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- MO BUS
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- NASA's CAPSTONE mission launches to the Moon

June 1

Q4 GDP growth decelerates to 4.1%

- As a result, full-year growth came in at 8.7% – a tad lower than the 8.9% pace projected in February. Gross Value-Added (GVA) in the economy is estimated to have grown 8.1% in 2021-22, slightly lower than the 8.3% projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) earlier.
- The GDP had shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, while the GVA had contracted 4.8% in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns.
- The Finance Ministry said the latest national income estimates 'establish full economic recovery' as real GDP in 2021-22 exceeded the pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20.
- The contact-dependent and employment-intensive trade, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting sector continued to languish below pre-pandemic levels, ending FY22 still 11.3% lower than 2019-20 GVA levels.

Looking at the UN report on the Taliban regime

- It adds that the terrorist groups are not likely to launch major attacks outside Afghanistan before 2023. Two India-focussed terrorist groups, Jaish-i-Mohammed (JiM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), are reported to have training camps in Afghanistan.
- Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) constitutes the largest component of foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, with their numbers estimated at 3,000-4,000.
- The monitoring team assists the UNSC sanctions committee. India is currently the chair of the sanctions committee, which comprises all the 15 UNSC members.
- Its report, circulated among committee members, informs the formulation of UN strategy in Afghanistan.
- This report – the 13th overall – is the first since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021.

Questioning the safety of Aadhaar

- It stated that the action was to avert any possibility of 'misinterpretation' of the (withdrawn) press release, asking people to exercise "normal prudence" in using/sharing their Aadhaar numbers.
- The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 states that Aadhaar authentication is necessary for availing subsidies and services that are financed from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- However, confidentiality needs to be maintained and the authenticated information cannot be used for anything other than the specified purpose.
- The NPCI's Aadhaar Payments Bridge (APB) and the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) facilitate direct benefit transfer (DBT) and allow individuals to use Aadhaar for payments. This requires bank accounts to be linked to Aadhaar.
- But more than 200 central and State government websites publicly displayed details of some Aadhaar beneficiaries such as their names and addresses.
- This means that this data could be potentially used to fraudulently link the rightful beneficiary's Aadhaar with a distinct bank account, embezzling the beneficiary by impersonation.

World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022

- The participation comes with India contesting the re-election to the ITU Council, for the term 2023-2026. India has been a member of ITU, since 1869 and has been continuously participating, actively in the works, and activities of the Union.
- The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community.
- The WSIS Forum 2022 started from 15 March onwards in a virtual format with the final week being held physically with enhanced remote participation from 30 May to 3 June 2022 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Theme for this year is ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs.

- The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators.

Fiscal deficit improves to 6.7% in FY22 on higher tax mop up

- Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said that the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was ₹ 15,86,537 crore (provisional).
- Tax receipts during the fiscal were at ₹ 18.2 lakh crore as against the revised estimates (RE) of ₹ 17.65 lakh crore, the data showed.
- Total expenditure too was higher at ₹ 37.94 lakh crore against the RE of ₹ 37.7 lakh crore presented to Parliament on February 1, 2021. The CGA further said the revenue deficit at the end of the fiscal was 4.37% for fiscal year 2021-22.
- The fiscal deficit of the Centre was contained marginally below the FY22 revised estimate, benefitting from the higher tax and non-tax revenue receipts and lower capital spending, which absorbed the deficit in non-debt capital receipts and higher revenue expenditure.

Centre releases ₹ 86,912 crore GST dues to States

- This was being done to assist States in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes, especially entailing capital expenditure, could be implemented successfully during the financial year.
- As a result, the States were now only owed GST compensation for one month – June 2022. States had been guaranteed a certain level of revenue for the first five years of the GST regime, which was introduced in 2017.
- This decision has been taken despite the fact that only about ₹ 25,000 crore is available in the GST Compensation Fund.
- The balance is being released by the Centre from its own resources pending collection of cess. The Compensation Cess is levied over and above the peak 28% rate on luxury or 'sin' goods, including cars.

Defence ministry inks contract worth Rs 2,971 Cr with BDL to procure Astra missiles

- Till now, the technology to manufacture missile of this class indigenously was not available.
- ASTRA MK-I BVR AAM has been Indigenously Designed & Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in coordination with the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Air to Air missile with BVR capability provides large Stand Off Ranges to own fighter aircraft which can neutralise the adversary aircraft without exposing itself to adversary Air Defence measures, thereby gaining & sustaining superiority of the Air Space.
- This missile is technologically and economically superior to many such imported missile systems.
- The missile, for which successful trials have already been undertaken by the IAF, is fully integrated on the Su 30 MK-I fighter aircraft & will be integrated with other fighter aircraft in a phased manner, including the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas).
- The Indian Navy will integrate the missile on the MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

NTPC's Biodiversity Policy

- This Biodiversity Policy is an integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy.
- NTPC was the first PSU to issue Biodiversity Policy in 2018. In the same year, NTPC became a member of the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI).
- The power major aims to mainstream the concept of biodiversity across NTPC's value chain.
- The company will further strengthen its current efforts to achieve a 'no net loss' of biodiversity at all of its currently operating sites.
- NTPC has also signed a five-year agreement with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles in the coastline of Andhra Pradesh.

India's Textiles Exports highest ever in FY 2021-22

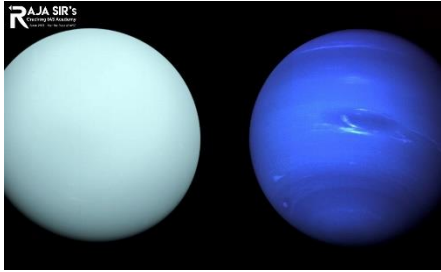
- USA was the top export destination accounting for 27% share, followed by EU (18%), Bangladesh (12%) and UAE (6%).

- In terms of product categories, the export of cotton Textiles was US\$ 17.2 Bn with 39% share registering a growth of 54% and 67% during 2021-22 over FY 2020-21 and FY 2019-20, respectively.
- Export of Ready-Made Garments was US\$ 16 Bn with 36% share showing a growth of 31% and 3% during 2021-22 over FY 2020-21 and FY 2019-20, respectively.
- Man-made textiles export was US\$ 6.3 Bn with 14% share which shows a growth of 51% and 18% during 2021-22 over FY 2020-21 and FY 2019-20, respectively.
- Export of Handicrafts was US\$ 2.1 Bn with 5% share reporting a growth of 22% and 16% during 2021-22 over FY 2020-21 and FY 2019-20 respectively.

June 2

Scientists explain why Uranus and Neptune have different colors

- Neptune and Uranus have much in common – they have similar masses, sizes, and atmospheric compositions – yet their appearances are in different shades of blue.
- At visible wavelengths, Neptune is a rich, deep azure hue, while Uranus is a distinctly pale shade of cyan.
- The reason is that the haze around Uranus is thicker than that around Neptune.
- Uranus's stagnant, sluggish atmosphere makes it appear a lighter tone than Neptune.
- If there was no haze in the atmospheres of Neptune and Uranus, both would appear almost equally blue as a result of blue light being scattered in their atmospheres.



U.S. defends supplying advanced rocket systems to Ukraine

- The M142 HIMARS, a light multiple rocket launcher, was developed for the US Army in the late 1990s. The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is mounted on a truck, and can carry a container with six rockets.
- The HIMARS can launch a medium-range rocket, but is also capable of firing a longer-range missile, the Army Tactical Missile System, which has a range of about 300 km.

Centre to hold sessions on rights of gig workers

- Gig workers are independent contractors, online platform workers, contract firm workers, on-call workers and temporary workers.
- The V.V. Giri Institute, the training arm of the Union Labour Ministry, is organising the programme aimed at sharing information and good experiences on policies and global practices relating to gig and platform workers and their social security.
- Examples such as social security for platform workers in the transport sector of Thailand and Malaysia, where there are online models under which 2% for every ride is deducted for health and accident insurance and for social security will be taken up during the session.
- Another issue that will be taken up is the employer-employee relationship in the context of the gig economy. Workers' employment relationships are not recognised in law in this case and gig workers are largely excluded from labour and social security rights.
- Though there are certain benefits for youth and migrant workers, such as quick money and flexible work hours in the gig platforms, uncertain working hours and insufficient income are still considered major issues that need governmental address.

HAL to convert civilian aircraft into refuelling tankers

- The IAI has expertise in undertaking such conversion. The overall process is expected to take at least three or four years. The IAF has been looking to procure mid-air refuellers for some time.
- Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets.
- It also allows aircraft to stay in the air much beyond their normal limits allowing better exploitation of the platform's capabilities.

NCW meet recommends helpline for abandoned wives of NRIs

- It also discussed ways to serve a non-bailable warrant against a male offender residing abroad who has abandoned his wife. Often, these men keep changing their address and it gets challenging to track them.
- So, it suggested that a special website be set up, so that summons posted there are deemed as served on a person. Another way to track them would be through their social security number.
- Other matters discussed were ex-parte judgments on divorce obtained by husbands abroad, which are already addressed under Section 13 of the Civil Procedure Code that deals with conditions under which foreign judgments are not conclusive, he said.
- The consultation did not, however, discuss whether India should sign the Hague Convention, which requires that if a parent has run away with a child from one country to another due to a marital dispute, the child has to be returned to the country from where he or she has been removed.

Govt to relax qualification criteria for tribal youth from Chhattisgarh for recruitment to CRPF

- Minimum educational qualification will be relaxed from Class 10 to Class 8 for the recruitment of 400 candidates from the districts. CRPF would impart formal education during the probation period to these newly recruited trainees.
- CRPF during 2016-2017 had raised one Bastariya Battalion by recruiting Scheduled Tribe candidates from four districts namely, Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma of Chhattisgarh.

- However, it could not yield optimum results as native youths from interior areas could not compete in the recruitment process due to non- fulfilling of requisite educational qualification i.e. 10th pass.

Centre allows cooperatives to sell products online

- The move will benefit 27 crore people associated with 8.5 lakh cooperatives. The micro and medium small industries will get buyers and it will boost the prospects of “Vocal for local” and Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- The cooperatives may, however, be charged a transaction fee to cover the incremental costs.
- The validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on the GeM – for pilot as well as subsequent scale-up – will be decided by the Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with the GeM SPV [Special Purpose Vehicle].
- The GeM started in 2017 is a one-stop portal to facilitate online procurement of commonly used goods and services. The portal is open for all government buyers – Union and State Ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions, local bodies and so on.
- Private buyers cannot buy on the platform but private people can sell products to government bodies through the portal.

Caste-based census to be held in Bihar

- All parties which have representation in the legislature attended the meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- It would be a “time-bound exercise and each and every detail of caste, sub-castes, community and religion will be taken care of for the development of all people”.
- Earlier, the Bihar Legislature passed resolutions twice for caste-based census and an 11-member all-party delegation too had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand the exercise.
- However, the Central government had rejected their demand saying it would be a “divisive exercise” but said “States can hold caste census on their own”.

- Once this exercise will be over in Bihar, the other States too may follow suit and the whole nation will be covered”, the Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, said.

