942**, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session



of the **All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai**. Although the movement was suppressed by **1944**, it played an important role in uniting the common people across the country against British rule.

World's largest floating solar power plant going to be built in Khandwa, MP

- The **world's largest floating solar power plant** is going to be built at **Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh**. With an aim to increase the power generation capacity of the central state of Madhya Pradesh and address the electricity problems in the region.
- A floating solar power plant is going to be built in Khandwa which will generate 600 Megawatt power by 2022-23.



Key Pint

- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan;
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai C. Patel.

Google launches 'India Ki Udaan' to mark 75 years of Independence

- Tech giant, **Google** has launched '**India Ki Udaan**' to mark **75 years of Independence**. The project has executed by **Google Arts & Culture** celebrates the country's achievements and is "**themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years**".
- As part of the country-wide celebrations, Google also announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. It was officially launched at a glittering event held at the Sunder Nursery in Delhi in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister **G Kishan Reddy** and senior officials of the culture ministry and Google.



Key Pint

- Google CEO: SundarPichai;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;

Nation celebrates 76th Independence Day on 15th August 2022

- This year India is celebrating **76th Independence Day** on **15th August 2022** to mark the country's freedom from nearly two centuries of **British colonial rule**.
- Prime Minister **NarendraModi** is leading the celebrations from Red Fort in New Delhi and is addressing the nation from Red Fort in New Delhi.
- This is his **ninth address** as the prime minister. To celebrate the 75 years of Independence the Government of India has started an initiative called "**AzadiKaAmritMahotsav**".



PM NarendraModi Observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2022

- In his last year's Independence Day speech, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** declared **August 14** to be observed as "**Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**" to remind the nation of the sufferings and sacrifices of Indians during the partition in 1947.
- The day, which coincides with Pakistan's Independence day, will be observed in memory of the "**struggles and sacrifices of our people**".
- In the weeks and months around **August 15, 1947**, the partition of India into India and Pakistan resulted in severe bloodshed and communal violence, property loss, and significant instability.
- The partition is often regarded as one of the most violent and rapid displacements in human history.

World's Highest Chenab Railway Bridge Inaugurated

- The golden joint of the world's highest railway bridge over **River Chenab** was inaugurated. For the first time ever since **independence**, **Srinagar** will be linked to the rest of India after the overarch deck on the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over River Chenab.
- The bridge will be 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower. Chenab Bridge was a famous bridge with intricate engineering that had to overcome several challenges.
- **The geology, the harsh terrain, and the hostile environment** were just a few of the challenges that the engineers and railway officials had to overcome to get to this point.



Defence forces, RBI and PM Office Most Trusted Institutions

- **Defence forces, RBI and Prime Minister of India** are the three most trusted institutions in the country, according to a **survey by Ipsos India**. The Supreme Court of India came fourth and it was followed by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.
- **Defence Forces** with at least 2 in 3 (65 per cent of respondents) reposing faith in them was ranked first, followed by **Reserve Bank of India** with 1 in 2 (50 per cent). **Prime Minister of India** office as an institution was at the third spot with **49 per cent citizens** having trust in it, the survey said.
- The survey was conducted by Ipsos India via a quantitative survey using a structured questionnaire and interviewed 2,950 adults including females.

Covid booster vaccination approved first in the United Kingdom

- British health authorities stated that the UK has become the first nation to approve a bivalent **ModernaCovid booster vaccination**. **Covid booster vaccination** targets both the original strain of COVID-19 and the more recent Omicron version.
- The **ModernaCovid booster vaccination** was approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as a "sharpened instrument" against the new coronavirus after it was determined to meet its requirements of safety, quality, and effectiveness.



Indian flag unfurled in space to marks 75 Years of Independence

- The **Indian national flag** was unfurled in space at an altitude of over **30 km** as the country marked its **75 years of Independence**. The tricolour was sent to the edge of space on a balloon by **Space Kidz India**, which describes itself as an aerospace organisation creating young scientists for the country.
- The unfurling of the flag was part of the **AzadikaAmritMahotsav celebrations** that mark the completion of 75 years since India became Independent.
- Space Kidz India is an organization creating “young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.” The organisation recently launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit.

**Goa, first state in India to receive “HarGharJal” certification**

- The people of all the villages in **Goa** and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) declared their village to be a “**HarGharJal**” through a resolution passed by the Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps and ensuring that “**No One is Left Out.**”
- All 85,156 of the 85,635,000 rural households in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, and Goa have access to potable water via a tap connection with **HarGharJal**.

Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal launched ‘Make India No. 1’ mission

- **Delhi** Chief Minister, **ArvindKejriwal** has formally unveiled his **AamAadmi Party’s** national ambition with the launch of the ‘**Make India No 1**’ campaign.
- At an event organised at Talkatora stadium here, he proposed a five-point vision for good governance. The AamAadmi Party (AAP) national convenor termed the campaign a “national mission” and appealed to the masses to join.
- The first thing that we have to do is provide free and quality education to every child of this country.
- The second measure that we will have to take is to provide free and best medical treatment along with free medicines and test facilities to every citizen of the country.

**Country first electric double-decker bus launched in Mumbai**

- Union Transport Minister, **NitinGadkari** has launched **India’s first electric double-decker bus at YB Centre** in south Mumbai. The name of the bus is “**Switch EiV 22**”, the double-decker bus will be run by the Mumbai civic transport body from September.
- NitinGadkari said **35 per cent of the pollution** is because of diesel and petrol, and the introduction of these buses will reduce pollution. Two new electric buses, including the first air-conditioned double-decker bus in the country, will join the fleet of the **Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)**.

Vistara emerges second largest domestic airline by market share

- Full-service **Vistara** emerged as the second biggest airline by domestic market share last month with a **10.4% pie of the sky**, distantly second to



the market leader **IndiGo at 58.8%**.

- The airline is Tata Sons' joint venture with Singapore Airlines. The number three, four and five positions saw airlines separated by just decimal points — **Air India (8.4%), GoFirst (8.2%) and SpiceJet (8%)**.
- India's airlines carried 9.7 million passengers on domestic routes in July, almost double from a year earlier but lower than the 10.5 million passengers ferried in June 2022.

Goodfellows, senior-focused startup launched by Ratan Tata

- Ratan Tata, a pioneer in the field, unveiled **Goodfellows**, a firm that offers senior folks companionship services. Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, provided seed money for the platform in an unknown amount.
- **Goodfellows** completed a successful beta test over the past six months, and the service is now available in Mumbai. Pune, Chennai, and Bangalore are the next target cities.
- Over 800 young graduates applied to work at Goodfellows during the beta testing phase, and 20 of those candidates were chosen to provide companionship to the elderly in Mumbai, according to the company.

Mandla becomes India's first fully 'functionally literate' district

- **Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mandla region** has become the first fully **"functionally literate" district in the country**. Another report of 2020 highlights that, more than 2.25 lakh people in this district were not literate, most of them were tribals from forest areas.
- Tribals frequently complained to the authorities about money being taken from their bank accounts by fraudsters and the root cause of this was that they were not functionally literate.



GoI grants GI Tag to Bihar's MithilaMakhana

- The Central government has awarded **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to **MithilaMakhana**. With this move, growers will get the maximum price for their premium produce.
- Over five lakh farmers of the Mithila region of Bihar will be benefitted from this decision. Makhana registered with GI Tag, farmers will get profit and it will be easier to earn.
- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
- The other benefits of GI registration include legal protection to that item, prevention against unauthorised use by others, and promotion of exports.



