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## HIGHLIGHTS

- **75000 startups have been recognized in India.**
- **Repo rate hiked from 4.90% to 5.4%.**
- **10 more Indian wetlands sites added to Ramsar Site list**
- **Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal in CWG.**
- **India won the maiden gold medal for the country in Lawn Bowls.**

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**01-07 August 2022**

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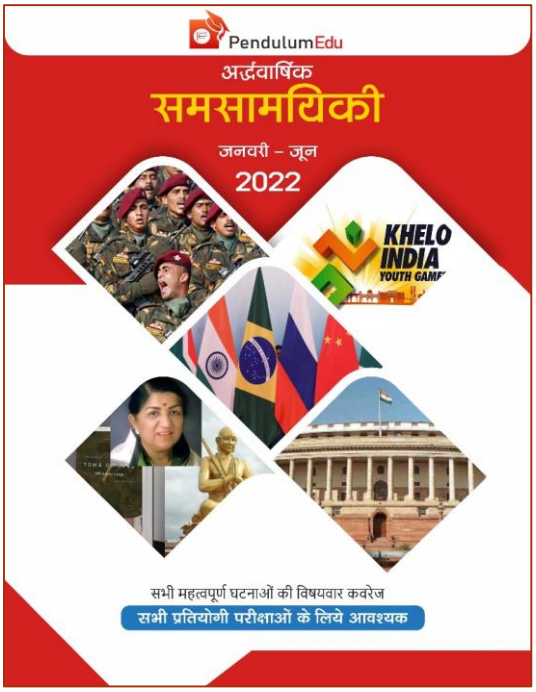

# GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

## SCHEMES/ PROGRAMS

### Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has started applications for its two flagship programs.

- These programs are Atal Incubation Center (AIC) and Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC).
- Atal Incubation Centre is an initiative of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- It aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurial spirit and create a supportive ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs in India.
- Each AIC is provided a grant of up to 10 crore rupees over a period of five years.
- Since 2016, AIM has established 68 AIC across 18 States and three Union Territories. They have supported over 2,700 start-ups.
- Each ACIC is provided a grant of up to 2.5 crore rupees over a period of 5 years.
- AIM has established 14 Atal Community Innovation Centres across the country.

### Government selected 8 craft villages under the 'Linking Textile with Tourism' programme.

- To encourage crafts and tourism in one place, 8 Craft villages were taken up by the government under 'Linking Textiles to Tourism'.
- Major tourist places are being linked with handicraft clusters. The Craft Village will promote handicrafts as a sustainable and remunerative livelihood option for artisans in the clusters.
- Under this programme, 1,000 artisans will get direct benefits across the country. It will also increase the tourist inflow across the craft villages.
- The craft villages selected are given below: Raghurajpur (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Anegundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), Amer (Rajasthan)

### State University Research Excellence Scheme has been launched by Government.

- It has been launched to enhance research capabilities in state and private universities and colleges in a structured manner to create a

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strong Research and Development Ecosystem.

- State University Research Excellence (SURE) is an innovative scheme of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The new scheme will assist in integrating the university system into mainstream research and enable young faculty to participate in cutting-edge research.
- This scheme will provide much-needed research opportunities to 45 percent of rural areas' state university faculties.

## Skill India launched the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program to upskill 75,000 workers in NDMC jurisdiction.

- The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program is funded by NDMC and SANKALP, a World Bank Project and is implemented by NSDC.
- Under this program, workers will be upskilled in different trades like construction, electrical, plumbing, pottery etc. It will increase digital literacy and encourage entrepreneurship.
- This program will be implemented in three phases through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). It will be implemented in two modes- RPL through Camps and RPL at Employer's premises.
- RPL is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme.
- The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program will increase employability opportunities and reduce the skill gap.

**Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:**

- It was launched on 15 July 2015.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- Its main objective is to encourage and promote skill development in the country.

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### More than 75000 startups have been recognized by DPIIT.

- India has achieved an important milestone by recognizing more than 75,000 start-ups.
- The last 10000 startups have been recognized in 156 days while the initial ten thousand startups were recognized in 808 days.
- Recognizing more than 75 thousand start-ups is a milestone in the order of 75 years of independence.
- Around 80 Startups getting recognized per day, which is the highest rate in the world.
- India has the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups. Around 7.46 lakh jobs have been created by the Indian startup ecosystem and 49% of startups are from Tier II & Tier III cities.
- Out of the total recognized startups, 12% are from IT services, 9% are from Healthcare and Life Sciences, 7% are from education and 5% are from professional and commercial services.
- The Government has supported the startups from funding to tax incentives.

### Cabinet approves India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution to be communicated to the UNFCC.

- The updated NDC aims to increase India's contributions to the Paris Agreement's goal of strengthening the international response to the threat of climate change.
- According to the Updated NDC, India will reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 45 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.
- India will also achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- This updated version of India's existing NDC is a step toward achieving India's long-term goal of reaching net zero by 2070.
- This will also help India get on the path of low emission growth.
- At the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, India

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presented the five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of its climate action to the world.

**Paris Climate Agreement:**

- It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015.
- It came into force on 4 November 2016. It is an initiative of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Its objective is to limit the rise in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

## Indian Navy's team of women officers completed the first independent maritime surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea on a Dornier 228 aircraft.

- The mission was accomplished by five women officers of Naval Air Squadron-INAS-314 at Naval Air Enclave at Porbandar, Gujarat.
- The mission was captained by Lieutenant Commander Aanchal Sharma.
- Her team consisted of Pilot Lt Shivangi and Lt Apoorva Geete.
- Lt. Pooja Panda and Sub Lt. Pooja Shekhawat, as tactical and censor officers, assisted in the mission.
- INAS-314 is the flagship squadron of the Navy. It is based in Porbandar, Gujarat. It is currently operational under western naval command.

## ITBP installed a 72-feet-high National flag at ITBP Academy in Mussoorie.

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has installed this 72-feet-high National flag in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India (FFI).
- The National flag is dedicated to the martyrs of the freedom struggle.
- It has been installed as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- On 2 August, the Indian Army hoisted a 75 feet high National Flag in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
- On 3 August, the Ministry of Culture released a ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ anthem to show the spirit, strength and diversity of India.
- Flag Foundation of India is a non-profit body under the societies registration act of 1980.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was on a 4-day visit to India from August 1.

- He was accompanied by a team of high-level officials and a business delegation.
- He met President Droupadi Murmu and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- During his visit, both countries reviewed the progress made in partnership.
- India recognize the Maldives after its independence in 1965.

**India – Maldives Relations:**

- India and Maldives signed a trade agreement in 1981.
- India-Maldives bilateral trade crossed the $ 300 mn mark in 2021.
- The Maldives occupies a special place in India's Neighbourhood First Policy.
- In February 2022, India and Maldives organized the 3rd Defense Cooperation Dialogue to strengthen defence cooperation.

### USA used 'Hellfire R 9X' missile to kill al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

- The United States has killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike in Afghanistan by using the 'Hellfire R 9X' missile.
- The US launched Hellfire R 9X missiles from its MQ-9 Reaper drones.
- Ayman al-Zawahiri was the successor of Osama Bin Laden.
- MQ-9 Reaper drones have been manufactured by General Atomics.

**What is the Hellfire 9X missile?**

- It is formally known as AGM-114R9X. It is also known as 'flying Ginsu' and Ninja Bomb.
- It has blades that can cut through buildings or car roofs to reach the target.
- It has six blades that fly at high speed and shreds the target without triggering any blast.
- It is used particularly when a terrorist leader has been pinpointed and there are innocent civilians around the target.
- It is about five feet long and weighs over 100 pounds. It has 45 kg of reinforced metal at its tip.