GST Collections Touch ₹ 1,40,885 Crore For May, Rise 44% Year-On-Year

- This is only the fourth time the monthly GST collection crossed ₹ 1.4 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third month at a stretch since March 2022.
- Revenue growth from domestic transactions, including imports of services, outpaced revenues from goods imports after several months in May.
- Of the total revenue in May, Central GST collections were ₹ 25,036 crore, State GST ₹ 32,001 crore, and Integrated GST ₹ 73,345 crore, which included ₹ 37,469 crore from import of goods.
- GST Compensation Cess inflows, used to recompense States, amounted to ₹ 10,502 crore, including ₹ 931 crore from goods import.
- Revenue growth was buoyant across most States. As many as 20 States and Union Territories saw revenues rise faster than the 44% national average, including the major industrial States of Karnataka (60%), Maharashtra (50%) and Gujarat (46%).

June 3

India, Sweden host 'Industry Transition Dialogue' in Stockholm

- The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.
- It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
- The LeadIT initiative lays specific focus on hard to abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate action and require specific interventions.
- Japan and South Africa, the latest members of the initiative were welcomed. This extends the total membership of LeadIT to 37 including countries and companies together.

Liquid mirror telescope in Devasthal sees first light

- The telescope, staring at the sky overhead, will make sky surveys possible and obtain images that can help observe transient phenomena such as supernovae and record the presence of space debris or meteorites – basically, watch the skies.
- The telescope has been built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India.
- It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- A large pool of mercury placed in a vessel is spun around so fast that it curves into a parabolic shape. Since mercury is reflective, this shape helps in focusing the reflected light. A thin sheet of mylar protects the mercury from the wind.
- The first image made by the telescope consisted of several stars and a galaxy, NGC 4274, which is 45 million light years away.
- The telescope, having a primary mirror that is liquid, cannot be turned and pointed in any direction. It “stares” at the zenith and watches the sky as the earth rotates, thereby giving a view of different objects.

India, Israel adopt vision statement to further defence cooperation

- The two Ministers presented a joint declaration marking 30 years of Israel-India relations and reiterated their commitment to deepening defence ties.
- They discussed partnerships within the government-to-government framework, military training, and technological cooperation with a focus on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and defensive capabilities.
- A Letter of Intent on enhancing cooperation in the field of futuristic defence technologies was also exchanged between the two Ministers.
- The Ministers also discussed a cooperation agreement signed between the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's Directorate for Defence R&D.

This 24-year-old plans to marry herself in India's first-ever 'sologamy'

- Sologamy is the act of marrying oneself in a public ceremony, also referred to as self-marriage or autogamy. While such a marriage has no legal sanction or status, the symbolic ceremony is used by many as an act to emphasize their self-love and independence.
- Sologamy can be traced back to Linda Baker, a dental hygienist from the US, who married herself in 1993. It is widely considered the first publicized act of self-marriage.

Across the globe

- in present times, women can afford to live on their own, build their careers, buy their homes, create their own lives, have children if they choose.
- Women also frame self-matrimony as a unique solution to the problem of women sacrificing their own needs in a relationship. Marry yourself first, they say, before marrying anyone else.

'Har Ghar Dastak 2.0' campaign begins

- Incorporating the experience & learning from "HarGharDastak campaign" launched in Nov 2021, 'HarGharDastak 2.0' will be implemented from 1st June 2022 to 31st July 2022.
- The objective of the 'Har GharDastak2.0' Abhiyan is to vaccinate and cover the eligible population groups for first, second and precaution doses through door-to-door campaigns.
- Major focus will also remain on improving sub-optimal coverage of persons aged \square 60years with precaution dose, along with considerably slower speed of coverage in the 12-14 years cohort.
- The 'Har Ghar Dastak' Teekakaran Abhiyaan has been inspired by the successful strategy of Mission Indradhanush.

Gecko found in Andhra, Odisha turns out to be a new species

- The species, Eublepharis pictus, also known as the Painted Leopard Gecko, has been described in the journal Evolutionary Systematics.

- Researchers had initially identified the specimen, as an East Indian Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis hardwickii*). This new species appears to be common in the forests of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- The gecko genus *Eublepharis* now has 7 species. The new species differs from all members of the genus *Eublepharis* except for *E hardwickii*. Geographically the two species appear to be separated by the Brahmani River.
- Based on IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) conservation prioritization criteria, the researchers propose to list *E pictus*... and *E hardwickii* as Near Threatened (NT).

Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant of IFFCO at Kalol in Gujarat

- Liquid nano urea is essentially urea in the form of a nanoparticle. Urea is a chemical nitrogen fertiliser which artificially provides nitrogen, a major nutrient required by plants.
- Liquid nano urea is sprayed directly on the leaves and gets absorbed by the plant. Fertilisers in nano form provide a targeted supply of nutrients to crops, as they are absorbed by the stomata, pores found on the epidermis of leaves.
- The product has been developed at Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative limited (IFFCO's) Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) at Kalol. The liquid nano urea produced by IFFCO comes in a half-litre bottle priced at Rs 240, and carries no burden of subsidy currently.
- Apart from reducing the country's subsidy bill, it is aimed at reducing the unbalanced and indiscriminate use of conventional urea, increase crop productivity, and reduce soil, water, and air pollution.

Maruti Suzuki urges govt to reconsider making six airbags

- Airbags soften the impact of collisions by keeping occupants from coming into contact with the steering wheel, dashboard, front glass, and other parts of the automobile.
- In January 2022, Union Road Transport Minister said that "In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying upto 8 passengers, I have now approved a Draft GSR Notification to make a minimum of 6 Airbags compulsory." No timelines were mentioned then.

- Dual airbags (driver and passenger) became mandatory on all vehicles this January. A driver airbag has been compulsory for all passenger vehicles since July 1, 2019.
- Additional airbags are proposed in the 'M1' category of vehicles, with the aim of minimising the impact of "frontal and lateral collisions" to the occupants of both the front and rear compartments. As per the proposal, two side or side torso airbags, and two side curtain or tube airbags covering all outboard passengers, will be made mandatory.

'M1' vehicle

- Under the government's homologation rules, vehicles are bucketed into broad categories.
- 'Category M' covers motor vehicles with at least four wheels, used for carrying passengers.
- Sub-category 'M1' defines "a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat". This category effectively subsumes the bulk of the passenger vehicles on India's roads.
- Homologation is the process of certifying that a particular vehicle is roadworthy, and matches certain specified criteria laid down by the government for all vehicles that are built or imported into the country.

PM condoles passing away of INA Veteran Anjalai Ponnusamy

- Anjalai was once a soldier who served under the command of Netaji Bose, who led the Indian National Army in 1943.
- At the age of 21, Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment - the women's regiment of the Indian National Army.
- After the war ended with the Japanese defeat, the Indian National Army was disbanded, and Anjalai returned home to continue her life in Malaysia.

June 4

eSanjeevani' integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- The integration allows the existing users of e-Sanjeevani to easily create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) and use it to link and manage their existing health records like prescriptions and lab reports, etc.
- The users would also be able to share their health records with doctors on eSanjeevani which will help in better clinical decision making and ensuring the continuum of care.
- The integration of eSanjeevani with ABDM is one such example where the 22 crore ABHA holders can link and store their health records created via eSanjeevani directly in the health lockers of their choice. The users can also share their previously linked health records with the doctors on eSanjeevani making the entire consultation process paper-less.

Delhi airport to soon have RFID tags for check-in baggage for easy tracking

- Radio-frequency identification (RFID) is a technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify various tagged objects. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a wireless tracking method that uses tags and readers to track objects.
- Transponder, receiver, and transmitter are the three components of an RFID system.
- The RFID reader continually sends radio waves of a specific frequency in RFID system. If the object to which the RFID tag is attached is within the range of the radio waves, it provides feedback to the RFID reader, which then identifies the object based on the feedback.

Radio-frequency identification technology Vs barcodes

- RFID uses radio waves to communicate data from RFID chips to readers that do not require line of sight in order to obtain the data, whereas barcodes use light to read the black-and-white pattern printed on the sticky tag. An RFID tag can communicate with a powered reader even when the tag is not powered.
- When printed on paper or sticky labels, barcodes are more susceptible to wear and breakage, which can affect their readability. RFID tags, on the other hand,

are sometimes placed in plastic labels or into the object itself, making them more durable than barcodes.

- In contrast to barcode scanners, RFID scanners can process dozens of tags in a single second. Also, barcodes are simple and easy to copy or counterfeit, whereas RFID is more complicated and difficult to replicate or counterfeit.
- Unlike barcodes, which must in line of sight, RFID tags need not be.
- Also, RFID tags are expensive compared to barcodes.

D2M technology, and how could it change your mobile behaviour

- The technology, called 'direct-to-mobile' (D2M) broadcasting, promises to improve consumption of broadband and utilisation of spectrum. The technology is based on the convergence of broadband and broadcast, using which mobile phones can receive terrestrial digital TV.
- It would be similar to how people listen to FM radio on their phones, where a receiver within the phone can tap into radio frequencies. Using D2M, multimedia content can also be beamed to phones directly.
- It can possibly be used to directly broadcast content related to citizen-centric information and can be further used to counter fake news, issue emergency alerts and offer assistance in disaster management, among other things.
- More so, the content should stream without any buffering whatsoever while not consuming any internet data.

180-kilometre plant, the world's largest, found in Australia

- The ribbon weed, or *Posidonia australis*, has been discovered in Shark Bay by a group of researchers from Flinders University and The University of Western Australia.
- These researchers have also found that the plant is 4,500 years old, is sterile, has double the number of chromosomes than other similar plants, and has managed to survive the volatile atmosphere of the shallow Shark Bay.
- The ribbon weed covers an area of 20,000 hectares. The second largest plant, is the clonal colony of a quaking Aspen tree in Utah, which covers 43.6 hectares. The largest tree in India, the Great Banyan in Howrah's Botanical Garden, covers 1.41 hectares.

National Herald case: Rahul Gandhi returns to Delhi from abroad following ED summons

- BJP MP Subramanian Swamy had in his complaint in 2013 alleged that the Gandhis acquired properties owned by the National Herald by buying the newspaper's erstwhile publishers, AJL, through an organisation called Young India – a Section 25 company – in which they have 86% stake.
- As per the Companies Act, 1956, a Section 25 company – similar to what is defined under Section 8 under Companies Act, 2013 – is a not-for-profit charitable company.
- It is formed with the sole object of “promoting commerce, art, science, religion, charity, or any other useful object, and intends to apply its profits, if any, or other income in promoting its objects, and to prohibit the payment of any dividend to its members”.
- Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 includes other objects such as sports, education, research, social welfare and protection of environment among others.
- While it could be a public or a private company, a Section 25 company is prohibited from payment of any dividend to its members. Section 25 states that by its constitution the company is required/ intends to apply its profits, if any, or other income in promoting its objects and is prohibited from paying any dividend to its members.”

Keep eco-sensitive zone of 1 km around forests: Supreme Court

- Environment Ministry guidelines show that the purpose of declaring ESZs around national parks, forests and sanctuaries is to create some kind of a “shock absorber” for the protected areas.
- These zones would act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.
- The judgment observed that the government should not confine its role to that of a “facilitator” of economic activities for the “immediate upliftment of the fortunes of the State”.
- In a series of directions, the court held that in case any national park or protected forest already has a buffer zone extending beyond one km, that would prevail.