Super Vasuki: Indian Railways longest freight train

- The **Indian Railways** conducted a test run of its latest train called **Super Vasuki**. The Super Vasuki is operated by the South East Central Railway (SECR) zone of the Indian Railways.
- The SECR ran the record **long-haul freight trains Vasuki and Trishul last year and the 2.8 km long SheshNaag train before that**. The Super Vasuki was set up by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit. The freight train is **3.5 km long**.

Punjab & Haryana agree to be name Chandigarh airport after Bhagat Singh

- **The Punjab and Haryana governments** have agreed to name the **Chandigarh International Airport in Mohali** after **Shaheed Bhagat Singh**. The decision was taken during a meeting between Punjab CM **Bhagwant Mann** & Haryana deputy CM **Dushyant Chautala**.
- The Punjab government has already declared a state holiday on March 23, the martyrdom day of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- The Rs 485-crore airport project is a joint venture of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the governments of Punjab and Haryana.

India's First Observatory To Monitor Space Activity To Come Up In Uttarakhand

- **India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory**, to track objects as small as **10 cm** in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the **Garhwal region of Uttarakhand** by **Digantara**, a space sector start-up.
- The **space situational awareness (SSA) observatory** will help India track any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region.
- Currently, **the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris** with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List: India nominated Garba

- **India** has nominated the Indian dance form **Garba** to be inscribed on **UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list**. Last year, Durga Puja was included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list and for 2022, India has nominated 'Garba'. The next **UNESCO** meeting will be held in November.
- In July, India was elected by UNESCO to serve on the distinguished intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. A total of **14 elements from India** are inscribed on UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity. These elements include music, dance, theatre, festivals, rituals, and storytelling.

**World's first fleet of hydrogen passenger trains by Germany**

- The **world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains** was launched by **Germany**. The first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains has replaced **15 diesel trains** that were previously operated on nonelectrified tracks in Lower Saxony, Germany. The engine of the trains is powered by electricity generated using hydrogen fuel cells.
- These trains have ranges up to 1000 kilometers and a maximum speed of 140 kph. After the introduction of the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains, the hydrogen produced with renewable energy the trains will save up to **1.6 liters of diesel in a year**.
- For now, hydrogen is produced as a byproduct of chemical processes, however, the German Specialty Gas Company Linde, plans to manufacture hydrogen using only renewable energy in the coming years.

Nagaland gets its 2nd railway station in 119 years

- North-east state, **Nagaland** got its second railway station after a gap of more than **119 years** with the commissioning of a new facility at Shokhuvi. **Dimapur Railway Station**, in the heart of the commercial hub of the state, was inaugurated in 1903.
- Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** flagged off the Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway Station during the day.
- The Donyi Polo Express ran daily between **Guwahati in Assam and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh**. The train service has now been extended till Shokhuvi, a few kilometres from Dimapur. Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh will be directly connected by train service with the extension of Donyi Polo Express till Shokhuvi Railway Station.



Key Pint

- Nagaland Capital: Kohima;
- Nagaland Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio;
- Nagaland Governor: Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge).

PM Narendra Modi dedicates India's first earthquake memorial

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated India's **first earthquake memorial**, named **Smruti Van** at Bhuj in Gujarat. Smruti Van is a unique memorial carrying the names of more than 12 thousand people who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck here in January 2001.
- The earthquake simulator will provide real like the experience of earthquake tremors to visitors. Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** and State BJP President C. R. Patil was present on the occasion.
- The grand structure, which is the first such memorial in the country according to a Gujarat government official, is spread over **470 acres on Bhujio Hill near Bhuj town**. It celebrates the spirit of resilience in the wake of the death of nearly 13,000 people during the earthquake on January 26, 2001, which had its epicentre in Bhuj.



NITI Aayog declared Haridwar as the best aspirational district in India

- The **NITI Aayog** has declared the holy city of **Haridwar in Uttarakhand** as the best aspirational district on five parameters.
- The letter by NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme director **Rakesh Ranjan** to Uttarakhand chief secretary **SS Sandhu** and the district collector of Haridwar underlines that the district has secured the first rank in basic infrastructure theme and has become entitled to receive an additional allocation of **Rs 3 crore**.
- The **NITI Aayog's aspirational Districts Programme** was launched in 2018. The programme is aimed at identifying potential districts that can develop into model blocks through socio-economic development.



- Under the programme, the central government takes steps to improve the socio-economic condition of identified districts and ensure inclusive and holistic development.

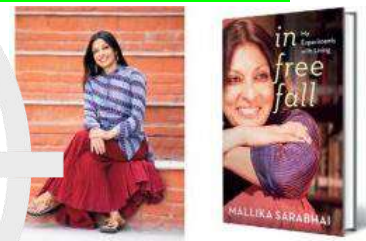
Leading vehicle manufacturer Maruti Suzuki completes 40 years in India

- Leading vehicle manufacturer, **Maruti Suzuki** has completed **40 years in India**. On the occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the company's electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant at **Hansalpur in Gujarat** and the passenger vehicle plant at **Kharkhoda, Haryana**.
- This time Maruti Suzuki has decided to invest 10 thousand crores for the EV plants. Maruti Suzuki may start production of electric vehicles in India from 2025.
- Maruti Udyog Limited was established in India in the year 1981. It was a public sector company. **In 1982, Japanese automaker Suzuki started a joint venture with Maruti.**
- Over the past forty years, Maruti Suzuki A new book named '**India's Economy From Nehru To Modi:: A Brief History**' written by **Pulapre Balakrishnan** will be launched shortly.
- The book, India's Economy From Nehru To Modi:: A has become the most preferred brand in the country. RC Bhargava is the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki India.



Acclaimed Dancer Mallika Sarabhai turns author released his memoir 'Free Fall'

- Acclaimed classical dancer and activist **Mallika Sarabhai** bares it all in her upcoming self-help memoir, "**Free Fall: My Experiments with Living**". The book, which will hit the stands on August 30, is about "coming to terms with yourself, your body and finding the lifestyle that works for you". It is published by **Speaking Tiger**.
- Born to renowned Indian classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai and the legendary space scientist Vikram Sarabhai, Mallika is an accomplished Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dancer who has specialized in using the arts for social change and transformation.



Bloomberg Billionaires Index: Gautam Adani becomes world third richest person

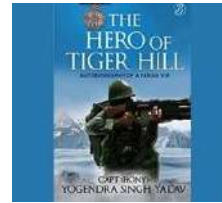
- India's **Gautam Adani** is now the **third richest person in the world**. The rankings by **Bloomberg Billionaires Index** come as business conglomerate Adani Group's chairman overtakes **Louis Vuitton chairman Bernard Arnault**.
- With a total net worth of **USD 137.4 billion**, 60-year-old Adani is now just behind business magnate **Elon Musk** and **Jeff Bezos** in the ranking. This is the first time an **Asian person** has broken into the top three of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- In the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Reliance chief **Mukesh Ambani** is at number **11 with a total of USD 91.9 billion worth**.
- The net worth of **Elon Musk** and **Jeff Bezos** is currently at **USD 251 billion** and **USD 153 billion**, respectively.

Autobiography titled "The Hero of Tiger Hill" authored by Subedar Major Yadav

- The autobiography "**The Hero of Tiger Hill: Autobiography of a ParamVir**", is about the inspiring story of **Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd)**, the

Youngest ParamVir Chakra (PVC) awardee, at the age of 19 for his actions in the 1999 Kargil conflict. This autobiography is published by **Srishti Publishers & Distributors**.

- Subedar Major Yadav's idea in writing about him began when he was invited to the top colleges in India, he noticed that his simple but honest answers made a lot of impact on young students. His motive in writing the autobiography is to motivate youngsters of India and infuse a sense of patriotism.