### India wants to become part of the Minerals Security Partnership.

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- **Minerals Security Partnership** is a US-led partnership initiative of 11 countries announced in June 2022. It has been formed for strengthening critical mineral supply chains.
- Australia, Canada, Finland, United States, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission are members of the MSP.
- At present, India is not a part of this partnership. India is dependent on other countries for rare earth minerals.
- The main aim of this new group is to attract investment from governments and the private sector for developing strategic opportunities.
- The Minerals Security Partnership will focus on the supply chains of minerals such as Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium and 17 'rare earth' minerals.
- This group has been formed to reduce dependency on China for rare earth minerals. China produces around half of the rare earth minerals.
- Cobalt, Nickel, and Lithium are very important because they are used in the batteries of electric vehicles.

## 1st meeting of India-Mauritius High-Powered Joint Trade Committee concluded in New Delhi.

- Dr Srikar K Reddy co-chaired the High-Powered Joint Trade Committee's first session, held in New Delhi from 1-3 August.
- The High-Powered Joint Trade Committee between India and Mauritius has been formed under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).
- The committee reviews the general functioning and implementation of the CECPA between India and Mauritius. CECPA between India and Mauritius came into force on 1 April 2021.
- Both sides agreed to include the General Economic Cooperation (GEC) Chapter and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) in CECPA.
- The GEC chapter will enhance cooperation in the fields of Investments, Financial Services, Textile, Small and Medium Enterprises, Handicrafts, etc.

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- The trade between India and Mauritius has increased from USD 690.02 million in 2019-20 to USD 786.72 million in 2021-22.

## STATE NEWS/ UTS

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

**Arunachal Pradesh government signed a tripartite MoU with NITI Aayog for school education transformation.**

- The main aim of MoU is to bring large-scale transformation in school education in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The MoU is a three-year partnership for improving the learning outcome of students across more than 3,000 government schools.
- The school education transformation project will be implemented under the NITI Aayog's Development Support Services for States (DSSS) initiative.

**Development Support Services for States (DSSS):**

- It aims to build institutional and organisational capacities of State and State-level institutions.
- It establishes the Centre-State partnership model for cooperation.
- It helps states in implementing infrastructure projects and resolving key structural issues faced by states.

**Arunachal Pradesh:**

- It is the easternmost state of India.
- It shares its border with Assam, Nagaland, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.
- Capital of Arunachal Pradesh: Itanagar
- **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu (As of 7 August 2022)**
- **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B D Mishra (As of 7 August 2022)**
- Lok Sabha seats: 2, Rajya Sabha seats: 1
- Namdapha National Park, Pasighat, Nuranang falls, Sangti Valley, Bumla Pass, Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary are some famous tourist destinations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Major Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh: Adi (Abor), Aka, Apatani, Nyishi, Tagin, Galo, Khampti, Bugun (Khowa), Mishmi, Momba (Monpa), Sherdukpen, Singpho
- Losar festival is celebrated by the Monpa tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

### ASSAM

**Assam Chief Minister launched 'Mission Bhumiputra'.**

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- It is a digital way to issue digitalized caste certificates to students.
- He also inaugurated a Bhumiputra Portal at a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra.
- Mission Bhumiputra is being implemented by the Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice Empowerment.
- It is being implemented to carry forward the government's mission of providing easy public service to the public.
- Assam CM said that government will create two pillars under the mission. The manual system of issuing caste certificates will be ceased.
- The digitalized caste certificates will be available in the Digi locker.
- Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government will release a Tribal Land Policy.
- He said the Tribal Land Policy is expected to be released on October 2 this year.

**Assam:**

- Its capital is Dispur. Its largest city is Guwahati. It has 35 districts.
- State Dance: Bihu, State Bird: White-winged wood duck
- Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Lok Sabha seats: 14, Rajya Sabha Seats: 7
- Kaziranga National Park located in Assam is known for One-horned rhinos.

## BIHAR

### Astronomical laboratory of a century-old Bihar college added to the UNESCO list.

- UNESCO has added the 106-year-old astronomical observatory of Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur to its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world.
- The astronomical observatory is under Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University (BRABU).
- The first of its kind in the eastern India observatory was established in 1916 in this 123-year-old college to impart astronomical knowledge to the students in detail.
- In 1946, the college also installed a planetarium, which was perhaps the first in India.
- World Heritage Sites are the places/monuments/areas that are

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included in the World Heritage List by UNESCO due to their cultural, historical, natural, or any other significance.

## CHHATTISGARH

### 'Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra' launched by Chhattisgarh CM.

- The "Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra" was organized by the Chhattisgarh Women Commission to educate women in the state about their constitutional rights and laws.
- On the occasion of the Hareli Tihaar festival, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off the "Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath" (chariots).
- The chariots travelled to all districts to raise awareness about women's legal rights through short films, messages, and booklets.
- There were two lawyers in each chariot. They listened to women's complaints and gave them information and advice.
- Women submitted their applications through these chariots to the Women's Commission for redressal of their grievances.

**Chhattisgarh:**

- The state is ranked 9th in terms of area in the country. It has 27 districts.
- Capital of Chhattisgarh: Raipur
- Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Folk dances of Chhattisgarh: Saila Dance, Karma, Sua Nacha, Panthi Dance, Raut Nacha, etc.
- It has a major reserve of coal, iron ore, limestone, bauxite, and dolomite.

## GUJARAT

### PM Modi inaugurated various projects of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur in Gujarat on 04 August 2022.

- He inaugurated Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital at Dharampur in Valsad district, Gujarat.
- The entire project costs around 200 crore rupees. It is a 250-bed multispecialty hospital.
- He also laid the foundation stone of Shrimad Rajchandra Animal Hospital.

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- He also laid the foundation stone of the Shrimad Rajchandra Center of Excellence for Women.
- It will employ over 700 tribal women. It will provide a livelihood to thousands of others.
- **Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur** is a spiritual movement for inner transformation. It was founded by Gurudevshri Rakeshji. It works through 196 centres in five continents.

**Gujarat:**

- It is a coastal state of India. Its capital is Gandhinagar.
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Lok Sabha seats: 26, Rajya Sabha seats: 11
- Gir National Park, Vansda National Park, Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary and Marine National Park are located in Gujarat.

## HARYANA

**Haryana government recently launched the "Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)" scheme.**

- This scheme allows government school students to enroll in private schools from Class II to XII.
- This is applicable to only those government school students whose parents have an annual verified income of less than Rs 1.8 lakh.
- Haryana government will reimburse Rs 700 per student for Classes II to V, Rs 900 per student for Classes VI to VIII, and Rs 1,100 per student for Classes IX to XII.
- The scheme was launched to offer "free education" to EWS students of government schools in "budget" private schools.
- The Right to Education (RTE) Act has provisions to provide admission up to 25% in private schools to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) families and Scheduled Castes for Classes I to VIII without any expenses.