- In case the question of the extent of buffer zone was pending a statutory decision, then the court's direction to maintain the one-km safety zone would be applicable until a final decision is arrived. The court directed that "mining within the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall not be permitted".

ncc's puneet sagar campaign to culminate on june 5, 2022

- Puneet Sagar Abhiyan was launched by NCC to clean Sea Shores/Beaches and other water bodies including rivers & lakes, of plastic & other waste and increase awareness amongst the local population about importance of keeping the beaches and river fronts clean.
- The purpose of the Abhiyan is to educate locals and sensitise them about 'Swachh Bharat'.
- About 74,000 cadets from 10 States and 4 Union Territories will participate in the campaign during this phase. The NCC cadets shall also be joined in by NCC Alumni, locals and tourists in several places across the country.
- The waste collected during the campaign will be disposed of in an environment friendly manner in cooperation with Government/Private agencies.

The "SHRESHTA" Scheme was Launched by Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar

- The Scheme will be beneficial for SC students those who could not reach for higher quality education. It provides for high quality education for meritorious but poor SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools across the country.
- Approximately 3,000 seats are provided each year for admission in class 9th and 11th and the entire cost of the school fee and residential charges are borne by the Department.
- The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme are selected through a transparent mechanism through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS), which is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission in class 9th and 11th.
- Students belonging to marginalized income group within the SC community, whose parental annual income is upto Rs.2.5 Lakh are eligible.

- Successful candidates, after following the e-counselling process, are given admission in the school of their choice anywhere in the Country for their academic persuasion.
- The Department shall bear the total cost of the school fee and hostel charges till completion of their academic upto class 12th. There after the students of the scheme may avail benefits of other schemes of the Department for their higher education.

June 5

National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller campaign

- On the occasion, the Ministry of Tourism launched the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller Campaign.
- The Strategy document has identified the strategic pillars for development of sustainable tourism like Promoting Environmental Sustainability, Protecting Biodiversity, Promoting Economic Sustainability, Promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability, Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism, IEC and Capacity Building and Governance.

Health Minister Mandaviya to inaugurate Food testing Lab in Bihar

- This laboratory has been established under Indo - Nepal bilateral agreement to reduce the time in testing of imported food samples brought into Raxaul from Nepal.
- It will facilitate cross-border trade with Nepal through reduced time of testing and faster report generation for the imported samples.
- Earlier, all the imported samples having legal sanctity were being sent to National Food Laboratory, Kolkata, for the purpose of testing.

Gujarat villagers turn farm into wetland to save crane eggs

- The sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) is a large non-migratory crane.

- It is found in open wetlands in South Asia, seasonally flooded Dipterocarpus forests in Southeast Asia, and Eucalyptus-dominated woodlands and grasslands in Australia.
- The Sarus crane is the tallest flying bird in the world standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm. The sarus crane is easily distinguished from other cranes in the region by its overall grey colour and the contrasting red head and upper neck.
- The main threat to the Sarus crane in India is habitat loss and degradation due to draining the wetland and conversion of land for agriculture.
- Status: Listed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 of India and as Vulnerable on IUCN Red List.

Millions prepare to celebrate World Environment Day

- The day is observed to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth.
- It is observed on 5th of June every year since 1973 as part of the United Nations Environment Programme to build awareness to save life on planet Earth.
- World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5-16 June 1972), that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment.
- The theme of this year's World Environment Day is - only one Earth.
- "Only One Earth" was also the slogan for the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972.

Gait analysis the way you walk can point to your role in crime

- Gait is defined as a manner of walking or moving on foot. Gait analysis is a technique in podiatry medical care and the treatment of the foot, which is used to evaluate and diagnose conditions that affect walking and posture.
- The analysis can help experts zero in on the source of an injury or pain that determines the way in which an individual stands or walks. It can also be used by physiotherapists for treatment, and in athletics training so that athletes can perform better and in greater comfort.

- Gait analysis techniques have now been borrowed by forensic sciences experts to identify suspects in criminal cases. With footage from CCTV cameras becoming a crucial element in fighting and preventing a range of crimes especially in the cities, gait analysis has begun to be used as a tool for focusing on or eliminating individuals from a list of suspects.

Turkey rebrands as Türkiye at the United Nations

- Domestically, citizens refer to the land as Turkiye, but its anglicised version 'Turkey' was adopted internationally following the country's independence in 1923.
- Apparently, the country's government was not pleased with the Google search results that came up for the word 'Turkey'. Some of these results included the large bird that is served for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals in North America.
- The government has also had objections to Cambridge Dictionary's definition of the term "turkey"; "something that fails badly" or "a stupid or silly person".

other countries changed their names

- There are other countries that have changed their names either to drop colonial legacies or rebrand, as is the case with Turkey. Some examples include
 - The Netherlands, which was changed from Holland;
 - Macedonia, which changed its name to North Macedonia due to political disputes with Greece;
 - Iran, which changed its name from Persia in 1935;
 - Siam, which changed its name to Thailand; and
 - Rhodesia, which changed to Zimbabwe to drop its colonial legacy.

PM Modi to attend programme on Save Soil Movement

- Save Soil Movement is a global movement to increase awareness about deteriorating soil health and bring about a conscious response to improve soil.
- The movement was started by Sadhguru in March this year, who embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey passing through 27 countries.
- The Save Soil movement strives to rally the environmentally-conscious around soil conservation, advocating the power of individual actions for policy change and public engagement.

- Prime Minister's participation in the programme will be reflective of the shared concerns and commitment towards improving the health of soil in the country.

New Initiatives by GeM to promote sustainable public procurement of products and services

- Since the launch of Green Room Air Conditioners [RAC] in June 2021, GeM has taken a series of path-breaking steps to roll out new features and functionalities on the portal to promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable products and services.
- The purchase of Green RACs is on a voluntary basis. and the faster adoption of such products by government buyers will pave the way for realizing India's SDG target 12.7 - aims to "Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities."
- GeM has introduced "The Green Gold Collection", a dedicated online market store to showcase a range of bamboo accessories for potential use in the construction sector.
- GeM is working towards the launch of a new service "Green Transition Service" on the GeM portal for buyers who seek a structured framework to achieve carbon neutrality and aim for being net zero Carbon emissions in their operations.

PM Modi To Launch Global Event For Environment-Friendly Lifestyle Ideas

- The launch will initiate 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities & research institutions etc to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment conscious lifestyle.
- The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow last year.
- The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilisation instead of mindless and destructive consumption.

Govt To Launch 'Clean And Green' Campaign

- Under this campaign, Urban Local Bodies across the country will hold awareness programmes to free the country from single-use plastic and contribute to improve the environment.
- The Ministry also has issued a detailed advisory to State and Union Territories in this direction.
- In the advisory, the Ministry has instructed to ban Single-Use Plastic by 30th of June.
- The Ministry further said that States and Urban Local Bodies have to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with nearby cement plants or other industrial units.
- It also directed to ensure that a part of the plastic waste generated is used either as an alternative fuel in cement plants, or for road construction purposes.
- The advisory stresses on large-scale people participation to carry forward the message of Single-Use Plastics ban and enforcement.

June 6

China sends crewed mission to complete Tiangong space station

- The trio blasted off in a Long March-2F rocket at 0814 IMT from the Jiuquan launch centre in north-western China's Gobi desert, said broadcaster CCTV.
- The team is tasked with "completing in-orbit assembly and construction of the space station", as well as "commissioning of equipment" and conducting scientific experiments.
- The spacecraft docked at the Tiangong station after about "seven hours of flight".
- Tiangong, which means "heavenly palace", is expected to become fully operational by the end of the year. The completed station will be similar to the Soviet Mir station that orbited Earth from the 1980s until 2001.
- China's heavily promoted space programme has already seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the Moon.

75% of river monitoring stations report heavy metal pollution

- The report is an annual compendium of environment-development data and is derived from public sources. Of the 588 water quality stations monitored for pollution, total coliform and biochemical oxygen demand was high in 239 and 88 stations across 21 States – an indicator of poor wastewater treatment from industry, agriculture and domestic households.
- India dumps 72% of its sewage without treatment. Ten States do not treat their sewage at all, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Over a third of India's coastline that is spread across 6,907 km saw some degree of erosion between 1990 and 2018. West Bengal is the worst hit with over 60% of its shoreline under erosion.
- The reasons for coastal erosion include increase in frequency of cyclones and sea level rise and activities such as construction of harbours, beach mining and building of dams.
- While the global average of the Ocean Health Index, a measure that looks at how sustainably humans are exploiting ocean resources, has improved between 2012 and 2021, India's score in the index has declined over the same period.

Project to track small fishing vessels pending since 26/11

- Despite pilot studies being conducted, the project, conceived in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, remains stuck primarily due to two reasons.
- Fishermen don't want to get tagged as they do not want any of their illegal activities recorded and they are sceptical that others will get to know of where there is good catch. Second is that fishing is a State subject and there are local politics involved.
- There is no legislation to force fishermen to install the transponders and efforts by the Ministry of Fisheries to table the Indian Marine Fisheries Bill, 2021 which covers this has repeatedly been delayed due to the opposition from the States and fishermen.
- The Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., announced at the Tokyo summit last month an ambitious Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative to track "dark shipping" and to build a

“faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters” integrating three critical regions in the Indo-Pacific.

- There are two main regulations globally on IUU fishing – the Cape Town Agreement (CTA) and the Agreement on Ports State Measures (PSMA) – and India is, so far, not a signatory to both agreements.
- The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is for bigger ships, which was made compulsory for all vessels above 20 metres after 26/11 by the National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS).

India achieved 10% ethanol blending target in petrol months ahead of schedule: PM Modi

- This, he claimed, had led to a reduction of 27 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions and saved foreign exchange worth ₹ 41,000 crore. Farmers earned ₹ 40,600 crore in the past eight years due to increase in ethanol blending, Mr. Modi said.
- Last June, Mr. Modi made public the “Road map for ethanol blending in India, 2020-25”, which laid out a pathway for achieving 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26.
- The 10% blending target was to be achieved in November 2022.

India bangladesh joint military exercise “ex sampriti-x”

- Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.
- During the joint military exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.

World's first fishing cat census done in Chilika

- About twice the size of a typical house cat, the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is a feline known to even dive to catch fish. Wetlands are the favorite habitats of the fishing cat.
- They are found in 10 Asian countries but have stayed undetected in Vietnam and Java since the last decade or so.
- In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.
- The globally threatened cats are found in wetlands in major South and Southeast Asian river basins starting from the Indus in Pakistan till the Mekong in Vietnam and in Sri Lanka and Java.
- The fishing cat is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists the fishing cat on Appendix II part of Article IV of CITES. In India, the fishing cat is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

May sees worst FPI sell-off in over two years at Rs 44000 crore

- Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf.
- Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds.
- They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold. The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.
- Promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets.

What impact does an FPI sell-off have

- When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. As supply of the rupee in the market rises, its value declines.
- Their selling actions have triggered a significant decline in benchmark indices resulting in a drop in market capitalisation of companies.

stagflation impacting markets

- The most difficult problem for policymakers is when inflation runs high even as economic output either stagnates or, worse, shrinks. The slowdown in economic activity, in turn, leads businesses to shed jobs and the resultant situation is termed as 'stagflation'.
- One of the classic instances when most economies including the U.S. faced 'stagflation' was during the 'oil shock' of the early 1970s when an embargo led by the oil producers' cartel OPEC caused the price of crude to almost quadruple in a period of just under six months.
- While the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the curbs imposed to contain the spread of the virus caused the first major recent economic slowdown worldwide, the subsequent fiscal and monetary measures taken to address the downturn, including substantial increases in liquidity in most of the advanced economies, fuelled a sharp upsurge in inflation.
- The ongoing war in Ukraine following Russia's invasion of its southern neighbour and the consequent Western sanctions on Moscow have caused a fresh and as yet hard-to-quantify 'supply shock'.