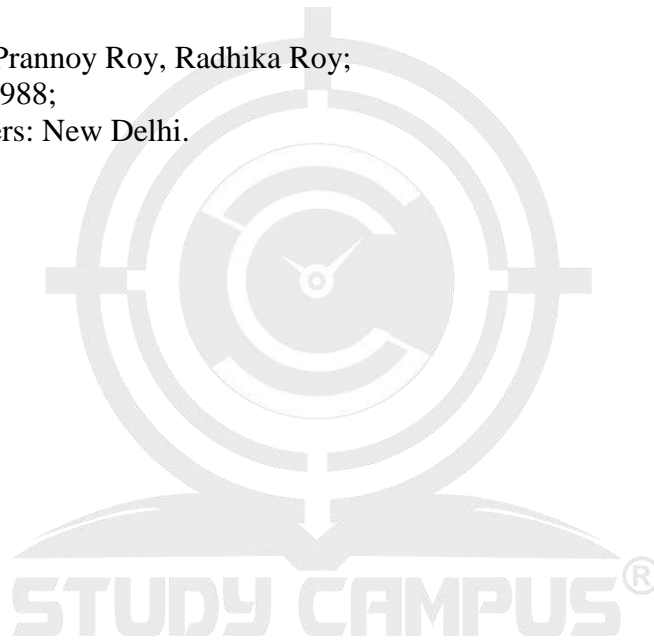


Adani group targets 55.18% stake in NDTV

- Adani Group founder, **Gautam Adani** has set the ball rolling to acquire a controlling stake of **55.18%** in **New Delhi Television (NDTV)**.
- With a concept to carry 55.18 per cent stake in NDTV, the Adani group has issued an open provide for a **26 per cent** stake within the information channel at **Rs 294** for a share with a face worth of **Rs 4**.
- The complete outlay for 26 per cent, or 16,762,530 totally paid up fairness shares of NDTV – if the provide is accepted in full – will likely be about Rs 483 crore for the Adani group.

Key Pint

- NDTV Founders: Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy;
- NDTV Founded: 1988;
- NDTV Headquarters: New Delhi.



International

Zimbabwe launched gold coins as legal tender to tackle inflation

- Zimbabwe has launched **gold coins** to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency.
- The unprecedented move was announced by the country's central bank, the **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe**, to boost confidence in the local currency.
- The coin is called '**Mosi-oa-Tunya**' which refers to **Victoria Falls** in the local Tonga language.
- The coins will have liquid asset status so that they could be easily converted to cash and locally and internationally tradable. The cost of one coin was **\$1,824 at the time of launch**.



Sweden and Finland approved to join NATO by US Senate

- With 95 senators voting in favour of the measure, the **US Senate** decisively approved the **NATO** membership of **Sweden** and **Finland**. Republican Senator **Josh Hawley** of Missouri cast the lone dissenting vote, contending that the threat posed by China should receive considerably more attention than European security.
- Finland and Sweden's membership in **NATO** has the strong support of US President **Joe Biden**, who in July forwarded the issue to the Senate for consideration.



Key Point

- **NATO Chairman:** Jens Stoltenberg

ASEAN Celebrated Its 55th Anniversary In 2022

- External Affairs Minister **Dr S. Jaishankar** has congratulated the ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General on their **55th anniversary**.
- The **ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**, New Delhi, organised a panel discussion to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN.
- The theme of this year's ASEAN Day is "**Stronger Together**" which invites and welcomes the forward-minded people of ASEAN.

Mexican President proposes peace commission led by 3 leaders including PM Modi

- The Mexican President, **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** has proposed that the top commission should include **Pope Francis**, the **UN Secretary-General**, **Antonio Guterres**, and **Indian PM Narendra Modi**.
- The aim of the commission would be to present a proposal to stop the wars around the world and reach an agreement to seek a truce for at least five years. The commission aims to stop wars across the world and reach an agreement to seek a



truce for at least five years.

Key Pint

- Mexico President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador;
- Mexico Capital: Mexico City;
- Mexico Currency: Mexican peso.

Scotland becomes first nation to make period products available to everyone

- Local governments of **Scotland** are now required by law of **Scotland** to offer free sanitary products (**Period Products**) like tampons and pads to anyone who needs them. As the Period Products Act takes effect in **Scotland**, goods will be supplied through councils and educational institutions.
- The **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill** was unanimously approved by MSPs in November 2020. Labour MSP **Monica Lennon**, who has been working to eradicate period poverty since 2016, introduced the bill.



17-year-old pilot Mack Rutherford sets record for solo flight around world

- A 17-year-old pilot, **Mack Rutherford** became the **youngest person to fly solo** around the world in a small aircraft after he landed in **Bulgaria**, where his journey kicked off five months ago.
- Mack Rutherford, a Belgian-British dual national, landed on an airstrip west of Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, to complete his task and claim **two Guinness World Records**. Along with becoming the youngest person to fly around the world by himself, Rutherford is the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe in a microlight plane.



South Korea breaks its own record for the world's lowest fertility rate

- **South Korea** has once again shattered its own record for the **world's lowest fertility rate**. South Korean women were estimated, based on 2021 data, to have an average of just **0.81 children** over their lifetimes, down from **0.84 a year earlier**.
- The number of newborns declined in 2021 to 260,600, which equates to about **0.5% of the population**.
- According to the **United Nations' global population projections** and **World Bank's data**, the report further stated that Korea is the world's fastest-ageing nation among economies with a per capita GDP of at least **\$30,000**.

Key Pint

- South Korea Capital: Seoul;
- South Korea Currency: South Korean Won;

Beijing Tops, Bengaluru 2nd In Asia-Pacific In Tech Hubs

- **Bengaluru** ranks **second in the Asia Pacific region** in the top tech hubs list and is only behind China's **Beijing**, according to a report by Cushman and Wakefield. The report, called '**Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate**', studied as many as 115 different 'tech cities' across the globe.

- After Beijing and Bengaluru, the list has **three other Indian cities**, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad. **Mumbai and Pune** also made it to the top-10 list with eighth and ninth position in a list of 14 cities from the APAC.



Defence

3rd India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” begins in Haryana

- The 3rd edition of **Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022”** is conducted at **Chandimandir, Haryana** from August 1 to 20, 2022.
- The theme of Ex VINBAX 2022 is the **“Employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations”**. The exercise will further strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.
- The conduct of **Ex VINBAX – 2022** as a field training exercise with enhanced scope from previous editions of bilateral exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, and inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People’s Army.



Kargil War: Point 5140 at Dras in Kargil sector named as Gun Hill

- **Indian Armed Forces** pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in **“Operation Vijay”, Point 5140 at Dras in the Kargil sector** has been christened as **Gun Hill**.
- Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defences including Point 5140, which was the key factor in the early completion of operations.



India to participate combat exercise drill “Pitch Black 2022” in Australia

- **India** will be part of the mega air combat exercise **“Pitch Black 2022”** among 17 nations, to be held in the **Northern Territory of Australia**.
- India’s participation in the exercise, **“Pitch Black”**, has been confirmed by the Australian government. Over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will be part of the drill. The exercise is scheduled to take place from August 19 to September 6.
- This year’s participants include **Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and the US**.



Indian Air Force will retire all squadrons of MiG-21 by 2025

- **The Indian Air Force** will retire one of its four remaining squadrons, **MiG-21 (Russian combat aircraft) fighter jets** by **2022 September** and the other three are scheduled to be phased out by 2025.



- The old MiG-21s will be replaced with newer fighter jets. Six MiG-21s have been lost in crashes in the last 20 months, killing five pilots. The IAF also plans to start the phasing out of the three squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets in the next five years.
- Currently, the IAF has around **70 Mig-21 aircraft and 50 Mig-29 variants**.