**Haryana:**

- It is located in the northern region of India.
- It is bounded by Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- It has 22 districts and its Capital is Chandigarh.
- **Current Chief Minister of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar (As of 7 August 2022)**

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- **Current Governor of Haryana: Bandaru Dattatreya (As of 7 August 2022)**
- Lok Sabha seats of Haryana: 10 seats
- Raja Sabha seats of Haryana: 5 seats

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### Jammu and Kashmir's LG Manoj Sinha inaugurated the refurbished Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

- **Bakshi Stadium** is one of the major Stadiums in J&K with a capacity of 45000 seats.
- The renovation work of Bakshi Stadium started in 2017 under a centrally sponsored scheme by National Projects Construction Corporation.
- It has hosted some of the important football matches and events held in J&K.
- The stadium's football turf and outfield have been upgraded as per the norms of FIFA. The renovation work cost is Rs 40.85 crore.
- **Important Sports stadium in Jammu and Kashmir:**
    - Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium (Srinagar)
    - Subash Sports Stadium (Udhampur)
    - Sports Stadium (Doda)
    - Bakshi Stadium (Srinagar)
    - Khushal Stadium (Sopore)
    - Bulbul Shah Sports Stadium (Budgam)
    - Shahi Hamdan Stadium (Nowgam)
    - Mughal Stadium (Kulgam)

**Jammu and Kashmir:**

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is located to the north of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.
- It became a Union territory on 31 October 2019.
- Its winter capital is Jammu and its summer capital is Srinagar.
- **Manoj Sinha is the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. (as of 7 August 2022)**
- G C Murmu was the first LG of J & K.
- Lok Sabha seats: 5, Rajya Sabha seats: 4

## MADHYA PRADESH

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 6 National Highway projects worth 2300 Crore rupees in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

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- The total length of these projects is 119 Kms. Shri Nitin Gadkari said that connectivity of the villages of the Indore-Harda section with Indore will be better.
- The development of the Dhar-Pithampur Industrial Corridor will provide new employment opportunities.
- Minister of State, General VK Singh said in last seven years, 4,500 km of roads have been constructed in the State at a cost of more than 26 thousand crores.
- MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan demanded 20 flyovers and Road over bridges (ROB) for the State.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari approved these projects under the Setu Bharatam scheme worth Rs 16,000 crore.
- During the programme, the state government and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed MoU for the construction of ropeways at 14 selected places in Madhya Pradesh.

**The largest floating solar power plant in the world will be built in Madhya Pradesh.**

- It is estimated that the project will be worth over Rs. 3000 crores.
- A floating solar power plant will be built in Khandwa. It will generate 600 Megawatt power by 2022-23.
- It will be built on the Narmada River, near Omkareshwar Dam.
- Khandwa will be the only district in Madhya Pradesh, which will have thermal power stations, hydel and solar power together.
- India's largest 100 MW floating Solar Power Project is now fully operational at NTPC-Ramagundam in Telangana.

**Madhya Pradesh:**

- Madhya Pradesh ranks second in terms of area in the country after Rajasthan.
- The state capital is Bhopal.
- It shares its border with Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra.
- **The Chief Minister is Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel (As of 7 August 2022)**
- The state animal of MP is Barasingha.
- State Bird: Asian Paradise Flycatcher (Dudhraj)
- Lok Sabha seats: 29, Rajya Sabha seats: 11

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- There are 230 seats in the state legislative assembly.

## RAJASTHAN

### Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated the gauge conversion of Badi Sadri-Mawli railway section in Chittorgarh.

- He flagged off Badi Sadri-Udaipur City daily special through a video link in the program organized at Badi Sadri in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- He also flagged off Rewa (Madhya Pradesh)-Udaipur City (Rajasthan) weekly special through a video link in the program organized at Badi Sadri in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- He also flagged off Siuri-Sealdah MEMU train in West Bengal through a video link in the program organized at Badi Sadri in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- He said that work to make Udaipur City Railway world-class would be begun soon.
- He announced to make Chittorgarh station a world-class station.

**Rajasthan:**

- It is a state in Northern India whose capital is Jaipur.
- It is the largest state in India in terms of area and seventh largest in terms of population.
- It shares its border with five Indian states- Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- **Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra (As of 7 August 2022)**
- **Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Shri Ashok Gehlot (As of 7 August 2022)**
- Rajasthan has 25 seats in Lok Sabha and 10 seats in Rajya Sabha.
- The famous Jain temples, Dilwara Temples, are located in Mount Abu.
- Keoladeo National Park of Rajasthan is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## TELANGANA

### Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao inaugurated Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre.

- The Telangana state police's new integrated command and control centre and Hyderabad Police Commissionerate have been inaugurated on Road Number 12, Banjara Hills.
- The command and control centre has been constructed at a cost of

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over 600 crores. It was commissioned in 2016.

- The building has a helipad and a disaster and crisis management centre. It has also a data centre and a war room with a live feed from across the city.
- This building has backup centres related to Dial 100 emergency response, women's safety, cybercrime, narcotics cell, etc.

**Telangana:**

- It is a state in southern India that was formed in 2014.
- It has 33 districts.
- Its capital is Hyderabad.
- Governor is Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister is K. Chandrasekhar Rao. **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Lok Sabha seats: 17, Rajya Sabha seats: 7

## UTTAR PRADESH

### UP government launched the 'Panchamrut Yojana' for doubling farmers' income.

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Panchamrut Yojana' for achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income.
- Under this scheme, farmers will grow oilseeds, pulses and vegetables along with sugarcane for additional income.
- The main objective of the scheme is to reduce the production cost of sugarcane and to increase productivity and the fertility of the land.
- The scheme aims to reduce the costs through saving water and maximum use of stubble and leaves of sugarcane.
- It will also help in reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- The Government will also give 'Uttam Sugarcane Farmer' awards to farmers who implement the Panchamrut scheme.

**Uttar Pradesh:**

- It is the most populous state in India and ranks 4th in terms of area.
- The Chief Minister of the state is Yogi Adityanath and Governor is Anandiben Patel. **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- The capital of the state is Lucknow.
- Lok Sabha seats: 80, Rajya Sabha seats: 31
- The state animal of Uttar Pradesh is Swamp Deer, State Bird is Saras Crane, State Tree is Ashoka and State Flower is Palash.

## WEST BENGAL

### West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced

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**that seven new districts will be carved out in the state.**

- This will increase the total number of districts in West Bengal from 23 to 30.
- The seven new districts will be Sunderban, Ichhemati, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Jangipur, Behrampur and one district from Basirhat region.
- Presently, Sundarban is a part of South 24 paraganas. Icchemati and Basirhat are part of North 24 parganas.
- Ranaghat comes under Nadia district. Jangipur and Behrampur are part of Murshidabad district. Bishnupur district will be formed by division of Bankura.

**West Bengal:**

- It is a state in eastern India. It is located between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.
- It shares its boundary with three countries-Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- The Chief Minister of West Bengal is Mamta Banerjee and Governor is La. Ganesan. **(As of 7 August 2022)**
- Its capital is Kolkata. It is the fourth-most populous state of India.

## DEFENCE

**Indo-Oman joint military exercise AL NAJAH-IV began in Rajasthan.**

- AL NAJAH-IV is a joint military exercise between contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman.
- AL NAJAH-IV started on 01 August 2022 at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Range in Bikaner, Rajasthan. It would conclude on August 13.
- It aims to enhance defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman.
- The Indian Army is represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion.
- The previous edition of Ex AL NAJAH-IV was held at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.

**"Exercise VINBAX 2022" began at Chandimandir in Haryana.**

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- On 1 August, the third edition of the "Ex VINBAX 2022" bilateral army exercise started between Vietnam and India at Chandimandir.
- The exercise will be held till 20 August.
- The exercise is a sequel to the bilateral exercise conducted earlier in Vietnam in 2019 and marks a major milestone in strengthening bilateral ties between both countries.
- The theme of Ex VINBAX 2022 is “employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations”.
- The 105 Engineer Regiment troops are representing the Indian Army.