June 7

Indian Army participates in Ex Khaan Quest 2022

- President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inaugurated the exercise.
- The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS.
- The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, and developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.

The debates around the Surrogacy Act

- As per the Surrogacy Act that kicked in from January this year, a married couple can opt for surrogacy only on medical grounds.

- The law defines a couple as a married Indian “man and woman” and also prescribes an age-criteria with the woman being in the age group of 23 to 50 years and the man between 26 to 55 years.
- Additionally, the couple should not have a child of their own.
- Though the law allows single women to resort to surrogacy, she should either be a widow or a divorcee, between the age of 35 to 45 years. Single men are however, not eligible.

Delhi, nearby areas to witness severe heatwave, IMD issues orange alert

- The IMD has issued an “orange” alert, warning of severe heatwave conditions, when the maximum temperature could jump to between 45°C and 47°C in parts of Delhi.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heatwave over the plains if the maximum temperature is 40°C or higher and 4.5 degrees above normal, with this criterion being satisfied over two consecutive days.

Week long Shital Sasthi festival comes to an end

- Sital Sasthi is a sacred Hindu festival is being celebrated in Odisha. This week-long special festival highlights the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. According to the Hindu calendar, Sital Sasthi is observed on the sixth day of the Jyestha month during the Shukla Paksha.
- People observing this festival believe that Lord Shiva represents the scorching heat of summer while Goddess Parvati signifies the first rain. So, this holy and lavish wedding is observed for a good monsoon.
- Sital Sasthi is a celebration wherein Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are adopted by two families, and their wedding is solemnised with the involvement of rituals. After the marriage is performed, the God and Goddess are then carried around the city via a procession
- During the week-long festival, devotees in large numbers take part in the most famous Sitala Sasthi Yatra that is conducted at Sambalpur in Western Odisha.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai has introduced a novel method to check the littering of plastic bottles inside its premises.

- Coinciding with the World Environment Day yesterday, the authorities of the state's biggest zoo have begun collecting a deposit of ten rupees each for every bottle of water from the visitors.
- The money is refunded if they return the empty bottle. The officials say the initiative has begun yielding good results.
- Meanwhile, the state environment minister Siva. V. Meyyanathan and health minister Ma. Subramanian in Chennai distributed the traditional cloth bags called "Manchappai," which means 'yellow bags,' to promote use of environmentally friendly carry bags instead of the harmful plastic bags.

Carbon Dioxide in Atmosphere Reaches Highest Levels in Millions of Years, NOAA Warns

- This has pushed the atmosphere further into territory not seen for millions of years.
- Prior to the Industrial Revolution, carbon dioxide levels were consistently around 280 ppm for almost 6,000 years of human civilisation.
- Since then, humans have generated an estimated 1.5 trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide pollution, much of which will continue to warm the atmosphere for thousands of years.
- Compared to the 280 ppm before the Industrial Revolution, the currently 420 ppm is 50% higher than those levels.

Mysuru's ATI signs MoU with NIUA and WRI India to facilitate Leaders in Climate Change Management Program

- To facilitate this face-to-face learning program, the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru, also signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIUA and WRI India, becoming the first delivery partner of the LCCM program.
- LCCM envisions capacitating 5,000 professionals, including mid to junior-level government officials and frontline workers, and preparing them to champion climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions towards a coordinated effort to achieve India's climate commitments.

- At COP26 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a five-fold strategy - Panch Amrit - to global leaders, extending India's co-operation to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius targets.
- The LCCM program, designed and implemented in partnership with the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) and Indian School of Business (ISB), aims to strengthen India's workforce to achieve this goal.

Amit Shah inaugurates newly built National Tribal Research Institute in Delhi

- The NTRI will be a premier national level institute and become the nerve-center of tribal concerns, issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields.
- It will Monitor projects of Tribal Research Institutes(TRIs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs), research scholars of NFS and set up norms for improvement in the quality of research and training.

Two primary school students infected with Norovirus

- Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that is also sometimes referred to as the 'stomach flu' or the 'winter vomiting bug'.
- It can be transmitted through contaminated food, water, and surfaces. The primary route is oral-faecal. It is similar to diarrhoea-inducing rotavirus and infects people across age groups. One may get infected multiple times as the virus has different strains.
- Disease outbreaks typically occur aboard cruise ships, in nursing homes, dormitories, and other closed spaces. According to WHO, an estimated 685 million cases of norovirus are seen annually, including 200 million cases amongst children under 5
- The initial symptoms of norovirus are vomiting and/or diarrhoea, which show up one or two days after exposure to the virus. Patients also feel nauseous, and suffer from abdominal pain, fever, headaches and body aches. In extreme cases, loss of fluids could lead to dehydration.
- Norovirus infection is associated with intestinal inflammation, malnutrition and may cause long-term morbidity.

- Diagnosis is done by real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

Prevention & precautions

- No vaccines are available for the disease.
- The basic precaution is repeatedly washing hands with soap after using the lavatory or changing diapers. It is important to wash hands carefully before eating or preparing food.
- During outbreaks, surfaces must be disinfected with a solution of hypochlorite at 5,000 parts per million.
- Those infected should avoid contact with others and avoid preparing food for others while sick and for two days after symptoms stop.
- Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and can withstand heat up to 60°C. Therefore, merely steaming food or chlorinating water does not kill the virus. The virus can also survive many common hand sanitisers.

Treatment

- The disease is self-limiting. The infection normally lasts only two or three days, and most individuals who are not very young, very old, or malnourished can ride it out with sufficient rest and hydration.
- It is important to maintain hydration in the acute phase. In extreme cases, patients have to be administered rehydration fluids intravenously.

India successfully tests nuclear-capable Agni 4 ballistic missile

- The two-stage Agni-IV surface-to-surface missile was flight-tested for its "entire range" from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast, at about 7.30pm.
- The tri-Service SFC already has the Prithvi-II (350-km), Agni-I (700-km), Agni-II (2,000-km), Agni-III (3,000-km) and Agni-IV missile units, while the induction of the country's first intercontinental ballistic missile Agni-V (over 5,000-km) is currently in an advanced stage.

- The road-mobile Agni-IV and Agni-V are primarily meant for deterrence against China, which can target any Indian city with its formidable inventory of long-range missiles.
- The Agni-V brings the northernmost part of China within its strike envelope. The shorter range Agni missiles, in turn, are designed for Pakistan.

June 8

Russian forces 'storm' Sievierodonetsk amid eastern Ukraine

- Located nearly 140 km south of the Russian border, Sievierodonetsk is one of the largest cities of the Donbas region.
- It is located near the left bank of the Siverskyi Donetsk river, and has a population of over a lakh.
- Administratively, Sievierodonetsk falls under Ukraine's Luhansk oblast (province).
- It is a big industrial hub known for chemical works and machine-building factories.
- If the city of Sievierodonetsk falls, then it will allow Russia to control the entire Luhansk region.



Glacial advances in the Yankti Kuti Valley synchronizes with climate variability

- Scientists of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology has reported first time the oldest glacial advance during 52 Kilo years from the Central Himalaya.



- They found that moisture-deficient valleys of semi-arid Himalayan regions respond sensitively to enhance precipitation. The study suggests a regional synchronicity of glacier response to climate variability since MIS 3. The study carried out was in accordance with the synoptic-scale, climatic perturbation triggered by the North Atlantic millennial-scale climate oscillations.
- The study can help enhance the existing knowledge of the relationship between Himalayan climate and glacier dynamics and can help assessing the role of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) versus westerlies in driving the valley glaciers in the Central Himalayan region.

DAC gives preliminary approval for procurement projects worth ₹ 76,390 crore

- This will provide substantial boost to the Indian Defence Industry and reduce foreign spending significantly.
- For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) at an estimated cost of approx. Rs 36,000 crore.
- The DAC accorded AoNs for manufacture of Dornier Aircrafts and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by the Navratna CPSE M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with focus on enhancing indigenisation particularly in indigenising aero-engine material.

- In pursuance of the Government's vision for digital transformation in Defence, 'Digital Coast Guard' project under 'Buy (Indian) Category has been approved by the DAC. Under this project, a pan India secure network for digitising of various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance and HR processes in Coast Guard will be established.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches single nodal agency dashboard

- The Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs' Iconic Week celebrations from 6th June to 12th June 2022 was launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- The SNA Dashboard forms part of a major public financial management reform that was initiated in 2021 with regards to the manner in which funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are released, disbursed and monitored.
- This revised procedure, now referred to as the SNA model, requires each State to identify and designate a SNA for every scheme.
- All funds for that State in a particular scheme will be credited in this bank account, and all expenses will be made by all other Implementing Agencies involved from this account.
- The SNA model, therefore, ensures that allocation of funds to States for the CSS are made in a timely manner and after meeting various stipulations.
- In order to give the stakeholders of SNA model the necessary feedback and monitoring tools in the operation of the schemes, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) has developed the SNA Dashboard.

Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches National Air Sports Policy

- Aerobatics; Aero modeling and model rocketry; Amateur-built and experimental aircraft;
- Ballooning; Drones; Gliding and powered gliding; Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
- Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping and wing suits etc.)
- Paragliding and para motoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.)
- Powered aircraft (including ultra light, micro light and light sports aircraft etc.)
- Rotorcraft (including autogyro)

four-tier governance structure for air sports in India namely

- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body
- National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate
- Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
- District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

Key Objectives

- Promote an air sports culture in the country
- Enable adoption of international good practices in safety including but not limited to, air sports infrastructure, equipment, operations, maintenance and training
- Develop a simple, stakeholder-friendly and effective governance structure
- Enhance participation and success of Indian sportspersons in global air sports events; and
- Promote design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment in India in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Ceramic implants can regenerate broken bones

- When people need a bone replacement following a fracture, it is often based on a metal part. But metal parts are sometimes toxic over time, and will not help the original bone regrow.
- Calcium phosphate ceramics are substitutes for the bone mineral hydroxyapatite. However, applications of such ceramics in medical settings have been limited, because there is insufficient control over the rate of absorption and replacement by bone after implantation.
- Now, in a study recently published in Science and Technology of Advanced Materials, researchers from TMDU and collaborators have studied the transformation of a ceramic into the bone mineral.
- This work will help move bone regeneration research from laboratories to medical use.
- The releases said the results of this study are important for healing bone fractures after surgery. By using chemical insights to optimise the rate of bone reformation after implantation of calcium phosphate ceramics, patient

outcomes will improve, and returns to the hospital years later for further repairs will be minimised.

CDS selection pool widened: Rtd, serving 3-star officers too eligible

- The Ministry of Defence has issued three separate notifications amending the rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff CDS.
- Serving Three-star officers Lieutenant General in Army, Air Marshal in Air Force and Vice-Admiral in Navy or retired Service Chiefs or three-star officers can be appointed Chief of Defence Staff if considered necessary in the public interest.
- The Officers should not have attained the age of 62 years.
- The CDS post has been lying vacant since the passing away of General Bipin Rawat who lost his life in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu on 8th December last year.