India-US Armies to hold mega military exercise “YudhAbhyas” in Uttarakhand’s Auli

- **The Indian Army and the US Army** will conduct the 18th edition of the fortnight-long mega military exercise “YudhAbhyas” from **October 14 to 31, 2022, at Auli in Uttarakhand**.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies. The previous edition of the exercise took place in Alaska, the US, in October 2021.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the armies of **India and the US**.
- The “**YudhAbhyas**” exercise is taking place in the backdrop of India’s lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.



Indian Navy’s all-female crew completes first solo maritime mission

- Women officers in the **Indian Navy** made history when they flew a **Dornier 228** on the first-ever all-female autonomous maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea.
- Five officers from the **Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 314** stationed at the Naval Air Enclave in **Porbandar, Gujarat**, completed the mission.
- **Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma**, the mission commander, piloted the plane while assisted by Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite, Lt Pooja Panda, and SLt Pooja Shekhawat, tactical and sensor officers.
- The women officers underwent extensive mission briefings and months of ground training in preparation for this historic sortie, according to a statement from the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Frontline Naval Air Squadron **INAS 314** is stationed in Porbandar, Gujarat.



12th edition of Defence Expo to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- **The Ministry of Defence** has announced that the **12th edition of the Defence Expo**, India’s flagship exhibition on **Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems**, will be held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The event will be held between October 18 and 22, 2022. The theme for this edition is ‘**Path to Pride**’ invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation-building through establishing a capable indigenous Defence industry.



- The Indian Defence industry has been keenly anticipating DefExpo-2022 which is Asia's largest event in the defence sector. It was postponed in March 2022 due to logistical problems being faced by the participants.

Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise 'VajraPrahar 2022 begins in Himachal Pradesh

- The **India-US Joint Special Forces** exercise "**Ex VajraPrahar 2022**", began on August 08, 2022, at the Special Forces Training School in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**. Ex VajraPrahar 2022 is the 13th edition of the annual exercise.
- The main objective of this joint exercise is to share the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- The Indian Army contingent is represented by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS, while the US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of the US Special Forces.



IAF to Participate in Military Drills 'Udarashakti' with Malaysia

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent left for Malaysia to participate in a four-day bilateral exercise '**Udarashakti**' with the **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)**.
- The exercise will give an opportunity to the IAF contingent members to share and learn best practices with some of the best professionals from the RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities.
- The exercise will witness various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces, the IAF said, adding that it would fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defence cooperation between the two Air Forces, thereby augmenting security in the region.
- From the Indian Air Force Su-30, MKI and C-17 aircraft will be participating while the RMAF will be flying Su-30 MKM aircraft.

Key Pint

- Indian Airforce founded: 08th October 1932;
- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Airforce Chief of Air Staff: Vivek Ram Chaudhari.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gives "F-INSAS" system to Indian Army

- Defence Minister of India, **Rajnath Singh** handed over to the **Indian Army** the much-awaited **Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS)** at the unveiling ceremony of various defence and strategic systems held in Delhi.
- The full gear of the F-INSAS includes an AK-203 assault rifle, which is a Russian-origin gas-operated, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.
- For the survivability of the infantry soldier, a ballistic helmet, ballistic goggles, bulletproof vest, elbow pads and knee pads have been provided in the system. F-INSAS also includes a state-of-the-art target acquisition and communication system.



Vostok-2022: Indo-China military drills to be held in Russia

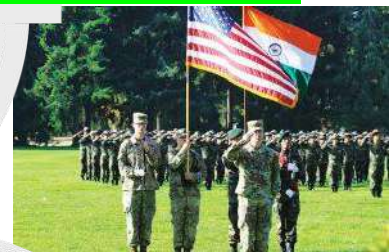
- The People's Liberation Army of **China** will take part in the **Vostok-2022** strategic command and staff exercise in **Russia**, which also includes the armies of **India**, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Mongolia, according to the country's defence ministry.
- **China's** People's Liberation Army will send some troops to **Russia** to participate in the **Vostok-2022 (East)** strategic exercise, in accordance with the two countries' yearly military cooperation plan and agreement.
- **India**, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Mongolia will also contribute troops for the **Vostok-2022** drill, according to the **China's** Ministry of Defense, but the Indian Army has not issued an official statement on the matter.

INS Vikrant To Be Commissioned On Sept. 2

- The **first indigenous carrier** which has been constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**, will soon be commissioned as **INS Vikrant** on September 2. The warship will play the role of ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and will be completed by **mid-2023**. INS Vikrant will be commissioned in Cochin in the presence of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the vice chief said, adding the equipment for the aircraft carrier has been manufactured in 18 states and union territories.

**VajraPrahar 2022: India and USA joint exercise concluded in Himachal Pradesh**

- The **13th** edition of the **India-US** joint special forces exercise **VajraPrahar 2022** concluded at **Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh**. Special forces from the two countries participated in a 21-day joint training exercise.
- The joint training provided an opportunity for the forces from both nations to train in airborne operations, special operations and counter-terrorism operations in a joint environment under the United Nations Charter.
- The exercise was conducted in two phases – the first phase involved combat conditioning and tactical level special missions training exercises and the second phase included 48 hours of validation of the training received by both contingents in the first phase.

**New Naval ensign to be unveiled by PM Modi, INS Vikrant to be launched**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will reveal a new ensign of the Indian Navy (**New Naval ensign**), at the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant Commissioning celebration on September 2. He will formally inaugurate the nation's first aircraft carrier, **INS Vikrant**.
- The Indian Navy will receive a New Naval ensign on September 2 without the Saint George's cross that has been on its flag since the British placed it during the pre-independence era. The cross sign was removed from the flag between 2001 and 2004 while AtalBihari Vajpayee was in office, but it was reinstated once the UPA led by Manmohan Singh took back power.

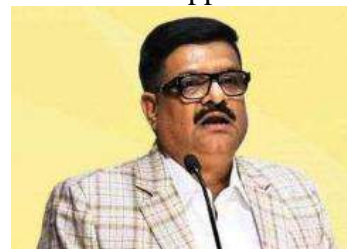
Appointments or Resign/Retired

Sanjay Arora to join as the new Delhi Police commissioner

- **Sanjay Arora**, a Tamil Nadu-cadre IPS officer who oversaw the paramilitary **ITBP**, will assume control of the Delhi Police as **Delhi Police commissioner**. He is scheduled to retire in 2025.
- **Sanjay Arora** was named **commissioner of the Delhi Police**, replacing the previous Delhi Police Commissioner **Rakesh Asthana**, an IPS officer from the **Gujarat Cadre** who retired after nearly 38 years of service.
- **Rakesh Asthana**, the departing commissioner of the Delhi Police, said that despite his retirement, he still has a strong desire to serve the public and the force.
- The **IPS** officer from the Gujarat cadre class of 1984 has made some significant reforms to the Delhi Police over the past year, including combining Police Control Room units with police stations and removing law and order from the investigative section.

SatyendraPrakash assume charges as new Principal DG, Press Information Bureau

- Senior Indian Information Service officer, **SatyendraPrakash** has been appointed as the **Principal Director General** of the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**.
- A 1988 batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, **Prakash**, the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication, will succeed **Jaideep Bhatnagar**, who superannuated.



Key Pint

- The Press Information Bureau was established in **June 1919**.
- In 1941, **J. Natrajan** became the first Indian to be head the Bureau as Principal Information Officer.
- The organisation's name was changed to the **Press Information Bureau in 1946**. The Bureau has been reconstituted many times since the **independence of India in 1947**.