## Indian Army deployed indigenous combat vehicles to increase border surveillance.

- The indigenously built Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium (QRFV) has been successfully delivered to the Indian Army by the Aerospace and Defence Arm of the Tata Group, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).
- The indigenous developed combat vehicle will improve the Indian Army's operational capability in future conflicts and war-like conditions.
- The government's efforts to boost the manufacturing of indigenous defense equipment have lowered foreign defense procurement from 46% of overall spending to 36% in the last four years (2018-19 to 2021-22).
- In April 2022, Former Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane inducted the first set of QRFV along with Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV), Ultra Long-Range Observation System developed by TASL.
- He also inducted Monocoque Hull Multi-Role Mine-Protected Armoured Vehicle developed by Bharat Forge.

**Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL):**

- It is a firm in India that specializes in aerospace, defence, military engineering and construction, and technology.
- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, the Tata Group's holding company.
- It was founded in 2007.

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- It is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.

## India to take part in 'Pitch Black' multilateral exercise in Australia.

- India will participate in the air combat 'Pitch Black' exercise along with Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Philippines, South Korea, etc.
- A total of 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 countries will take part in the exercise.
- It is scheduled to take place from August 19 to September 6 in Northern Australia.
- The Indian Air Force first participated in this multilateral exercise in 2018.
- This exercise gives an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience between participating countries.
- The first Pitch Black exercise was held on 15-16 June 1981. It is hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) biennially.

## India and the US will carry out a fortnight-long military exercise in October 2022.

- The 18th edition of exercise "Yudh Abhyas" will be held from October 14 to 31 in Uttarakhand's Auli.
- Auli is in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The previous edition of the exercise was held in October last year in Alaska in the US.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies.
- In June 2016, the US designated India a "Major Defence Partner".
- India and the US signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in 2016.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## SPACE AND IT

## ISRO launched its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on 7 August.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the SSLV-D1/EOS-02 Mission from

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Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) on 7 August.

- It was the first flight for the new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
- On the maiden flight, the SSLV carried EOS-2, India's Earth Observation Satellites.
- This launch shifted the burden of commercial launches from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) to Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV). It was used for launching a small satellite.
- SSLV also carried the AzadiSat which was a satellite developed by 750 rural students coordinated by SpaceKidz India.
- The SSLV cost about one-fourth of the current PSLV cost. It can be assembled by a team of six people within seven days.

## South Korea launched its first lunar mission "Danuri" on 4th August.

- South Korea launched its first lunar probe from Cape Canaveral Space Force Base in Florida.
- South Korea became the seventh country in the world to launch an unmanned 'lunar Probe'.
- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket took the spacecraft into space. The spacecraft carried a total of six payloads.
- The spacecraft has been developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).
- Danuri, which means enjoy the moon in Korean, will study moon carters, magnetic fields, and surface weathering.
- Danuri mission includes taking measurements of the Moon's magnetic field, testing wireless internet from Earth to space, and looking for hidden sources of water and ice.
- Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) has joined hands with NASA for this mission.

## NASA is planning to send two more helicopters as part of its Mars Sample Return Program.

- Last year, NASA's first helicopter 'Ingenuity' collected 11 samples of MARS surface.
- NASA is sending two more helicopters to bring rocks and dust from MARS to the Earth.
- These helicopters will be similar to the Ingenuity but have the added

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ability to grab and transport small tubes filled with bits of Martian rock.

- They will be part of NASA's next mission in association with the European Space Agency for examining the rocks of Mars.
- The first helicopter 'Ingenuity' was part of the Perseverance rover. The rover collected the sample during its exploration of a crater named Jezero.
- These helicopters will carry the sample collected by the Perseverance rover back to the lander.
- These helicopters will be of almost the same size as Ingenuity but have small wheels at the bottom of the landing legs.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY AND DISEASES

### IIT Guwahati set up centre of excellence for biomedical device and diagnostics innovation.

- This centre of excellence for biomedical device and diagnostics innovation will help in developing indigenous products.
- The centre will develop devices to full fill the needs of rural areas with a focus on healthcare delivery to the last-mile population.
- The Centre of Excellence will also work on detecting biomarkers using microfluidic and semiconductor nano-biosensors to detect various non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- The Centre will also use frugal innovation related to biomedical devices.
- The ICMR centre of excellence will help in reducing the import of healthcare devices from other countries under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

### AlphaFold predicted and published the structures of nearly all proteins.

- AlphaFold is a tool developed by AI research company DeepMind Technologies.
- DeepMind Technologies has released the structure of more than 200 million proteins in association with the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI).
- It has predicted the structures of plants, bacteria, animals, and other organisms.

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- Proteins are complex biological molecules, which are made up of amino acids.
- The structure of the protein is very important for biologists. This three-dimensional information has been collected by using cryo-electron microscopes.
- DeepMind is an AI firm owned by Google's parent company, 'Alphabet'.

## INDIAN POLITY

### Election Commission of India has allowed 17 years old citizens to enroll in voter's list.

- Now the voters turning 18 on 1 January of a year need not wait to enroll in the voter's list.
- Those above the age of 17 can now apply in advance on 1 April, 1 July, 1 October and 1 January to get enrollment in the voter's list.
- The Election Commission of India, in pursuance of the legal amendments in **Section 14(b) of the RP Act 1950** and consequent modifications in **Registration of Electors Rules**, **1960**, has initiated the process to bring required changes to prepare/revise the electoral roll of Assembly/Parliamentary Constituency.
- ECI has given an optional provision to link Aadhar details with the form. These newly modified forms have come into effect from 1 August 2022.
- **61st Constitutional Amendment Act 1988** lowered the voting age in India from 21 years to 18 years. **Article 326** says that every citizen of India who is not less than 18 years of age is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

### Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 has been introduced to Loksabha for consideration and passing.

- Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 seeks to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- This bill will increase the number of protected species under this act. It will change the definition of 'Tiger and other Endangered Species' to 'Wild Life'.
- The bill will cover flora, fauna and aqua and also regulates wildlife trade as per the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The bill empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit

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the import, trade, and proliferation of invasive alien species.

- The bill also proposes to form a Management authority for issuing permits for the trade of scheduled species.
- The bill gives power to the central government to also notify a conservation reserve.
- The bill will change the current schedule for vermin species.
- The bill also has provisions of fines for General violations up to 1 lakh and for specially protected animals at least Rs 25,000.
- The bill has kept 131 mammals, 112 birds, 43 birds, 26 fishes, 63 insects, and 388 corals under Schedule I.
- 41 mammals, 864 birds, 12 reptiles, 58 insects, molluscs, and sponges have been kept under Schedule II.

## Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 has come into effect from 04 August 2022.

- It has empowered the Police or Prison Officers to take measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give measurements.
- Under the act, the National Crime Records Bureau of India has been empowered to collect, store and preserve the record of measurements.
- It has also been empowered for sharing, dissemination, destruction and disposal of records.
- The measurements include finger impressions, palm-print and foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis.
- Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 has replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920. Lok Sabha passed it in April 2022.

## Government tabled Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha.

- The bill has provisions for mandatory minimum use of non-fossil sources including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock.
- It also proposed setting up carbon trading markets and aims to achieve energy security.