Change In Government Policy, If Reasonable And In Public Interest, Would Prevail Over Individual Interests: Supreme Court

- The judgment said that “in the case of conflict between public interest and personal interest, public interest should prevail... a change in policy by the Government can have an overriding effect over private treaties between the government and a private party, if the same was in the general public interest and provided such change in policy was guided by reason”.
- The case concerned the recovery of an additional 64.7% in payment from persons allotted plots by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

PM urges bank chiefs to make loan process easier

- He said the new portal would make life easier for farmers, students and entrepreneurs as they could assess which scheme worked best for them, on that platform instead of visiting various websites.
- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said as of now, 12 credit schemes that granted credit from banks were on the portal, to ensure that citizens need not answer the same questions whenever they applied for schemes.

June 9

RBI hikes repo rate by 50 bps as inflationary pressures intensify

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90%. The earlier repo rate was 4.40% after the rates were increased by 40 basis points at an off-cycle meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- The RBI also revised the inflation projection for FY23 to 6.7 percent from 5.7 percent earlier.
- The RBI also left its FY23 GDP growth forecast unchanged at 7.2%.
- The Standing Deposit Facility and Marginal Standing Facility rates also raised by 50 basis points. Standing Deposit Facility rate is now 4.65 per cent, while Marginal Standing Facility rate is at 5.15 percent.
- The Repo rate hike will force banks and non-banking finance companies to increase repo-linked lending rates and minimum cost of funds based lending rates (MCLR) further. This is because the cost of funds of banks will rise with the Repo rate hike.
- The net result will be a further rise in equated monthly instalments (EMIs) of existing borrowers. Moreover, new home, vehicle and personal loans will also become costlier.
- Consumption and demand can be impacted by the Repo rate hike.
- Banks will also have to increase the deposit rates in the coming months.

RBI proposes linking of credit cards with UPI

- The integration will first begin with the indigenous RuPay credit cards.
- Both the RuPay network and UPI are managed by the same organisation - the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The linkage of UPI and credit cards could possibly result in credit card usage zooming up in India given UPI's widespread adoption.

- The integration also opens up avenues to build credit on UPI through credit cards in India, where in the last few years, a number of startups like Slice, Uni, One etc. have emerged.
- The move could also be a push to increase adoption by banking on UPI's large user base.

Tamil Nadu sculptures recovered from Australia, US

- **Dvarapala:** This stone sculpture belongs to the Vijayanagar dynasty dating to the 15th-16th century. He is holding a gada in one hand and has another leg raised up to the level of his knee.
- **Nataraja:** This image of Nataraja, a depiction of Shiva, in his divine cosmic dance form, is in tribhanga posture, standing on the lotus pedestal. Possibly, ananda tandava or the Dance of Bliss is portrayed here.
- **Kankalamurti:** Kankalamurti is depicted as a fearsome aspect of Lord Shiva and Bhairava. The sculpture is four-armed, holding ayudhas such as damaru and trishula in the upper hands and a bowl and a trefoil shaped object, as a treat for the playful fawn, in the lower right hand.
- **Nandikeshvara:** This bronze image of Nandikeshvara, dateable to the 13th century, is shown standing in tribhanga posture with folded arms, holding an axe and a fawn in the upper arms, with his forearms in namaskara mudra.
- **Standing child Sambandar:** Sambandar, the popular 7th-century child saint, is one of the Muvar, the three principal saints of South India. THE legend goes that after receiving a bowl of milk from Goddess Uma, the infant Sambandar devoted his life to composing hymns in praise of Lord Shiva.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released the 4th State Food Safety Index

- SFSI was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
- The SFSI measures the performance of States on the basis of five parameters of food safety set by the Health Ministry.
- The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- This year, among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.
- The Health Minister also felicitated 11 winning smart cities of the EatSmart Cities Challenge, launched by FSSAI last year in association with the Smart Cities Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned India's efforts to create 'green jobs'.

- 'Green jobs' refer to a class of jobs that directly have a positive impact on the planet, and contribute to the overall environmental welfare.
- Jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means are categorised under the same. In all, they're aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.
- Awareness and training individuals regarding green jobs skills will ensure limiting greenhouse gas emissions, minimising waste and pollution, protect and restore ecosystems, support adaptation to the effects of climate change.
- The Skill Council for Green Jobs was launched by the Union government on October 1, 2015.
- Aligned to the National Skill Development Missions, it was set up to be a not-for-profit, independent, industry-led initiative.
- Promoted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the council aims to help manufacturers and other service providers in India's 'green business' sector to implement industry-led, collaborative skills push the country on the path to truly realising the real potential and significance of 'green jobs'.
- According to the ILO, India moving to a green economy by the next decade would alone create about 3 million jobs in the renewable energy sector. The renewable energy sector created about 47,000 new jobs in 2017 accounting for a 12% increase in just the span of a year, they said.

- The International Labour Organisation, the International Trade Union Confederation, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Employers Organisation collectively launched the Green Jobs Initiative in 2008, aimed at bettering placements, training and creating opportunities for individuals to work in 'green jobs'.

Environmentalists join forces to fight 'carbon bomb' fossil fuel projects

- The usage of the term 'carbon bombs' picked up after an investigative project of The Guardian from May 2022. Defining the term in its report, The Guardian said that it is "an oil or gas project that will result in at least a billion tonnes of CO2 emissions over its lifetime."
- Whenever coal, oil, or gas is extracted it results in pollution and environmental degradation. Further, carbon emissions take place in particularly large amounts when fuel is burned.
- In total, around 195 such projects have been identified world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India. According to the report, they will collectively overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- Apart from coal, oil, and gas operations, the report highlighted the threat of methane, which "routinely leaks from gas operations and is a powerful greenhouse gas, trapping 86 times more heat than CO2 over 20 years".

Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).

- The network working towards this goal of '**defusing**' **carbon bombs** is called Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).
- Its mission is to "leave fossil fuels in the ground and learn to live without them."
- It believes the root of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, and the 100% use of renewable energy sources is the solution.
- On its website, it has listed carbon bomb projects from all over the world. This includes the Carmichael Coal Project owned by the Adani Group, Gevra Coal Mines in Chhattisgarh owned by Coal India, and Rajmahal Coal Mines in eastern Jharkhand owned by Eastern Coalfields.

- LINGO aims to organise ground support for protesting such projects, challenge them through litigation, and conduct analysis and studies for the same.

World Brain Tumour Day is being observed on June 08, 2022.

- It is observed to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours. The day also pays tribute to those affected by brain tumours.
- The German Brain Tumor Association started this international commemoration day in the year 2000 as a tribute to all brain tumour patients and their families.
- A brain tumour occurs when cells grow at an abnormal rate to form a mass of abnormal cells within the brain.
- There are two main types of tumours-cancerous tumours and non-cancerous tumours.
- Some common symptoms of brain tumor are headaches, seizures, problem with vision, vomiting, and mental changes. Patient may feel headache and vomiting in the morning.
- More specific problems may include difficulty in walking, speaking and sensation.
- Brain tumour can be a life-threatening disease but completely treatable. Some of the common treatments of brain tumour include surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, anti-seizure medication, steroid treatment, etc.
- On a global scale, 330,000 children and adults worldwide are diagnosed with cancer of the central nervous system in one year.

World Ocean Day was observed on June 8, 2022 with the theme for this year is "Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean".

- The Day is celebrated every year on June 8.
- The Day was proposed in 1992 and was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.
- The purpose of the Day is to raise public awareness on Oceans and its resources and also to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean.

- The ocean covers over 70 percent of the planet. According to the UN, oceans produce about 50 percent of the planet's oxygen and are home to earth's biodiversity.
- It is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world.
- The ocean is key to economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

June 10

Rhino reintroduction a hit in Assam Reserves

- Manas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tiger reserve, had about 100 resident rhinos prior to 1990, but a prolonged ethno-political conflict thereafter took a heavy toll with extremist groups known to have traded the horns of the herbivores for weapons.
- A rhino reintroduction programme under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was started in 2006.
- This entailed the translocation of rhinos from Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary besides orphans hand-reared at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation at Kaziranga.
- The current rhino population in the Manas National park was estimated at 40 after the census on April 1 and 2.

CCEA approves increase in MSP for all intended Kharif crops

- The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for Sesamum 523 rupees per quintal, Moong 480 rupees per quintal, Sunflower seed 385 rupees per quintal, Tur, Urad and Groundnut 300 rupees per quintal, Cotton (Medium Staple) 354 rupees and Cotton (Long Staple) 355 rupees.
- The approved rates are at least one and half times of the all India weighted average cost of production. It will lead to greater investment and production. It will also provide assured remunerative prices for the farmers.

UN nuclear watchdog passes resolution criticizing Iran

- The resolution was submitted by the UK, France, Germany and the US to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was backed by 30 countries.
- Only Russia and China opposed the move. Iran condemned the resolution.
- The motion is the first to chide Iran over its nuclear ambitions since 2020. It comes as talks to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remain stalled.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Though IAEA was established as an autonomous organization on 29 July 1957 through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- It is based in Vienna.

India set to reintroduce South African cheetah in a wildlife to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno-Palpur National Park by August this year.

- A 10 sq km enclosure has reportedly been readied in the national park and would soon house at least 6 cheetahs.
- A senior official from the ministry said that a plan is underway to introduce 8-10 cheetahs every year. The cheetah is the only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India, primarily due to hunting and habitat loss. In 1952, the Indian government officially declared the Cheetah extinct in the country.
- There are two sub-species of cheetahs recognized today, the Asiatic (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) and the African (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*).
- If the re-introduction of cheetahs into the wild is successful, it would mark the culmination of a decades-long process. The State Wildlife Board of Andhra Pradesh was the first to suggest the policy in 1955, on an experimental basis in two districts of the state.

Fast Radio Burst (FRB): Scientists discover a second mystery signal from space

- The scientists used the National Science Foundation's Karl G Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) and other telescopes to study the object.
- FRBs are bright flashes of light that appear for a few milliseconds and then vanish.
- Since the first FRB was discovered in 2007, 140 more were discovered until June 2021, according to a post on the MIT website.
- Their origins are unknown, and their appearance is unpredictable.
- The new study in Nature describes FRB 20190520B, first discovered in 2019. What makes it different is that unlike many other FRBs, it emits frequent, repeating bursts of radio waves. And between bursts, it constantly emits weaker radio waves.
- Only one FRB has been previously observed to behave this way. Called FRB 121102, that was discovered in 2012.

Narendra Modi Inaugurates Biotech Startup Expo 2022

- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that India's bio-economy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years. "We have grown from \$10 billion to \$80 billion. India is not too far from reaching the league of top-10 countries in Biotech's global ecosystem", he said.
- The Prime Minister also noted the contribution of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in the development of the sector in the country.
- There are, the Prime Minister said, five big reasons why India is being considered a land of opportunities in the field of biotech.
 - First- diverse population and diverse climatic zones, Second- India's talented human capital pool, Third- increasing efforts for ease of doing business in India.
 - Fourth- The demand for Bio-Products is increasing continuously in India and fifth- India's Biotech Sector and its track record of success.