SujoyLalThaosen gets the additional charge of DG of ITBP

- Sashastha Seema Bal's director general in New Delhi, **Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen** assumed the additional responsibility of Director General of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police**. **Dr. Thaosen** is a Madhya Pradesh Cadre IPS Officer from the 1988 batch.
- **Dr. Thaosen** received the charge and traditional baton from **IPS Sanjay Arora**. The **ITBP**, established in 1962, patrols the Indo-Chinese border. Additionally, it is used for a number of internal security tasks, such as anti-Naxal operations in **Chhattisgarh**.

Suresh N Patel sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner

- Vigilance Commissioner, **Suresh N. Patel** was appointed as the **Central Vigilance Commissioner**. He has been working as the acting **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)** since June this year.
- He was sworn in as the chief of the Central Vigilance



Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu. Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Sanjay Kothari** had completed his term as the CVC on June 24 last year.

Key Pint

- Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission Objectives: To address governmental corruption;

IFS officer Shweta Singh appointed as Director of PMO

- According to a Personnel Ministry, 2008 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, **Shweta Singh** was appointed as a **director** in the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Singh's appointment for a period of three years from the date of her joining.
- The ACC has cancelled the appointment of Aniket Govind Mandavgane, a 2009-batch IFS officer, as the Deputy Secretary in the PMO. Mandavgane was on July 18 appointed as the Deputy Secretary.



Senior-most judge of Supreme Court U U Lalit, in line to become next CJI

- Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India, **Justice U U Lalit**, who is in line to become the next **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
- He has been part of several landmark judgements including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant '**triple talaq**' among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional.
- Justice Lalit is in line to become the **49th CJI of India** on August 27, a day after incumbent **Justice N V Ramana** demits the office.



Ravinder Takkar named as Chairman of Vodafone Idea

- **Ravinder Takkar**, the **managing director (MD)** and **chief executive officer (CEO)** of telecom operator **Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi)**, will replace **Himanshu Kapania** as the telco's new **chairman**.
- He will step down as non-executive chairman of the board with effect from 18 August this month. However, he will continue to be a part of the VIL board as a non-executive director.

Key Pint

- Vodafone Idea Limited Founder: Kumar Mangalam Birla;
- Vodafone Idea Limited Founded: 31 August 2018;
- Vodafone Idea Limited Headquarters: Gandhinagar.

Nitish Kumar resigned as NDA chief minister in Bihar

- **Nitish Kumar** has submitted his resignation as the **NDA chief minister in Bihar** to the state governor **Phagu Chauhan**. He also submitted a support letter of 160 MLAs to stake claims to form a new government.
- In the **243-member assembly**, the BJP has 77 lawmakers and JD (U) 45. The RJD is currently the single-largest party with 79 MLAs, Congress 19 and the CPI(ML)-led Left Front 17.
- Nitish Kumar left for the residence of RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav's wife **Rabri Devi** in Patna to hold talks with **Tejashwi Yadav**, who is likely to get the deputy chief minister's post in the new coalition government.

Rajesh Verma named as Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu

- Odisha cadre 1987-batch IAS officer, **Rajesh Verma** has been appointed as the Secretary to President **Droupadi Murmu**. He replaces the incumbent **Kapil Dev Tripathi**, a 1980-batch IAS officer.
- He is currently serving as Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs & has also served as principal secretary to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.
- In the past, Verma has also served as the Principal Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Principal Secretary of Energy Department, Government of Odisha.



Vikram Doraiswami appointed to UK as India's High Commissioner

- **Vikram K. Doraiswami**, a seasoned diplomat appointed as India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom which is seen as a significant position given the two nations' expanding strategic alliance.
- **Vikram K. Doraiswami** is Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh currently. He is an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1992 batch.
- At May 1994, **Vikram K. Doraiswami** was appointed Third Secretary in the Indian High Commission in Hong Kong after completing his in-service training in New Delhi between 1992 and 1993.

Indian scientist Samir V Kamat appointed as DRDO Chairman

- According to a Personnel Ministry order, Distinguished scientist **Samir V Kamat** was appointed as **Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Kamat, who is Director General, Naval Systems & Materials, at the DRDO will succeed **G Satheesh Reddy** who has been named as scientific adviser to **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**.



GoI named former CEA K Subramanian as Executive Director for India at IMF

- Former Chief Economic Adviser, **KV Subramanian** was appointed as the Executive Director for India at the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.



- His term will begin from November and will continue for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, by curtailing the tenure of eminent economist **Surjit S Bhalla as ED (India), IMF up to 31 October 2022.**

Key Pint

- IMF Formation: 27 December 1945;
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- IMF Member Countries: 190;
- IMF MD: Kristalina Georgieva.

Adille Sumariwalla takes over as Interm President of Indian Olympic Association

- **The Indian Olympic Association** has co-opted **Adille Sumariwalla** as the President of the association till fresh elections are held. The erstwhile President of the IOA, **Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra**, resigned from the post of President, IOA on July 18 due to personal reasons.
- Thereafter, 18 executive members out of 31 in accordance with clause 11.1.5 of the IOA Constitution co-opted the undersigned to fill the vacancy.
- **Adille Sumariwalla (born 1 January 1958)** is an Indian athlete and entrepreneur, popular for representing India at the **1980 Moscow Olympics**. Sumariwalla competed as a 100m runner in several international competitions and at the Olympics.



INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

Key Pint

- Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927;
- Indian Olympic Association Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Olympic Association Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta.

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Honours/ Awards

Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong received the 'Distinguished Indologist for 2021' award

- Canadian scholar, **Jeffrey Armstrong** has been awarded the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** Distinguished Indologist for 2021. He has presented the award in a ceremony by Manish, India's consul-general in Vancouver.
- The citation for the award states that it has been conferred upon Armstrong "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research in India's philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilisation, society, etc".
- He becomes the seventh recipient of this award and joins the earlier recipients from Germany, China, Japan, the UK, South Korea and the USA.



Indian-American AaryaWalvekar crowned Miss India USA 2022

- Indian American from Virginia, **AaryaWalvekar** has crowned **Miss India USA in 2022** in New Jersey. **Saumya Sharma**, a second-year premedical student at the University of Virginia, was declared first runner up and **SanjanaChekuri** of New Jersey was the second runner-up.
- This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India. It was started by New York-based Indian- Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under the banner of Worldwide Pageants.
- As many as 74 contestants representing 30 states participated in three different pageants – **Miss India USA, Mrs. India USA and Miss Teen India USA.**
- **Akshi Jain** from Washington has crowned Mrs India USA and **Tanvi Grover** from New York was crowned Miss Teen India USA.



PuneethRajkumar to be conferred Karnataka Ratna posthumously

- Karnataka Chief Minister, **BasavarajBommai** has announced that Kannada film star **PuneethRajkumar**, who died last year, will be conferred with the '**Karnataka Ratna**' award posthumously.
- On November 1, which happens to be Kannada Rajyotsava, the state's formation day.
- He will be the **10th recipient** of the state's highest civilian honour.
- Considered the Kannada cinema's reigning star, Puneeth, the youngest of five children of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar, died of a cardiac arrest on October 29 at the age of 46.
- Interestingly, Puneeth's late father Rajkumar is among the first recipients of the Karnataka Ratna award in 1992, along with poet Kuvempu.



107 Gallantry awards announced for Armed Forces and CAPF personnel

- President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** has approved **107 Gallantry awards** to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2022.
- The awards include three **Kirti Chakra**, **13 Shaurya Chakras**, **two bar to Sena Medals (gallantry)**, **81 Sena Medals (gallantry)**, **one NaoSena Medal (gallantry)** and **seven VayuSena Medals (gallantry)**.