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- It will bring large residential buildings under the ambit of energy conservation.
- It will help in reducing carbon emissions to the atmosphere and increase investments in clean energy and energy efficiency areas.
- The bill also seeks to enhance the scope of the energy conservation building code and increase members in the governing council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- The Energy Conservation Act (EC Act) was enacted in 2001 for reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

## ECONOMY/BANKING/FINANCE

### INDIAN ECONOMY

**Trade deficit reached a record high of $ 31 bn in July 2022.**

- In July 2022, India's trade deficit jumped to a new record high of $31.02 billion. The trade deficit was $10.63 billion in July 2021.
- Export decreased by 0.76% in July to $35.24 billion as compared to the previous year. The imports rose 43.6% to $66.3 billion from $46.2 billion.
- The merchandise exports has fallen 12.18% in July from the previous month.
- India's petroleum exports have decreased by 7 percent as compared to the last year. Exports of engineering goods have contracted by 2.5 percent and handloom products by 28.3 percent.
- The High global commodity prices is the main factor behind the widening of the trade deficit.
- This has put pressure on the rupee's exchange rate as of result Indian rupee reached at 80.05 per U.S. dollar on 20 July 2022.
- India's foreign exchange reserves have decreased by $70 billion from their peak of $642.45 billion.

**RBI hiked the repo rate from 4.90% to 5.4%.**

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.4%. Since May 2022, the repo rate has increased by 140 basis points.
- The increase in repo rate will increase the lending rates and EMIs of existing home loan customers.

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- The main aim of increasing the repo rate is to control the rising inflation.
- For the current financial year, the RBI retained its CPI inflation forecast of 6.7 per cent.
- RBI Governor said that the inflation trajectory will depend upon global markets and geopolitical developments.
- The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate will be 5.15 per cent while Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate will remain 5.65 per cent.
- The real GDP growth projection for 2022-23 retained at 7.2 per cent with Q1 - 16.2 per cent, Q2 - 6.2 per cent, Q3 - 4.1 per cent and Q4 - 4 per cent.
- GDP growth for the first quarter is projected to be 6.7 per cent.

## AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS

### The highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Rs 305 per quintal has been approved for sugarcane farmers.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the FRP of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September).
- The FRP for sugar season 2022-23 is 2.6% higher than current sugar season 2021-22.
- The decision will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related activities.
- In the past eight years, Fair and Remunerative Price has increased by more than 34%.
- The FRP is announced by the Central government. It is announced on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from sugar industry associations.

**About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):**

- In October 2009, Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 was amended.
- The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced by the FRP of sugarcane for the sugar season 2009-10 and onwards.

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- It is the benchmark price. No sugar mill can purchase cane from sugarcane farmers below this price.
- Some state governments announce State Advised Price (SAP) which is usually higher than FRP. These states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu.

### India's coffee exports hit a new high of US$ 1.04 billion in 2021-22.

- It is the first time that India's coffee export has crossed the billion dollars mark.
- In 2020-21, India's coffee export value was US$ 734.98 million. Coffee shipments have increased by 42% during this period.
- India export around two-thirds of the coffee it produced every year.
- India exports coffee to more than 50 countries around the world. Italy, Germany, Belgium, and Russia are the largest importers of coffee from India.
- India also exports coffee to Libya, Poland, Jordan, Malaysia, the US, Slovenia, and Australia.
- Karnataka is the largest coffee producer in India. It produces around 70% of the total coffee produced in India. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are in the second and third positions.
- Arabica and Robusta types of coffee are mainly produced in India. Due to its mild fragrant flavour, Arabica coffee has a higher market value than Robusta coffee.
- Brazil is the highest coffee-exporting country in the world. It is followed by Vietnam, Colombia and Indonesia.

## BANKING/FINANCE

### Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will be enabled to accept cross-border inward payments.

- As per RBI proposal, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will be able to make utility, education and other bill payments for their families in India through BBPS.
- According to RBI's bi-monthly Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, BBPS is currently accessible only for the residents of India.
- RBI has proposed to enable BBPS to accept cross-border inward payments to facilitate the NRIs in carrying out utility, education and other bill payments on behalf of their families in India.

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- RBI has also taken a decision to bring Credit Information Companies under the internal Ombudsman framework.
- Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an RBI conceptualized ecosystem driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI functions as the authorised Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU). BBPS Pilot was launched in the year 2016.

## GEOGRAPHY

### Earth broke its record of the shortest day by completing a rotation in 1.59 milliseconds less than its standard time.

- Earth completed a full spin in 1.59 milliseconds less than its standard 24-hour rotation on 29 July.
- Earth broke its previous record of 1.47 milliseconds, which was recorded on 19 July 2020.
- According to reports, it has been noted that in recent times earth's speed has increased.
- The main cause of the high speed of the earth is still unknown but scientists predict that speed has increased due to the processes in the inner or outer layers of the core, oceans, tides or climate change.
- Some scientists have speculated that the increase in Earth's speed is due to the "Chandler wobble" effect, which is a change in the Earth's rotation on its axis.
- The Earth usually takes exactly 24 hours to rotate once on its axis.
- The Earth takes 365 days and five hours to complete one revolution around the sun.

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### McKinney fire burned 51,000 acres within two days in Northern California.

- The blaze named the 'McKinney fire' is the largest fire in California this year.
- The McKinney fire started in Siskiyou County near the California-Oregon border on 29 July.
- It has spread over more than 51,000 acres near the city of Yreka. It has badly affected the Oak Knoll Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest.
- The McKinney Fire generated an enormous pyrocumulonimbus cloud, which reached up to 50,000

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feet into the troposphere and stratosphere.

- As the McKinney Fire intensified, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency. More than 2,000 residents were evacuated from the region.
- Two other fires burning in Siskiyou County -- the China 2 and Evans fire have burned more than 300 acres.

**Causes of fire forest:**

- Due to lightning and thunderstorm, forest fire incidents occur.
- Dried leaves are more vulnerable to fire and even a spark leads to a raging fire.
- It can be caused due to human carelessness like throwing cigarettes.

## 10 more Indian wetlands sites added to Ramsar Site list.

- With 10 more sites, the total number of Indian wetlands in the Ramsar Site list has reached 64.
- Now, India and China have the highest number of wetlands on the Ramsar Site list.
- The 10 new sites- six in Tamil Nadu and one each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The total 64 wetlands cover an area of 12,50,361 hectares.
- The designations will help in the conservation and management of wetlands as well as the efficient use of resources.
- India has set a target of 75 Ramsar sites on the 75th anniversary of independence. India signed the Ramsar Convention on 1st Feb 1982.
- Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were the first Indian wetland added to the Ramsar sites of India list in 1981.
- The list of newly added wetlands sites is as follows:

| Wetlands site | State |
|---|---|
| Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary | Tamil Nadu |
| Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve | |
| Vembannur Wetland Complex | |
| Vellode Bird Sanctuary | |
| Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary | |
| Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary | |
| Satkosia Gorge | Odisha |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Nanda Lake | Goa |
| Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary | Karnataka |
| Sirpur Wetland | Madhya Pradesh |

## MOUS/AGREEMENTS

### India signed six agreements with the Maldives for broad-based ties in key areas.

- Six agreements were signed in areas, including cyber security, disaster management, and infrastructure.
- India-Maldives reviewed the progress of the Addu Roads project, provision of water and sewerage facilities at 34 islands, and restoration of Hukuru Miskiy (Friday Mosque).
- PM Modi announced a Line of Credit of USD 100 million for the neighbouring nation for the timely completion of development projects.

**Maldives:**

- It is an island country located in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of Sri Lanka and India.
- It is the smallest island Asian country in terms of Area and the second least populous country in Asia.
- Capital: Male
- Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa
- President of Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

### Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bangladesh Roads and Highways department have signed an MoU.