Rajnath Singh hands over 12 high-speed guard boats to Vietnam

- The boats have been constructed under the Government of India's \$US 100 million Defence Line of Credit to Vietnam.
- The initial five boats were built in the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard in India and the other seven in Hong Ha Shipyard.
- The Raksha Mantri is on a three-day official visit to Vietnam. Both sides signed a 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' to enhance defence cooperation.
- An MoU to simplify procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support was also inked between the two countries.

Union govt launches Rashtriya Puruskar Portal

- This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards under one digital platform.
- The Portal aims to facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards instituted by the Government of India.

India planning to launch offshore wind energy projects

- During the meeting, transmission and evacuation infrastructure required for offshore wind projects of total capacity 10 GW off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, was discussed.
- It was decided to bid out offshore wind energy blocks as per the following trajectory:
 - Bids equivalent to a project capacity of 4.0 GW per year for a period of three years starting with the current FY 22-23 for development off the coast of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat for sale of power through open access / captive / bi-lateral third party sale / merchant sale
 - Subsequently a project capacity of 5 GW will be bid out every year for a period of five years i.e. up till FY 29-30.
- The project capacity of 8 GW bid out in the first two years beginning FY 22-23 will also be able to avail of the benefits of green attributes like carbon credits.
- Evacuation and transmission of power from offshore pooling Substation (PSS) to onshore transmission will be provided free of cost for all offshore wind capacities that will be bid out up to FY 29-30.

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy through its implementing agency will issue the first bid in the next three - four months for leasing out offshore wind energy blocks equivalent to 4.0 GW capacity off the coast of Tamil Nadu.

June 11

Coal can't be used as fuel in Delhi-NCR from next year

- Once the ban is in force, coal can no longer be used for industrial or domestic purposes, but thermal power plants will be exempted from the ban. From October 1, 2022 onward, a ban on coal use will be applicable in areas where PNG infrastructure and supply is already available.
- The move is meant to phase out the use of coal as a fuel to deal with concerns of air pollution across the NCR.
- According to a study done by The Energy and Resources Institute in 2018, within the 30 per cent contribution of the industrial sector in PM2.5 level in winter in Delhi, industries using coal, biomass, pet-coke and furnace oil contributed around 14 per cent, while 8 per cent was contributed by the brick manufacturing sector, 6 per cent by power stations, and 2 per cent by stone crushers.

Vale do Javari - Amazon's remote, 'uncontacted' frontier where a British journalist went missing

- The duo were last seen in Vale do Javari – the western section of the Brazilian Amazon named after the Javari river, which forms the country's border with Peru.
- British journalist Dom Phillips and a Brazilian indigenous affairs expert, Bruno Araujo Pereira, recently went missing in a remote corner of the Amazon rainforest.
- The duo were last seen in Vale do Javari – the western section of the Brazilian Amazon named after the Javari river, which forms the country's border with Peru.

- The region is home to “the greatest concentration of isolated groups in the Amazon and the world”. Vale do Javari also forms part of an international cocaine trafficking route, with gold being exchanged for drugs and arms, consequently making it a hotspot for violent crimes.



Analysis finds little proof that testosterone treatment increases the risk of cardiovascular events

- Analysis of data from more than 3,400 patients with hypogonadism from 17 clinical trials found little evidence that testosterone treatment increases the risk of cardiovascular events such as arrhythmia, heart attack, and stroke, in the short to medium terms.
- Testosterone replacement therapy is the standard treatment for hypogonadism, which can cause sexual dysfunction, weakening of bones and muscles, and reduced quality of life. Risk factors include ageing (as testosterone levels decline with age), obesity and diabetes.

India's first Covid-19 vaccine for animals

- Developed by the Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines, the vaccine, called Ancovax, can protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- Ancovax can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant. In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.
- This is the first Covid-19 vaccine for animals developed in India.

Greenfield Airport in Rajkot; AAI undertakes construction work

- The location of new airport is approximately 30 kms from Rajkot city and on Rajkot-Ahmadabad highway.
- The terminal façade design is influenced from the existing Palaces of Rajkot like the Ranjit Vilas Palace, integrating traditional elements into a contemporary form.
- The ceramic industry of Morbi and other industries of Jamnagar also depend on Rajkot for air connectivity.

Amyloidosis, The Health Condition Pervez Musharraf Is Suffering From

- Amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when an abnormal protein, called amyloid, builds up in one's organs, affecting their shape and functioning.
- Amyloid deposits can build up in the heart, brain, kidneys, spleen and other parts of the body, leading to life-threatening conditions like organ failure.
- Amyloid isn't normally found in the body, but can be formed from several different types of proteins. Some varieties of amyloidosis occur in association with other diseases.
- These types may improve with treatment of the underlying disease. Some varieties of amyloidosis may lead to life-threatening organ failure.

Different amyloidosis

- Light-chain (AL) amyloidosis: People with conditions such as multiple myeloma or a bone marrow illness are more likely to have AL amyloidosis.
- Another type is the AA amyloidosis. Previously known as secondary amyloidosis, this condition is the result of another chronic infectious or inflammatory disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis.

Chelonoidis phantasticus, a giant tortoise species discovered after a century

- Named Fernanda after her Fernandina Island home, the tortoise is the first of her species, *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, to be identified in more than a century.
- *Chelonoidis phantasticus* means "fantastic giant tortoise". Commonly called the Fernandina Island Galápagos giant tortoise, the species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in 1906.

- Although Fernanda was found on Fernandina Island itself, and although tortoises can't swim from one island to another, they can be carried from one Galápagos island to another during major storms.

India is last in environmental performance index for 2022

- The EPI is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health.
- It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University Center for International Earth Information Network.
- EPI 2022 uses 40 performance indicators to assess and rank 180 countries. The 40 indicators are under the broad categories of climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.
- With a rank of 180 and a score of 18.9, India has fallen from rank 168 and a score of 27.6 in 2020. India comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar, the poorest performers. Denmark tops the list with a score of 77.9.
- The Environment Ministry of India has issued a rebuttal saying the indicators used in the assessment are based on "unfounded assumptions".

PM Modi To Visit Dehu On June 14 For Inauguration Of Shila Temple

- Shila refers to a rock that is currently on the Dehu Sansthan temple premises, and that for centuries has been the starting point of Wari, the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur.
- The Bhakti saint Sant Tukaram had sat on this piece of rock for 13 continuous days when challenged about the authenticity of the Abhyangs he had written.
- prior to this, the saint had immersed his entire work in the Indrayani river; the work miraculously reappeared after 13 days, proving their authenticity.
- Sant Tukaram and his work are central to the Warkari sect spread across Maharashtra. His message about a casteless society and his denial of rituals had led to a social movement. Sant Tukaram is credited with starting the Wari pilgrimage.

PM inaugurates headquarters of IN-SPACE at Bopal

- The establishment of IN-SPACE was announced in June 2020.
- It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities. It also facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.
- The programme also witnessed the exchange of MoUs between IN-SPACE and private sector companies working in the field of space-based applications and services.

June 12

WTO Ministerial Conference to begin from June 12 in Geneva

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation in the Conference.
- The key areas of discussions and negotiations in this year's conference include WTO's response to the pandemic, Fisheries subsidies negotiations and Agriculture issues including Public Stockholding for Food security.
- Regarding intellectual property, India seeks: (i) a recognition of the difficulties faced by developing countries and LDCs in utilising TRIPS flexibilities to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and (ii) a reaffirmation of the TRIPS waiver decision under the responses' declaration.
- India is a founding member of the WTO since 1 January 1995 and a member of GATT since 8 July 1948.

Buddha relics to be taken to Mongolia, Rijju to lead team

- The Holy Relics will be displayed at the Batsagaan Temple within the premises of Gandan Monastery. The Holy Buddha relics, currently housed in the National Museum, are known as the 'Kapilvastu Relics' since they are from a site in Bihar first discovered in 1898 which is believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu.

- It is another historic milestone in India-Mongolia relations and will further boost cultural and spiritual relations between the two countries.
- Modi was the first-ever Prime Minister of India to visit Mongolia in 2015.
- Kapilavastu was an ancient city on the Indian subcontinent which was the capital of the clan of the Shakyas. King Śuddhodana and Queen Māyā are believed to have lived at Kapilavastu, as did their son Prince Siddhartha Gautama (Gautama Buddha) until he left the palace at the age of 29.

National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa, Dharohar

- The two-storey 'Blue building', which was earlier known as Alfandega, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.
- Dharohar is one of its kind museums in the country that showcases not only the artifacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department.
- 'Dharohar' has eight galleries. GST Gallery is a brand new addition to the Dharohar Museum.
- A first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, this GST Gallery takes one through the long and arduous journey of GST spanning two decades.

India signs pact with Russia for supply of radio equipment for 24 airports

- The Russian company will manufacture 34 sets of instrument landing system (ILS) 734 for the modernisation of 24 airports in India. The contract comes amid the war in Ukraine and pressure from the West on India to diversify its dependence for defence needs.
- The domestic manufacturer received the right to conclude a contract based on the results of a global tender, in which, in addition to RTS, the world's largest suppliers of radio equipment took part.
- According to the contract, the first part of landing systems ILS-734 must be shipped before November. Payments within the transaction will be carried out in national currencies, the statement said, without specifying the contract value.

SEBI raises concern on crypto

- SEBI has essentially flagged the problems with regulating crypto assets because they “are maintained in decentralised distributed ledgers, which are nested in computer nodes spread all across the globe.”
- SEBI has elaborated upon the possible need for different regulators to deal with different aspects of a crypto asset market. Crypto exchanges, for instance, could be brought under the regulatory purview of the RBI.
- The subscribers or customers of crypto assets form another important part of the market. SEBI has suggested that the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 be invoked to make sure their interests are safeguarded.
- It has also sought clarity on whether cryptocurrencies can be legally classified as securities.

WHO report on Covid-19 origins

- The panel, set up in October, comprises 26 experts from around the world and is called the Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO).
- Its work follows a previous WHO-China report on COVID-19 which pointed towards a natural origin for the pandemic, likely from bats, rather than a lab leak.
- The new report says a zoonotic origin is the most likely explanation for the emergence of the novel coronavirus. The first human cases were reported in December 2019 in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.
- However, it says that neither the original animal source, the intermediate host, nor the moment the virus crossed over into humans, has been identified.
- Can the lab leak theory be true? The panel also said that no further information has been provided on whether the coronavirus may have reached humans via a laboratory incident, meaning more data and investigations remained important.

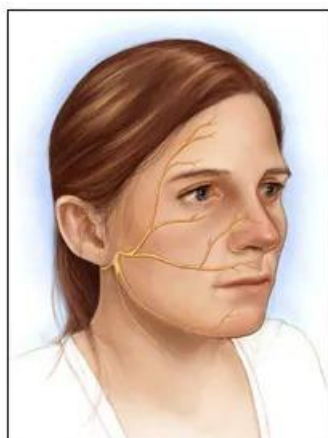
House Passes Red-Flag Bill as Senate Talks on Gun Violence Continue

- The bill, which passed 224/202 largely along party lines, comes in light of two devastating mass shootings in the US that occurred in less than a fortnight.

- Currently, 19 US states, and also Washington D.C., have these 'red-flag' laws in place. The latest push is to create a federal law of the same nature to check gun violence.
- The 'extreme risk protection laws', known informally as 'red-flag' laws, are among the possible solutions offered to tackle the endemic gun violence in the United States.
- These laws allow courts to issue a special protection order which authorises the police to temporarily confiscate guns from people that display concerning behaviour, such as issuing threats of harm. If the judge determines them to be dangerous to themselves or others, they can be barred from possessing or purchasing new firearms.