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards 2022 announced

- The **13th edition** of the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022** began on August 12 and will conclude on August 30.
- The event, held annually in Australia, celebrates the Indian film industry by screening some of the most prominent and acclaimed films, TV shows, and web series from the country.
- One of the highlights of the festival is the awards night, where select awards are given to the best performers from Indian cinema and the OTT scene from the previous year.

Check out the full list of winners from the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2022 awards:

S.no	Category	Winners
1	Best Film	83
2	Best Director	ShoojitSircar (SardarUdham) and AparnaSen (The Rapist)
3	Best Actor	Ranveer Singh (83)
4	Best Actress	Shefali Shah (Jalsa)
5	Best Series	Mumbai Diaries 26/11
6	Best Actor in a Series	MohitRaina (Mumbai Diaries 26/11)
7	Best Actress in a Series	SakshiTanwar (Mai)
8	Best Indie Film	Jaggi
9	Best Film from the Subcontinent	Joyland

10	Lifetime Achievement Award	KapilDev
11	Disruptor in Cinema Award	VaaniKapoor (Chandigarh KareAashiqui)
12	Equality in Cinema Award	Jalsa
13	Leadership in Cinema Award	AbhishekBachchan

Senior Congress leader ShashiTharoor to receive France's highest civilian award

- Senior Congress leader **ShashiTharoor**, set to be conferred with France's highest civilian award **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur**.
- The French government is honouring him for his writings and speeches and the French Ambassador here **Emmanuel Lenain** has written to Tharoor informing him about the award.
- In 2010, Tharoor had received a similar honour from the Spanish government, when the **King of Spain** had bestowed upon him the Encomienda de la Real Order Espanola de Carlos III.



Liberty Medal 2022 to be awarded to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy

- **The Liberty Medal 2022** will be awarded this fall to Ukrainian President **VolodymyrZelenskyy**. The National Constitution Center has announced that Zelenskyy will be honoured in a ceremony in October for what it called "his heroic defence of liberty in the face of Russian tyranny."
- President Zelenskyy has bravely led the Ukrainian people in their defence of freedom against Russian tyranny, and his courage has inspired people around the world to defend liberal democracy and the rule of law.



Bangladeshi FahmidaAzim won the Pulitzer Prize 2022

- Bangladesh-born **FahmidaAzim** working for the Insider online magazine of the US has been selected for **the Pulitzer Prize 2022**. She will be awarded under the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.
- She is among the four journalists including **Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Walt Hickey** of Insider being published from New York, selected for their work on the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs. The work 'I escaped a Chinese internment Camp' has illustrations by FahmidaAzim.



Former German chancellor Angela Merkel wins Unesco Peace Prize 2022

- Former German chancellor **Angela Merkel** has been awarded the **Unesco Peace Prize 2022** for “her efforts to welcome refugees”. In the summer of 2015, as refugees were streaming into Europe, Merkel opened her country’s borders and famously declared to Germans “Wir schaffen das”, “We can do this.”
- The honour, which is officially called **Felix Houphouet-Boigny-Unesco Peace Prize**, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast. It has been awarded each year since **1989** to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace. It is awarded annually.
- The prize includes a cheque of **USD 150,000**, a gold medal and a peace diploma. If there are multiple recipients, the cheque is shared equally.

Key Pint

- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Members: 193 countries;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.

UEFA Awards: KarimBenzema, Alexia Putellas win UEFA best player awards

- **KarimBenzema and Alexia Putellas** were rewarded for outstanding seasons by winning the **UEFA men’s and women’s player of the year prizes** at a ceremony in **Istanbul, Turkey**.
- France striker Benzema captained Real Madrid to victory over Liverpool in the Champions League final and scored 15 goals in the competition, while Putellas was the top scorer in the Women’s Champions League, helping Barcelona reach the final which they lost to Lyon.
- The coaching awards went to the winners of the two biggest events last season: **Carlo Ancelotti of Madrid and SarinaWiegman**, who led England to the **Euro 2022 title**.

**Miss Diva Universe 2022: Karnataka’s DivitaRai crowned this year**

- 23-year-old **DivitaRai** from Karnataka won the prestigious title of **Miss Diva Universe 2022**. She was crowned by the reigning **Miss Universe 2021, HarnaazSandhu**, at a lavish ceremony that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the coveted pageant.
- At the 71st Miss Universe pageant, Rai will be representing India, where **HarnaazSandhu** was crowned as the winner last year. **PragnyaAyyagari** of Telangana was declared **Miss Diva Supranational 2022**.

**67th Filmfare Awards 2022:**

The **67th Filmfare Awards ceremony**, presented by The **Times Group**, honoured the best Indian Hindi-language films of 2021. Held at **Jio World Centre**, the 67th Filmfare Awards honour the films released in 2021.

- At a press conference helmed by the editor of Filmfare magazine, Jitesh Pillai revealed **Wolf777news** as the title sponsor. Bollywood actors **Ranveer Singh** and **Arjun Kapoor** were announced as co-hosts.



Sports

Commonwealth Games 2022: Mirabai Chanu wins India's first gold medal

- Daughter of India, weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has won **India's first Gold Medal** at the **Commonwealth Games 2022** in the Women's **49Kg** weightlifting category.
- She aggregated a total of 201kg (88kg+113kg) to stamp her authority in the competition and achieve a Commonwealth Games record in the process.
- The silver went to Mauritius' **Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa** (172kg) and the bronze to Canada's **Hannah Kaminski** (171 kg).



England beats Germany in Women's Euro 2022

- The European Championship final saw **England** defeat **Germany** 2-1 to claim its first significant women's soccer championship.
- After **Germany** failed to successfully clear a corner, **Chloe Kelly** scored the game-winning goal on a rebound in the second period of extra time.
- At **Wembley Stadium**, the score was tied 1-1 after 90 minutes thanks to goals from Germany's **Lina Magull** and England's **Ella Toone**. The result was decided in extra-time.

Max Verstappen wins F1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2022

- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the **Formula One (F1) 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix 2022**.
- This is his overall 28th race win and the 10th win of the 2022 season. **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) stood second and **George Russell** (Mercedes – Britain) came third.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Bajrang Punia Wins Gold in Men's 65kg Category

- **Bajrang Punia** has won his **3rd Commonwealth Games medal** and his second successive **Gold medal** in the men's 65kg category.
- The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist beat **Lachlan McNeil** of Canada in the final (9-2). He had won silver in his maiden CWG in 2014 and then bettered the colour four years ago in Gold Coast by winning a gold.



Commonwealth Games 2022: Sakshi Malik Wins Gold in Women's Wrestling

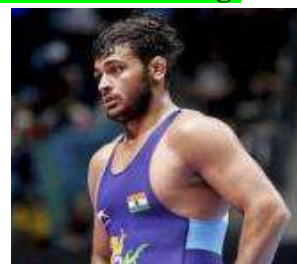
- Star Indian wrestler, **Sakshi Malik** has won the **gold medal** in the **Women's Wrestling Freestyle 62Kg** at the **2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games**. She defeated **Ana Godinez Gonzalez** of Canada in the final.
- The 29-year-old defeated England's **Kelsey Barnes** 10-0 via technical superiority in the quarter-final and then beat Cameroon's **Berthe Emilienne Etane Ngolle** 10-0 via technical



superiority in the semi-final.

Commonwealth Games 2022: India's Deepak Punia won a gold medal in Wrestling

- India's wrestler **Deepak Punia** has won the **gold medal** in the **Commonwealth Games 2022** by defeating Pakistan's **Muhammad Inam** by 3-0 in the men's **86 kg category** in the final.
- In the semifinal earlier, Deepak saw out Canada's **Alexander Moore** 3-1 as he gained early points. This is India's third gold medal in wrestling.