- The MoU is for the emergency supply of petroleum goods via Bangladesh territory to India.
- The petroleum tankers will enter from Meghalaya. They will go to Tripura crossing through the Bangladesh territory.
- The IOCL will bear all the administrative fees and charges. It will also bear local taxes including road usage fees for use of the Bangladeshi territory.
- This is an interim setup to help with the urgent supply of

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petroleum products because of damage caused by the flood in Assam this year.

## Indian Institute of Science (IISc) signed an MoU with the Indian Navy.

- The MoU has been signed to collaborate on aviation research and development and to accelerate self-reliance efforts for the Navy.
- The MoU will give the Indian Navy a formal platform for communication with the relevant IISc faculty members and will support joint research initiatives in areas of common interest.
- Captain Sridhar Warrier, Registrar of IISc, and Captain P Vinayagam (APP), Indian Navy signed the MoU.
- The areas of cooperation under this MoU will include aerospace/aeronautical engineering including design and education technology.

**Indian Institute of Science (IISc):**

- It is a research university for higher education and research in science, engineering, design, and management.
- It is located in Bangalore. It was established in 1909.

# SUMMITS/ CONFERENCES/ MEETINGS

## Union Minister Sarbanand Sonowal inaugurated the Chahabar Day conference in Mumbai.

- Representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan took part in the conference.
- Chabahar port will be part of the International North-South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
- Chabahar port will open new avenues for India and Eurasian countries and it is an important pillar of India's Indo-Pacific vision to connect Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.

**Chabahar Port:**

- Chabahar is a port located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman.
- It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantri and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is strategically important for India as it provides connectivity to Iran and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

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- It is jointly developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan.

## Anti-Terrorism Committee special meeting will be hosted by India in October.

- India will host and chair the Security Council diplomats from 15 countries, including the US, China, and Russia, for a special meeting of the Anti-Terrorism Committee of 2022 in October.
- The meeting will be held in Delhi and Mumbai in October.
- India's two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council will end in December 2022.
- The issues related to the growing threats from new and emerging technologies will be discussed in the meeting.
- In the meeting, India is expected to highlight cross-border threats from Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- In addition, India has been pushing for the UN members to adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (first proposed in 1996), which is likely to be raised during the meeting.
- In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was set up in 2001.

# BOOKS AND AUTHORS

## Michelle Obama's book 'The Light We Carry' will be released in November 2022.

- It will be published by Crown on 15 November 2022.
- Michelle's first book 'Becoming' was an international bestseller. More than 17 million copies of the book were sold around the world.
- The book titled 'The Light We Carry' will be released in 14 languages and 27 countries.
- The book comprises a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power.
- Michelle Obama is the former first lady of the United States of America.

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**Sanjay Baru has authored a new book titled "The Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy".**

- The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.
- Its full title is "The Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy: Re-emerge, Reinvest, Re-engage".
- It is a part of the series that looks back at the past 75 years of independent India.
- It begins with a reference to British historian Angus Maddison and his book The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective (2001).
- Angus Maddison's book estimated that in 1700, China and India together accounted for half of the world's national income.

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

**Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, presented Agriculture Infra Fund awards.**

- The awards felicitate contribution of various Banks and States and different field functionaries to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.
- State Bank of India achieved first position among the best performing banks. It is followed by Punjab National Bank and Bank of India.
- In the second category, banks were awarded for their valuable contribution. In this category, Bank of Baroda achieved first rank.
- It is followed by Central Bank of India, Canara Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- In the Target Achievers Category, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank and Karnataka Bank were awarded.
- Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank was best among the best performing Regional Rural Banks.
- It was followed by Madhyanchal Gramin Bank, Maharashtra Gramin Bank, Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- In the state category, Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the best performing state.
- Andhra Pradesh recognised as best performer in sanction of PACS applications.

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- As the best performer in faster disposal of PACS applications, Karnataka was awarded.
- Rajasthan was declared the Rising State under AIF.

**Agri Infra Fund:**

- Its second foundation day will be celebrated next month. It was launched two years ago under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package.
- It was launched as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides medium-long term credit facility for investment in creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- This credit facility comes with financial support by way of three per cent Interest subvention from Government and credit guarantee by Credit Guarantee fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) fee up to two crore rupees.

## Venkaiah Naidu presented President's Colours to Tamil Nadu police.

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the award to the Tamil Nadu police for commendable service and many achievements.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of women police stations and the second highest number of women police personnel.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state to have a women commando force. It is the only State in the country to have an exclusive Idol Wing.
- Earlier, Tamil Nadu has received the prestigious President's Colours in 2009.

**President's Colours:**

- The President's Colours is the highest honour given to any Military/ State police for its exceptional service.
- It is also known as "Rashtrapati ka Nishan".
- Dr Rajendra Prasad presented the first "President's Colour" to the Indian Navy on 27 May 1951.

## Puneeth Rajkumar to be conferred the 'Karnataka Ratna' award posthumously.

- On the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava, the Karnataka Ratna award will be given posthumously to Puneeth Rajkumar on 1 November.
- He will be the 10th recipient of the 'Karnataka Ratna' award.

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- The Karnataka Ratna award was last given to Dr Virendra Heggade for social service in 2009.
- Puneeth Rajkumar was a film actor, who died last year. He acted in more than 29 films.

**Karnataka Ratna Award:**

- It was started in 1992 to recognize outstanding performance in any field.
- It is the highest civilian honour of the State of Karnataka.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Roshni Nadar continues to be the richest woman in India followed by Falguni Nayar.

- Beauty product focused brand Nykaa owner, Falguni Nayar, is the richest self-made woman with a net worth of Rs 57,520 crore, as per the Kotak Private Banking-Hurun list 2021.
- Nayar saw a 963% increase in her wealth in 2021. Nayar is the second richest woman overall.
- HCL Technologies' chairperson Roshni Nadar's net worth increased 54% to Rs 84,330 crore in 2021.
- Net worth of Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw declined 21%. She is third richest woman in the country with a wealth of Rs 29,030 crore.
- The list of 100 women includes only Indian women, who are born or brought up in India and who are actively managing their businesses or are self-made.
- These 100 women now contribute 2 percent of India's nominal GDP.
- Kanika Tekriwal (33 years old) of Bhopal-based Jetsetgo is the youngest self-made woman on the list.
- The list also includes three professional managers - Indra Nooyi, Renu Sud Karnad of HDFC and Shanti Ekambaram of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

### India has received the highest aid for trade from developed countries in 2020.

- The Joint Aid for Trade at a Glance 2022 report has been released by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- In 2020, India received $2.7 billion as aid from developed countries for trade. India received $3.9 billion in 2019.

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- Bangladesh is the second largest recipient of aid from developed countries, followed by Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Vietnam, and Pakistan.
- World Bank, European Union Institutions, and Asian Development Bank are the top institution donors.
- Japan, the United States, Germany, and France are among the top donor countries.
- In 2020, the total disbursement was $48.7 billion. Around $4.7 billion has been given for the Covid-19-related activities.
- Aid for trade is mainly for the least developed economies.

**ON TOP**

Five biggest recipients of trade and related disbursements, 2018–20

| Recipient | 2020 Rank | 2020 Disbursement (in $ bn) | 2019 Rank | 2019 Disbursement (in $ bn) | 2018 Rank | 2018 Disbursement (in $ bn) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| India | 1 | 2.74 | 1 | 3.86 | 1 | 3.57 |
| Bangladesh | 2 | 2.49 | 2 | 1.99 | 2 | 2.16 |
| Egypt | 3 | 1.79 | 3 | 1.75 | 3 | 1.94 |
| Ethiopia | 4 | 1.59 | 6 | 1.36 | 4 | 1.71 |
| Kenya | 5 | 1.31 | 5 | 1.49 | 8 | 0.94 |

Source: WTO

## Reserve Bank of India's financial inclusion (FI) index has risen to 56.4 in March 2022.

- The financial inclusion (FI) index has improved from 53.9 in March 2021 to 56.4 in March 2022. Growth has been witnessed across all the sub-indices of the FI Index.
- RBI had constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to measure the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- RBI had published it in August 2021 for the FY ending March 2021.
- The Index has been constructed without any 'base year'. It captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value.
- The value may range between 0 and 100. 0 shows complete financial exclusion and 100 shows full financial inclusion.
- It has three broad parameters: access (with a weightage of 35 percent), usage (with 45 percent weightage) and quality (with 20 percent weightage).