Justin Bieber Reveals Facial Paralysis

- Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is neurological disease in which a virus - Varicella Zoster - causes inflammation of the nerves involved in facial movements. The Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) is the same virus that causes chickenpox and shingles.
- When the nerves get inflamed, they lose their ability to function, leading to temporary facial palsy or paralysis. What it means is that facial muscles in the infected person cannot receive necessary signals to function properly.
- There are 12 cranial nerves in the body. Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is the viral infection impacting the 7th cranial nerve that is involved in facial movements.
- The symptoms include painful, red rash and blisters in and around the ear, and facial paralysis on the same side. Patients also report hearing loss in the ear that has been impacted apart from Tinnitus or ringing sounds. Inability to close the eye causes dryness.
- The disease is not contagious but can lead to chickenpox in those not vaccinated for the disease.
- It is treated using anti-viral drugs, steroids and physiotherapy. Steroids and anti-viral drugs are the cornerstone of the treatment.

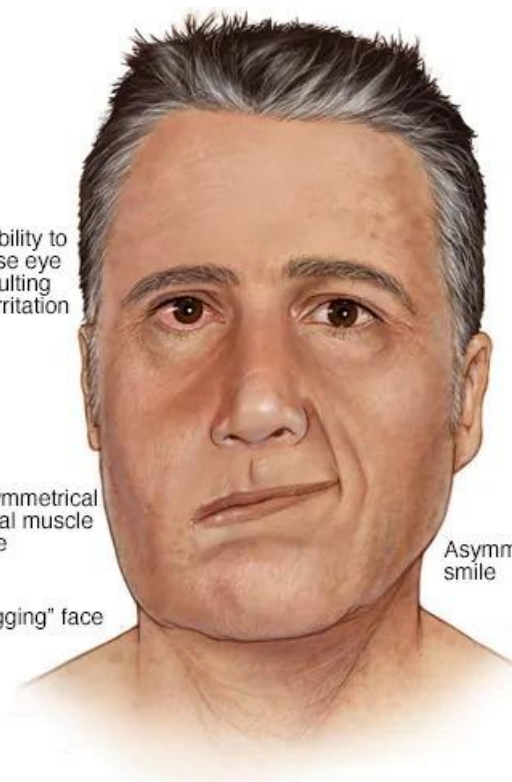


Location of facial nerve

Inability to close eye resulting in irritation

Asymmetrical facial muscle tone

"Sagging" face



Asymmetrical smile

June 13

India set to launch 1st human space & ocean missions in 2023

- Trials for both the space and ocean manned missions have reached an advanced stage and the unique feat will be achieved, most likely, in the second half of 2023.
- Sea trials of 500-metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in early part of 2023, followed by the MATSYA 6000, the deep-water manned submersible that will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.
- Similarly, for Gaganyaan, major missions like the test vehicle flight for the validation of crew escape system performance and the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan are scheduled in the second half of 2022.

- That will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying "Vyommitra", a spacefaring human robot developed by ISRO, and finally the first crewed Gaganyaan mission in 2023.
- The Union government will soon unveil the "Blue Economic Policy" and added that an estimated 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Govt enhances funding under DRDO's TDF scheme

- The TDF scheme, executed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), supports indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups.
- The TDF Scheme aims to provide a major fillip to the defence manufacturing sector by encouraging the industry to innovate and develop defence technologies in order to place India on the self-reliance trajectory.
- The scheme facilitates up to 90 per cent of the total project cost and allows industry to work in consortium with another industry/academia. With the enhanced funding, the industry and startups will be able to develop more complex technologies for existing and future weapon systems and platforms.
- It may be recalled that 25 per cent of defence R&D budget was earmarked for private industry, start-ups and academia in Union Budget 2022-23. The enhanced funding is in line with the budget announcement.

Ayush Institute gets NABL Accreditation

- NARIP is one of the premier research Institute under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- This is the first Institute under CCRAS to get NABL accreditation for its clinical laboratory services.
- This accreditation of laboratory ensures that citizens get quality health care service especially for those residing in villages, small towns.

Union Cabinet allows transfer of 10 In-orbit Communication

- The Union Cabinet has also approved increasing the authorized share capital of NSIL from Rs.1000 crore to Rs.7500 crore.

- Transfer of these assets to NSIL will further provide the desired financial autonomy to the company to realize capital intensive programmes/ projects and thereby offering huge employment potential and technology spin-off to other sectors of the economy.
- This approval is expected to trigger domestic economic activity in space sector and increase India's share in the global space market.
- The Space Sector reforms mandated NSIL to undertake end-to-end commercial space activities and function as a full-fledged satellite operator. NSIL functioning as a single-window operator will also facilitate the ease of doing business in space sector.
- NSIL Board will now be empowered to price the transponders as per the market dynamics and global trends in the Satellite Communication sector. NSIL is also authorized to offer and allocate capacity as per its internal policies and guidelines.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Australia for technical cooperation in urban water management

- MoU would reinforce bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of urban water security.
- It would strengthen institutional capacities at all levels for urban water management; improve accessibility and affordability & quality of water and sanitation services through initiatives for accessible infrastructure.

Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a MoU between the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata and the Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V. (IFW Dresden e.V.), Dresden, Germany for scientific cooperation in the field of "Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials".
- The goal of this joint venture will be to foster Indo-German collaboration in the area of magnetic and topological quantum materials.
- The S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) is an Autonomous Research Institute established under the Department of Science

and Technology in 1986 as a Registered Society. The Centre was established to honour Professor S. N. Bose who was a colossal figure in theoretical physics.

- The IFW is a non-university research institute and a member of the Leibniz Association. IFW Dresden is concerned with modern materials science.

NHAI creates Guinness World Record

- The total length of the 75 kilometres of single lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent to 37.5 kilometres of two-lane paved shoulder road and the work started on June 3, at 7:27 am and was completed on June 7, at 5 pm.
- The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 kilometres of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days
- The Amravati to Akola section is part of NH 53 and this is an important corridor which connects major cities like Kolkata, Raipur, Nagpur and Surat.

National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a "CiSS application" under the Baal Swaraj

- Baal Swaraj is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.
- The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS.
- COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post March 2020.
- The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process. The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court of India.

June 14

EC announces schedule for presidential elections

- The term of office of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, is ending on 24th July, 2022.
- As per Article 62 of the Constitution of India, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing President is required to be completed before the expiration of the term.
- Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, and the Presidential and Vice - Presidential Elections Rules, 1974 vests the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election to the office of the President of India in the Election Commission of India.
- As per the Article 54 of the Constitution of India, the President is elected by the members of the Electoral College consisting of:
 - elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and
 - elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry
- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, and members of state Legislative Councils, are not part of the electoral college.
- Article 55 (3) of the Constitution provides that the election shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.
- The votes are weighted, their value determined by the population of each state as per Census 1971.

Extra chromosome in 1 in 500 men, disease risk higher

- This puts them at increased risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis and thrombosis.
- Sex chromosomes determine our biological sex. Men typically have one X and one Y chromosome, while women have two Xs. However, some men also have XXY or XYY.
- By linking genetic data to routine health records, the team found that men with XXY have much higher chances of reproductive problems, including a three-fold higher risk of delayed puberty and a four-fold higher risk of being childless. These men also had significantly lower blood concentrations of testosterone. Men with XYY appeared to have a normal reproductive function.

Proud Boys Charged With Seditious Conspiracy in Capitol Riot

- The Proud Boys is an American far-right, neo-fascist, and exclusively male organization that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States.
- Formed in the run-up to the 2016 US presidential polls, the Proud Boys are a far-right extremist group, as classified by the FBI. The group was created by Gavin McInnes, Vice Media co-founder and former commentator.
- Five leaders of the group, including its former chairman, were federally indicted on seditious conspiracy charges in June 2022, for their alleged roles in the 2021 United States Capitol attack.

Rate of TDS on virtual digital assets shall be 1 per cent

- The clarification from the Income Tax comes at a time when some media reports mentioned that the TDS rate for virtual digital assets has been dropped to 0.1% from 1% as announced earlier in the budget.
- The 1% TDS will be applicable from July 1.
- The Centre had set a 30% taxation on the gains from the cryptocurrency assets.

Centre issues 'Guidelines on Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022'

- The guidelines seek to ensure that consumers are not being fooled with unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims.
- Such advertisements violates various rights of consumers such as right to be informed, right to choose and right to be safeguarded against potentially unsafe products and services.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to CCPA, the Guidelines were notified. Misleading advertisement has already been defined under section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The present guidelines define "bait advertisement", "surrogate advertisement" and clearly provides what constitutes as "free claim advertisements".

- CCPA can impose penalty of upto 10 lakh rupees on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers for any misleading advertisements. For subsequent contraventions, CCPA may impose a penalty of upto 50 lakh rupees.
- The Authority can prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from making any endorsement for upto 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend upto 3 years.

Equivalence status by the European Commission to Central Counter Parties (CCPs) supervised by IFSCA

- On 1 October 2020, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) became the unified regulator for all financial services and financial products in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- Thereafter, IFSCA notified the IFSCA (Market Infrastructure Institutions) Regulations, 2021 on April 16, 2021 and since that date are applicable to CCPs established and operating in the IFSC.
- The European Commission (EC) has concluded that the legal and supervisory arrangements in respect of CCPs authorised by IFSCA provide for effective supervision and ongoing enforcement, and comply with the requirements laid down by European Commission in this regard and accorded equivalence status to CCPs supervised by the IFSCA.
- Accordingly, in terms of the requirements laid down in European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR), the EC on June 08, 2022 has accorded equivalence status to the following CCPs operating in IFSC under the supervision of IFSCA:
 - NSE IFSC Clearing Corporation Limited and
 - India International Clearing Corporation Limited

Union Cabinet approved an MoU between NIES, Japan and ARIES, India a Professional Body for joint research on air quality and climate change.

- No such MoUs were signed by the ARIES, Nainital in the similar areas of research with any other foreign bodies in the past.
- Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is an Autonomous Research Institute established under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

- ARIES is a centre of excellence for research in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences. It carries out research on air pollution and climate change on earth, formation and evolution of sun, stars and galaxies.
- The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) is Japan's only research institute that undertakes a broad range of environmental research in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner.

The Network Planning Group Held Its 20th Meeting

- It was chaired by the Special Secretary, Logistics Division, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and saw active participation from member ministries/departments including MoRTH, MoCA, MoR, MoPSW, MoP, DoT and Niti Ayog.
- The forum saw senior officials from these ministries deliberate on various agendas on logistic capacities and PM GatiShakti.
- Prime Minister launched PM GatiShakti NMP for multi-modal connectivity on 13th October, 2021. Implementation framework includes Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS), Network Planning Group (NPG) and Technical Support Unit (TSU) with required technical competencies.
- NPG consists of heads of the network planning wing of respective infrastructure ministries and it will assist the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS), which is headed by the cabinet secretary. EGOS consists of secretaries of 18 ministries as members and Head of Logistics Division, under the DPIIT, as member convenor.
- NPG will clear the projects as all infrastructure projects would have to come here.