Commonwealth Games 2022: India's Final Medal Tally and Rank

- India contingent** completed its **Commonwealth Games 2022** campaign in Birmingham. India won **61 medals** in the overall Commonwealth Games 2022 medal table.
- India finished its CWG 2022 campaign as the **fourth-best country** on the medals table.
- India won **22 gold medals, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals** at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- India's Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign is its fifth-best in terms of the number of medals won. India's best finish was at its home games in **Delhi in 2010, where it won 101 medals**.

Commonwealth Games 2022: PV Sindhu won the gold medal in women's single badminton

- India's shuttler **P V Sindhu** has clinched a gold medal in the final of women's single at the **Commonwealth Games 2022**.
- The double Olympic medalist beat **Michelle Li of Canada** to win the Gold. PV Sindhu beat Michelle Li by 21-15, 21-13. This is the first-ever Commonwealth Games singles gold of Sindhu's career.



Commonwealth Games 2022: India won silver medal after losing to Australia in cricket

- The **Indian women's cricket team** has created history and secured the country's first-ever medal in cricket in the history of the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022**.
- The Women in Blue have reached the gold medal match after beating hosts England in a nail-biting clash at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground.
- Batting first, **Australia scored 161/8** in the final played at Edgbaston ground. In reply, the Indian team could only score 152 runs in 19.3 overs. India lost the gold medal match by just 9 runs.
- In the **bronze medal** match earlier, **New Zealand** coasted to an eight-wicket win over **England**.



Commonwealth Games 2022: Aussie Swimmer Emma McKeon Has Won More Gold Than 56 Countries

- 28-year-old swimmer, **Emma McKeon** from **Australia**, has set a unique record of sorts at the **Commonwealth Games 2022** as she bagged more medals than 56 nations/territories at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- She won **one bronze, one silver, and six gold medals** across various events in swimming at the Commonwealth Games. Out of the 72 countries/territories that took part in the CWG 2022, only **16 won eight or more medals**.



Tennis legend Serena Williams Announces Her Retirement From Tennis

- Tennis legend from the United States, **Serena Williams** has announced her retirement. Williams focused on her family in the announcement, writing that her nearly five-year-old daughter wants to be an older sister.
- Williams is married to Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian.
- Williams, who turns 41 next month, has 73 career singles titles, 23 career doubles titles and over \$94 million in career winnings.

CWG 2022: NikhatZareen and Sharath Kamal India's flagbearers at the closing ceremony

- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** announced table tennis player **AchantaSharath Kamal** and **Boxer NikhatZareen** as the **Flagbearers of India** for the closing ceremony of the **Commonwealth Games 2022** at Birmingham.
- AchantaSharath Kamal won gold in **Commonwealth Games 2022** at Birmingham by defeating Liam Pitchford in the finals and NikhatZareen also won gold by defeating McNaul in the finals of the boxing light flyweight event under the 50kg category at Commonwealth Games 2022.



FIFA suspends All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- The Bureau of the **FIFA Council** has unanimously decided to suspend the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the **FIFA Statutes**.
- The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFFs.
- The suspension means that the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022™**, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned.



Key Pint

- FIFA President: Gianni Infantino;

- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 to win 2022 UEFA Super Cup

- **Real Madrid** beat **Eintracht Frankfurt**, 2-0 in the finals to win the **2022 UEFA Super Cup** for a record-equalling **fifth time, in Helsinki, Finland**.
- UEFA Super Cup is an annual football match organised by UEFA for the winners of the two main European club competitions, i.e. the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League.
- The last season's Champions League winners Real Madrid defeated Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt to win the title for fifth time. **David Alaba and Karim Benzema** scored in each half as Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt. The man of the match goes to **Casemiro**.



Former West Indies Skipper Kieron Pollard first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches

- Former West Indies all-rounder, **Kieron Pollard** became the first cricketer to **play 600 T20 matches**. The hard-hitting batter achieved this landmark during his side's London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals.
- Behind him are players **Dwayne Bravo (543 matches)**, **Shoaib Malik (472)**, **Chris Gayle (463)** and **Ravi Bopara (426)**.
- He has the best individual performance of 104. Pollard has scored one century and 56 half-centuries in the format. He has also captured 309 wickets with the best bowling figures of 4/15. He has scored **11,723 runs across 600 games at an average of 31.34**.



Tamara Walcott lifts 737.5 kg to break powerlifting Guinness World Record

- **Tamara Walcott**, a female powerlifter from **Maryland in the United States** broke according to sources in the investigating agency for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of **737.5 kg across three compound lifts – the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift**.
- She was honoured at the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia last month. GWR compared the weight she lifted with a female adult giraffe that weighs about 680.3 kg.



1st edition of Women's IPL to be held in March 2023

- The 1st Edition of **Women Indian Premier League** will be starting from **March 2023** to be held in a one-month window and in all likelihood with five teams, a senior **BCCI official confirmed**.
- The BCCI bigwigs have discussed the issue and a March window has been found for the tournament after the **Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa**.
- Both BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly** and secretary **Jay Shah** in separate interviews had earlier confirmed that 2023



is the year when WIPL would start.

- A lot of cricket lovers believe that WIPL will bring in a revolution and the standard of women's cricket in India will have a quantum leap. It is understood that teams like **Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, and Chennai Super Kings** have all expressed their interest in buying teams.

FTX Crypto Cup: R Praggnanandhaa defeated world chess champion Magnus Carlsen

- Indian chess master **RameshbabuPraggnanandhaa** has defeated world champion, **Magnus Carlsen**, in the **FTX Crypto Cup** in Miami, an international chess Championship.
- Praggnanandhaa's winning run came to an end at the hands of China's Quang **Liem Le** in the fifth round. He suffered his second loss after he went down to **Poland's Jan-KrzysztofDuda** via the tie-break in the sixth round.



FIFA Council remove ban on Indian football

- The Bureau of the **FIFA Council** has decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** due to undue third-party influence.
- The decision was taken after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the committee of administrators that was set up to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.
- The **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022™** scheduled to take place on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will now be successfully held in the country in October.
- ATK MohunBagan will also be able to participate in the **AFC Cup Inter-Zonal** semi-finals where they will be facing Kuala Lumpur City FC.

Neeraj Chopra wins Lausanne Diamond League with 89.08m throw

- Olympic champion and javelin thrower, **Neeraj Chopra** scripted history as he became the first Indian to clinch a **Lausanne Diamond League**. In his first attempt, he hurled the spear **89.08m** to seal his victory in his own style.
- His 89.08m throw was his third career-best effort, followed by a second throw measuring 85.18m. Meanwhile, Tokyo Olympics silver medalist **JakubVadlejch** finished second with a best throw of 85.88m, followed by USA's **Curtis Thompson** was third with a best effort of 83.72m.



ViratKohli becomes 1st Indian to play 100 Matches in each format

- Cricket Legend **ViratKohli** has become the **first Indian** and **just the second player overall** in international cricket history to have **played 100 matches each** in all three formats of the game. He added another milestone to his name when he was named in India's playing XI for the highly anticipated **Asia Cup 2022 match with Pakistan**.

- Kohli has now **100 T20Is** to his name in addition to **102 Tests and 262 ODIs** since making his international debut in August 2008. His best individual score for India in this format is 94 and he has scored 30 half-centuries in this format. Kohli has an incredible record in T20I cricket for Team India having scored **3308 runs at an incredible average of 50.1**.