# PERSONALITY IN NEWS

## Freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya's birth anniversary celebrated on 2 August.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the stamp at a programme in New Delhi to mark the birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya,

- Pingali Venkayya was born on August 2, 1876, near present-day Machilipatnam town in Andhra Pradesh.
- Pingali Venkayya designed many models of the national flag. Mahatma Gandhi approved a design at a congress meeting in 1921.
- The national flag model presented to Mahatma Gandhi had two strips (green and red). On Gandhi's suggestion, a white stripe was added by Venkayya on top. It had charkha at the centre.
- Since 1921, this flag was used informally at all Congress meetings.

**Indian National Flag:**

- The National Flag of India has three horizontal strips of Saffron, white and green colour and the Ashoka Chakra is at the centre of the white strip.
- The flag was adopted on 22 July 1947 by the Constituent Assembly.
- The usage of the flag is governed by the Flag Code of India, 2002.

### Singer Nirmala Mishra passed away at the age of 81.

- Renowned Bengali singer Nirmala Mishra passed away due to a heart attack at her residence in Kolkata.
- Apart from Bengali, she also sang many songs in Odia and Assamese films.
- She was conferred with the 'Sangeet Samman', 'Sangeet Mahasamman' and 'Bangabhibhushan' awards by the West Bengal government.
- She was given the Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Award for her lifetime contribution to Odia music as well.

## APPOINTMENTS

### INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENT

### Auguste Tano Koume has been appointed as Country Director of the World Bank for India.

- He has replaced Junaid Kamal Ahmad, who recently completed his five-year term.
- Earlier, he served as Director of the Department of Human Development and Economic Management at World Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019.
- He served as Practice Manager in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal

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Management Practice of the World Bank.

- In FY 2021-22, India has taken a loan of $3.98 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and $83 million from International Development Association (IDA).

**World Bank:**

- It is an international financial institution founded in 1944.
- It provides loans and grants to governments of poor countries for capital projects.
- It is headquartered in Washington DC, the United States and David Malpass is its President.

## Somalia has appointed Mukhtar Robow Ali as Religious Affairs Minister.

- He is former Spokesman and Deputy Leader of the al-Shabab Islamist Group.
- Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected Somalia's President in May.
- Al-Shabab has waged an insurrection against Somalia's central government for 15 years.
- It is a Somalia-based Islamic insurgence group active in East Africa.

**Somalia:**

- It is a country in Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.
- It has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland. Its capital is Mogadishu.
- Its currency is Somali Shilling. Its Prime Minister is Hamza Abdi Barre.
- The first permanent central government was established in 2012. It is a federal parliamentary republic.

# NATIONAL APPOINTMENT

## Sanjay Arora has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the Delhi Police.

- He replaced Rakesh Asthana and assumed the charge on 1 August.
- Earlier, He had taken the charge of DG ITBP on 31 August 2021 as the 31st Chief.

**Delhi Police:**

- It works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

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- It is the law enforcement agency for the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT).
- The Delhi Police Act was passed in 1978, which introduced the Commissioner System.

## Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen assumed the additional charge of the Director General of ITBP.

- Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen is the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

**Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):**

- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India.
- It was created on 24 October 1962 under the CRPF Act, in the wake of the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. It guards Indo-China borders.
- It is also deployed in various internal security duties including anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.

## Shri Satyendra Prakash appointed as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

- Shri Prakash is a 1988 batch officer in the Indian Information Service.
- Prior to this, he served as the Central Bureau of Communication's Principal DG.
- He has represented the Indian government in a number of national and international organizations, including UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP.

**Press Information Bureau (PIB):**

- It is a nodal agency within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India.
- It was formed in 1919.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## Suresh N Patel has been appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioner.

- Suresh N Patel was appointed Vigilance Commissioner in April 2020. The post of Central Vigilance Commissioner was vacant for almost one year.
- President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Suresh N Patel.
- The central vigilance commissioner heads the Central Vigilance Commission. Nittoor Srinivasa Rau was the first Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India.

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- Praveen Kumar Srivastava and Arvinda Kumar have been appointed as Vigilance Commissioners in the Central Vigilance Commission by the President.
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

**Central Vigilance Commission:**

- It is an apex anti-corruption government body in India.
- It was established on the recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee.
- It was granted statutory status in 2003 under the Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003.
- The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 has provisions for the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee, comprised of the PM, Home Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

**Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Shweta Singh has been appointed as a director in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).**

- She is an IFS officer of the 2008 batch.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Shweta Singh's appointment for three years from her joining date.

**Prime Minister's Office (PMO):**

- It consists of the Prime Minister of India's immediate staff as well as multiple levels of support personnel who report to the Prime Minister.
- The PMO was formerly known as the Prime Minister's Secretariat until 1977, and it was renamed during the Morarji Desai ministry.
- Pramod Kumar Misra is currently heading the Prime Minister's Office.
- It was formed in 1947. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

**Oil India Limited appointed Ranjit Rath as chairman and MD.**

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- On August 2, Ranjit Rath has been appointed as Oil India Limited's (OIL) new chairman and managing director (CMD).
- Prior to joining OIL, he was working as the CMD of Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited, which comes under the Ministry of Mines.
- Oil India Limited is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

## SPORTS

### Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal in the Women's 49 kilogram event at Birmingham.

- Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam won second Silver medal for India in Women's 55 Kg category.
- Gururaja Poojary won the bronze medal in the Men's 61-kilogram finals.
- At the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, India defeated Pakistan by 8 wickets in women's cricket.
- Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's second gold medal in men's 67 kg weightlifting at Commonwealth Games 2022.
- India's Shiva Thapa lost to Reece Lynch of Scotland in Men's Boxing Light Welterweight category.

### "Games Wide Open" to be the official slogan of the Paris Olympic 2024.

- The shared slogan for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the "Games Wide Open".
- In 2024, Paris will host the Summer Olympics for the third time. It is scheduled to take place from 26 July to 11 August.
- Paris Olympics aims to be the most gender-balanced Olympic Games. Around 13 million tickets will be sold for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- India has won 7 medals in Tokyo Olympics including include 1 Gold Medal, 2 Silver medals and 4 Bronze medals.

| Olympics games | Venue |
|---|---|
| Olympics Games 2021 | Tokyo (Japan) |
| Olympics Games 2024 | Paris (France) |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Olympics Games 2028 | Los Angeles (United States) |
| Olympics Games 2032 | Brisbane (Australia) |

## Fourth ONGC Para Games inaugurated by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) organized fourth ONGC Para Games during 2-4 August 2022.
- Nearly 275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are taking part in the Games.
- These all are employees of eight central oil and gas public enterprises (ONGC, IOCL, GAIL, BPCL, MRPL, EIL, OIL and HPCL).
- ONGC Para Games were conceptualized and started by ONGC in 2017.
- ONGC organizes the Para Games on an international format with the help of the Paralympic Committee of India.