Rohit Sharma overtakes Martin Guptill to become leading run-scorer in T20

- Indian Skipper, **Rohit Sharma** overtook New Zealand's **Martin Guptill** to become the leading run-scorer in men's **T20 Internationals**.
- In 133 matches in the shortest format for India, Rohit Sharma has scored 4 hundred and 26 half-centuries so far. Rohit now has **3499 runs** in the format. Following him is Martin Guptill, who has scored **3497 runs**.
- **Virat Kohli** is the third highest scorer in men's T20 Internationals with **3341 runs from 100 matches**.

England's James Anderson becomes most successful pacer in international cricket

- England's **James Anderson** has become the first-ever fast bowler to complete **950 wickets** in international cricket. He attained this historic feat on Day 3 of the second Test against South Africa. He broke the record of **Australia's Glenn McGrath (949 wickets)**.
- The most successful bowlers in international cricket are Sri Lankan spin wizard, **Muttiah Muralitharan (1,347 wickets)**, late Aussie spin great **Shane Warne (1,001 wickets)** and Indian spin great **Anil Kumble (956 wickets)**.



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Obituaries

Veteran stock market investor RakeshJhunjhunwala passes away

- Veteran stock market investor, **RakeshJhunjhunwala** passed away at the age of 62.
- Often referred to as '**India's Warren Buffett**' and the **Big Bull of Indian markets**, Jhunjhunwala's net worth was **\$5.8 billion**.
- An investor with a Midas touch, Jhunjhunwala was the 48th richest man in the country.



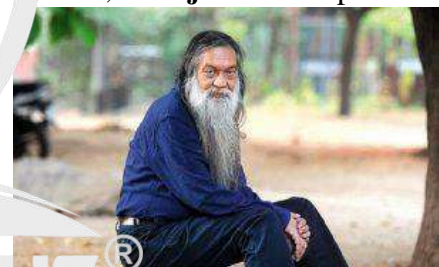
Indian American journalist Uma Pemmaraju passes away

- An Indian American journalist, **Uma Pemmaraju** has passed away at the age of 64. She was a part of various shows such as **The Fox Report, Fox News Live, Fox News Now, and Fox On Trends**. She has been awarded many Emmy Awards in her career for investigative reporting and journalism.
- Pemmaraju paved the way for Indian American journalists in the field of investigative reporting by receiving many Emmy Awards over the span of her career. The Big Sisters Organization of America awarded her The Woman of Achievement Award.



Eminent economist AbhijitSen passes away

- Renowned economist and former Planning Commission member, **AbhijitSen** has passed away at 72. He was a member of the **Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014**, during the tenure of PM Manmohan Singh. He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** for public service in 2010.
- In his career, he taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and held several important government positions including the chair of the Commission of Agricultural Cost and Prices. Politicians, academics, his students, farmers' leaders and activists remember him for his contributions in areas such as minimum support price, rural economy and rural employment.



Important Days with theme

Hiroshima Day is observed globally on 6th August

- **Hiroshima Day** is observed on **August 6** to commemorate the atomic bombing of **Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II.**
- The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named “**Little Boy**”, on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. **2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the world’s first atomic bombing.**
- The day, which is observed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan, highlights the effects of nuclear wars, pays respect to those who got killed, discourages nuclear proliferation and promotes world peace.



India observes 2nd ‘Javelin Throw Day’ on August 07, 2022

- The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** is celebrating the second ‘**Javelin Throw Day**’ on **August 7, 2022**. The day was first observed in **2021** in honour of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won India’s first **Olympic gold medal** in athletics at Tokyo.
- This decision to observe Javelin Throw Day is also an attempt to attract more youth towards the sport and get champions ready for a bright future in athletics ahead.



World observed Nagasaki Day on 09th August

- **Japan** commemorates the **9th of August** every year as **Nagasaki day**. On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on **Nagasaki, Japan**. It was code-named “**Fat Man**” due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape.
- On August 9, 1945, a **US B-29 bomber** dropped an atomic bomb on the city, killing nearly 20,000 people.
- The year 2022 will mark the **77th anniversary** of the incident and will pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in the attack or were left alive to die slowly in the horrible nuclear radiation

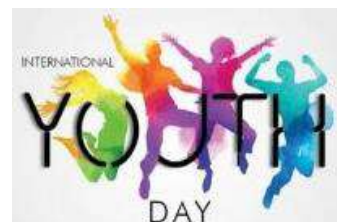


World Lion Day observed globally on 10th August

- **World Lion Day** is observed globally on **10th August**. The day aims to spread awareness of lions and the urgent need to strive toward their conservation.
- Lions are silently in danger of going extinct worldwide. Lions supposedly wandered amiably through **Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East** some three million years ago.
- **In 2013**, the first World Lion Day was observed. Dereck and Beverly Joubert, from the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic, founded it.

International Youth Day celebrates on 12th August

- **International Youth Day** is celebrated on **12 August** every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding issues that are faced by the world's youth.
- The objective of **International Youth Day 2022** is to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and leave no one behind.
- The theme for 2022's edition of International Youth Day is **"Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages."**

**World Sanskrit Diwas 2022: History, Importance and Objectives**

- **World Sanskrit Day or World Sanskrit Diwas 2022** is celebrated on the occasion of ShraavanaPoornima.
- World Sanskrit Day also coincides with the festival of RakshaBandhan. In 2022, **World Sanskrit Day** is celebrated on **12th August 2022**.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all languages and it is one of the **oldest languages** to exist in the World.
- The **main objective** to celebrate the **World Sanskrit Diwas 2022** is to encourage and make the upcoming generation familiar with the **oldest language** and the **mother of all languages**.

SadbhavnaDiwas 2022: Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi

- India celebrates **SadbhavnaDiwas** in memory of **Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary**. **SadbhavnaDiwas 2022** commemorates the **78th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi** on 20th August 2022.
- **SadbhavnaDiwas** was instituted after the death of Rajiv Gandhi in **1992**, by Congress. **SadbhavnaDiwas** promotes **peace, harmony, empathy, and unity** among all citizens of India. On this several cultural events and contests are organized across the country.

**Internaut Day celebrates every year on 23 August**

- **Internaut Day** is being celebrated around the world to mark the invention of the **World Wide Web**. An "internaut" is a person who possesses a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.
- August 23 marks the day when the **World Wide Web** was opened to the public back in the year 1991 for the first time by WWW inventor **Tim Berners Lee** as he allowed its access, CERN announced that the internet would be free to everyone and there would be no fee for its use.

International Dog Day 2022 celebrates on 26th August

- **International Dog Day** is celebrated annually on **August 26** to promote the adoption of dogs instead of buying them from pet shops. The day was founded by Animal Welfare Advocate and Pet Lifestyle



expert **Collen Paige**.

- The aim of promoting this day is to raise awareness about adopting these animals who are currently in rescue centres. on this day promote dog ownership of all breeds, pure and mixed. Embrace National Dog Day as an opportunity for all dogs to live a safe, happy and abuse-free life.
- August 26 was chosen as on this day, Paige's family had adopted their first dog "**Sheltie**" from an animal shelter when she was just 10 years old. Not only this, Colleen is the founder of National Puppy Day, National Cat Day, and National Wildlife Day as well.

National Sports Day or RashtriyaKhel Divas 2022: 29th August

- The **National Sports Day or RashtriyaKhel Divas** is celebrated on **29th August** in India as a tribute to hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** who was born on this date in **1905**. It was 2012 when the day was first designated and celebrated as India's National Sports Day.
- The nation celebrates the day honouring our sports stars. The president gives away sports awards such as the **Major Dhyan Chand KhelRatna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand Awards** on this occasion.