## India created history after winning the Lawn Bowls Commonwealth Games gold medal.

- India won the gold medal after defeating South Africa in the final of the Lawn Bowls competition at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. With this, it is the maiden medal for the country in Lawn Bowls.
- The Indian team of Roopa Rani Tirkey, Lovely Choubey, Pinky, and Nayanmoni Saikia beat South Africa by 17-10.
- The Indian table tennis team also won the gold medal, beating Singapore 3-1.
- In weightlifting, Vikas Thakur won the silver medal in the 96 kg category by lifting a total of 346 kg.

**Commonwealth Games:**

- The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games 2022 is being held in Birmingham from 28 July to 8 August 2022.
- The first Commonwealth Games was organized in 1930.
- The event is overseen by Commonwealth Games Federation.

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- The 2018 Commonwealth Games was organized in Gold Coast Queensland, Australia.
- It is organized every four years.

## England won its first UEFA Women Euro 2022 title.

- England won their first major women's football title after beating Germany 2–1 in the final of the European Championship after extra time.
- After Germany failed to score goal, Chloe Kelly scored the winning goal in the second half of extra time.
- The game ended 1–1 after 90 minutes at Wembley Stadium.
- In the 79th minute, Lina Magull scored a goal for Germany, and Alla Toon scored a goal for England in the 62nd minute.

**UEFA European Women's Championship:**

- It is the main competition in women's association football, which is conducted every four years between national teams of the UEFA confederation.
- It was founded in 1982. The first tournament was won by Sweden in 1984.
- Germany is the most successful team in this tournament with eight wins.

## Tejaswin Shankar became the first Indian to win a medal in the high jump at Commonwealth Games.

- Tejaswin Shankar has clinched the bronze medal in the men's high jump event at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- He won bronze by jumping 2.22m. He then tried to cover a distance of 2.28 meters in his third and final attempt but failed.
- Tulika Maan won the Silver medal in the women's Judo 78 kg category. It is the third medal in Judo in this edition of the Commonwealth Games.
- Indian weightlifter Gurdeep Singh clinched the bronze medal in the men's 109-plus kg category.
- Lovepreet Singh bagged a bronze medal in men's 109kg weightlifting.
- India's Saurav Ghosal clinched the bronze medal in squash men's singles by defeating James Willstrop of England.

## Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia, and Sakshi Malik won gold medals in Commonwealth Games.

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- Bajrang Punia won the gold medal in men's freestyle wrestling by defeating Canadian Lachlan Mcneil 9-2 in the 65kg category.
- In men's freestyle wrestling, Deepak Punia won the gold medal in the 86kg category by defeating Muhammad Inam of Pakistan 3-0.
- Mohit Grewal won the bronze medal in the 125kg category by defeating Jameson Aaron Johnson.
- Sakshi Malik won the gold medal in women's freestyle wrestling by defeating Canadian Godinez Gonzalez in the 62kg category.
- After losing 3-7 to Folasade Adekuoroye of Nigeria, Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the 57 kg category.
- Divya Kakran won the bronze medal in the 68kg category by defeating Tiger Lily Cocker Lemali.

## COMMITTEES/ COMMISSIONS/TASKFORCES

### Government constituted a special task force under the chairmanship of VK Paul to monitor monkeypox.

- The Union Health Ministry has formed a special task force to monitor monkeypox cases.
- NITI Aayog member (health) VK Paul will head the task force and officials from the health ministry and representatives from major medical and research institutes will be its members.
- This task force has been formed for the better management of monkeypox infections in the country. It will also coordinate with states and also provide them expertise.
- The Government has also released the ‘Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease’.
- According to this, monkeypox transmits through direct or indirect contact with body fluids or lesions of the infected person.

### SEBI has formed a 15-member committee to attract foreign investment.

- K V Subramanian has been appointed as chairman of this expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchanges depositories and RBI.

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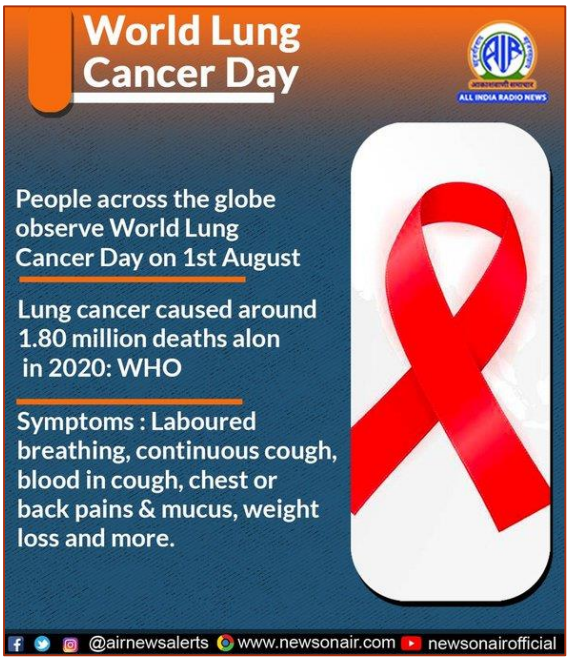
- The FAC will advise on issues related to investments and operations of FPIs in the financial markets, including measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India.
- It will review investment avenues available for FPIs. It will advise on the feasibility of new investment avenues.
- It will suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Lung Cancer Day: 1 August

- World Lung Cancer Day is observed on 1 August.
- It is observed to raise awareness about lung cancer and its early detection.
- It was first observed in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies in association with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and the American College of Chest Physicians.
- Out of all the cancer cases, lung cancer accounts for around 12.8%. Around 1.76 million people died due to lung cancer in 2018.
- The IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) is the largest organization to deal with lung cancer.




### World Breastfeeding Week is observed from 1st to 7th of August every year.

- World Breastfeeding Week was first started in 1992.
- It is celebrated to promote the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and the baby.
- In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as an important breastfeeding promotion strategy.
- Breast milk contains colostrum. Colostrum protects the newborn

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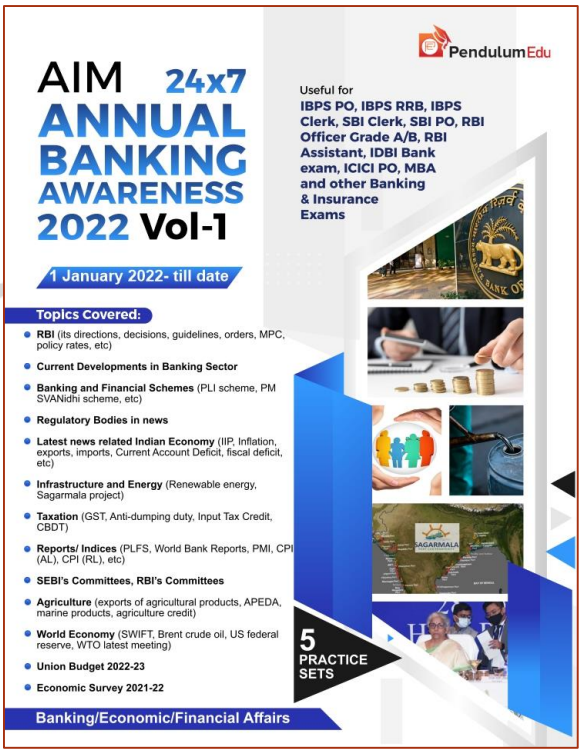
and children from sickness. It imparts them with immunity.

- Breastfeeding helps in sensory and cognitive development of infants. It reduces breast and ovarian cancer risks in mothers.
- The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2022 is 'Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support'.



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