June 15

Agnipath Scheme: Indian Air Force releases details of new recruitment plan

- The policy, which comes into immediate effect, will hereafter govern the enrolment for the three services. Under the AGNIPATH scheme, the Agniveers

will be enrolled in the Forces under respective Service Acts for a period of four years.

- They would form a distinct rank in the Armed Forces, different from any other existing ranks.
- During this period of service to the nation, the Agniveers will be imparted with various military skills and experience, discipline, physical fitness, leadership qualities, courage and patriotism.
- Post this stint of four years, the Agniveers will be infused into the civil society where they can contribute immensely towards the nation building process.
- Upon the completion of four years of service, Agniveers will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment in the Armed Forces.
- Enrolment will be based on 'All India All Class' basis and the eligible age will be in range from 17.5 to 21 years.
- Agniveers will be given an attractive customised monthly package along with Risk and Hardship allowances as applicable in the three services.
- On completion of the engagement period of four years, Agniveers will be paid one time 'Seva Nidhi' package which shall comprise their contribution including accrued interest thereon and matching contribution from the Government. The 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempt from Income Tax.
- Agniveers will be provided non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakhs for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.

Health Ministry Launches Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight-2022

- The Intensive Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) is being organized since 2014 with an objective to 'bringing the number of deaths due to diarrhoea in childhood to zero'.
- This fortnight is organized especially during summer/monsoon so that preventive measures can be taken such as awareness generation and establishment of ORS-Zinc corners.
- According to the latest report of SRS-2019, child mortality rate in the country has come down from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 35 per 1000 live births in 2019. But even today, diseases related to diarrhoea continue to be a major cause of death in children under the age of five.

- According to NFHS-5, only 60.6% children under the age of five with diarrhoea were given ORS and only 30.5% were given zinc. This means that there is lack of awareness among mothers.

Cabinet approves MoA for establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Centre in Colombo

- This MoA was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 30th March, 2022.
- The TTF shall have a Governing Board and the overall control of activities of the TTF shall be vested in the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall consist of one nominee from each Member State.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is celebrating Elimination of Child Labour Week in the honour of World Day Against Child Labour

- NCPCR is also under the process of creating a separate link for child labour for their rescue and rehabilitation process in the Balswaraj Portal of the NCPCR.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action needed to eliminate it.
- It is celebrated each year on 12 June. Theme for 2022 is "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour"
- Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) calls on the global community to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.
- Guided by the principles enshrined in ILO's Minimum Age Convention No. 138 and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, the ILO Programme on Child Labour (IPEC) works to achieve the effective abolition of child labour.

Government Launches 'Startups For Railways.'

- Grant up to Rs. 1.5 Crore to innovator on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment.

- Complete process from floating of problem statement to development of prototype is online with defined time line to make it transparent and objective.
- Trials of prototypes will be done in Railways. Enhanced funding will be provided to scale up deployment on successful performance of prototypes.
- Developed Intellectual property rights (IPR) will remain with innovator only.
- Assured developmental order to innovator.
- De-centralization of complete product development process at divisional level to avoid delays.

Govt asks media to refrain from carrying ads on online betting

- Betting and gambling, illegal in most parts of the country, pose significant financial and socio-economic risk for the consumers, especially youth and children, the advisory states.
- It has further added that these advertisements on online betting are misleading and have the effect of promoting this largely prohibited activity.
- These advertisements of online betting and do not appear to be in strict conformity with the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Advertising Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, and advertisement norms under the Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, 1978.
- In December, 2020, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had issued an advisory to Private Satellite TV channels to adhere to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) guidelines on advertisements of online gaming which contained specific Do's and Dont's for print and audio-visual advertisements of online gaming.

PM National Apprenticeship Mela to be held at over 200 locations across India

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will be organising the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela every month now on.
- It's objective is to connect the youth with more opportunities of on-ground training within corporates and further a chance to get employment.
- Individuals having a 5th-12th grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree can apply for an interview across these trades/opportunities.

- The candidates will be given a choice of 500+ trades, including welders, electricians, housekeepers, beauticians, mechanics, and others.
- Candidates will also receive Apprenticeship certificates recognised by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) at the end of their training period, which will give them industry recognition.
- A credit bank concept will also be introduced soon, with a depository of various credits accumulated by learners that can be used for future academic pathways.

Union Aviation Minister awards the first Type of Certificate to Gurugram-based IoTechWorld

- IoTech has received the Type Certificate in barely 34 days after submission of its online application on the DGCA's DigitalSky Platform on 11 May 2022.
- This is despite the fact that the Drone Rules, 2021, allow 60 days to Quality Council of India (QCI) or the Certification Bodies (CB) and 15 days to DGCA for issuing the Type Certificate (i.e 75 days in total).
- The Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25 Aug 2021 and the 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on 26 Jan 2022. The drone certification scheme of January 2022 was developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).

Cabinet nod for development of new greenfield airport in Dholera

- The project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), which is a Joint Venture Company comprising Airports Authority of India (AAI), Government of Gujarat (GoG) and National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) holding equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.
- Dholera Airport is to get Passenger and Cargo traffic from Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region.
- This Airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad.

- The New Greenfield Airport at Dholera is situated at an aerial distance of 80 Km from Ahmedabad, Airport.
- The Airport is planned for operationalization from the year 2025-26.

June 16

Wall Street slips into a bear market; here's what that means

- Rising interest rates, high inflation, the war in Ukraine and a slowdown in China's economy have led investors to reconsider what they're willing to pay for a wide range of stocks, from high-flying tech companies to traditional automakers.
- A bear market is a term used by Wall Street when an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, has fallen 20% or more from a recent high for a sustained period of time.
- Why use a bear to represent a market slump? Bears hibernate, so bears represent a market that's retreating. In contrast, Wall Street's nickname for a surging stock market is a bull market, because bulls charge.

Southern Railway commences Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi Bharat Gaurav train service

- With this, Southern Railway becomes the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first Registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' Scheme and commence the operations of the maiden service from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi.
- Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021.
- The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains.

- This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India.

10 lakh persons to get government jobs in 18 months, announces PM Modi

- Unemployment has emerged as one of the major challenges before the Modi government after two years of the pandemic and its attendant economic woes.
- An additional problem with regard to recruitment to government jobs has been the frequent leak of examination papers both for departments such as the Railways and for teacher recruitment as well.
- Much of the recruitment would be in the Railways, armed forces ('Agnipath' and regular recruitment which had been frozen through the pandemic), the Central Paramilitary Forces, Goods and Services Tax (GST) departments, including customs and excise and administrative staff for government-owned banks and insurance companies.
- The announcement came on a day when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the three Service Chiefs announced the 'Agnipath' scheme of recruiting youth between the ages of 17.5 and 21 for a four-year stint in the armed forces with a provision of voluntary retention after this period, based on merit.

World Blood Donor Day

- The slogan for this year is 'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives'.
- World Blood Donor Day marks the Birth Anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, who first distinguished human blood into A, B, AB and O groups.
- As per the World Health Organization, blood donation by one per cent of the population is generally the bare minimum for meeting a nation's most basic blood needs. According to available data, India fell short of the WHO standard by 1.9 million units or 15 per cent.

International Albinism Awareness Day

- The theme for International Albinism Awareness Day this year is 'United in making our voice heard'. The General Assembly of United Nations adopted a

resolution on 18th of December in 2014, proclaiming that with effect from 2015, 13th of June will be observed as International Albinism Awareness Day.

- Albinism is a non-contagious, rare and genetically inherited health condition present at birth, which results in the lack of melanin in the skin eyes and hair.
- It is causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light. Due to this, people with albinism are prone to many issues, both social and biological. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.
- One in 17,000 people in the world is born with Albinism. As per reports, about one lakh to two lakh people in India have this condition. Albinism in India is often confused with another condition, Leucoderma, which is characterised by patchy skin colour changes.
- Albinism is not infectious and Albinos are equally normal.

Construction of New Link National Highway 133B and 131A is in full swing, says Nitin Gadkari

- The National Highway-133B project spanning over 21 kilometer, is a one-of-its-kind project involving the construction of a six-kilometer-long Ganga Bridge. He said that it is the world's third-longest extradosed bridge.
- The highway, once constructed, will connect Sahibganj in Jharkhand to Manihari in Bihar and aims to reduce travel distance. This will also serve as a strategic connecting point to the North East.
- He also informed that the project for Six-Laning of National Highway 140 from Chittoor to Mallavaram in Andhra Pradesh will be completed by 30th September this year. He said that his ministry is working in mission mode to complete this project which is being constructed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

AZAN initiative fulfilling its goal of ensuring enhanced, modernized land records management

- The initiative - 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' (AZAN) - is aimed at facilitating easy online access to the system to view or monitor the status of revenue records.
- Citizens no longer need to visit the offices for obtaining information about their land. AZAN has empowered them to check their land records on CIS Portal

- The initiative is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

Crypto contagion fears spread after Celsius Network freezes withdrawals

- Celsius is a crypto lender, which essentially means it is a bank of the crypto world. Crypto lenders allow customers to deposit their coins with them for an interest, and then lend out cryptocurrencies to earn a return. Crypto lenders make money by lending - also for a fee, typically between 5%-10%.
- New Jersey-based Celsius, New York-based Genesis, U.S. lender BlockFi and London-based Nexo.
- Crypto lending has boomed over the past two years, along as decentralised finance, or “DeFi,” platforms. DeFi and crypto lending both tout a vision of financial services where lenders and borrowers bypass the traditional financial firms that act as gatekeepers for loans or other products.
- While savings at traditional banks offer paltry returns due to historically low interest rates, crypto lenders offer much higher returns - at the very top end as much as 20%, though rates depend on the tokens being deposited.
- Crypto lenders aren't overseen by financial regulators. That means that customers who hold their crypto at the platforms could lose access to their funds - as happened with Celsius recently. Crypto lenders also face other risks, from volatility in crypto markets than can hit the value of savings to tech failures and hacks.

June 17

Cabinet approved the 'Agnipath' scheme for temporary recruitment to the armed forces

- The aim is to “enhance the future career prospects of our 'Agniveers', and equip them for various job roles in the civilian sector and recognise the skill training received” by them during their defence tenure.

- Under the programme that will be designed and executed by IGNOU, 50% of the credits required for the graduate degree will come from skills received under the 'Agnipath' scheme.
- The remaining 50% will come from a basket of courses that cover a wide variety of subjects like languages, economics, history, political science, public administration, sociology, mathematics, education, commerce, tourism, vocational studies, agriculture, environmental studies, English communication and astrology.
- IGNOU will enter into an MoU with the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force to offer the programme to their personnel. The course has been recognised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and the UGC. It will be recognised in India and abroad.
- The programme will conform with UGC norms as well as those laid down under the National Skill Qualification Framework as part of the National Education Policy, 2020.
- Those who apply for the programme will also have the provision of multiple exit points under which they will get an undergraduate certificate on completion of the first year, an undergraduate diploma on completion of the first two years and a degree on completion of all the three years.

Ex-SC judge Ranjana Prakash Desai is new Press Council of India chief

- Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on J&K which was set up to redraw the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory. The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd.) completed his term in November 2021.
- The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory organization operating under the Press Council Act of 1978. It was formed in 1966. It is the self-regulatory watchdog of the press.
- The Council has a chairman - traditionally, a retired Supreme Court judge, and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of media.

Cabinet approves mega 5G auction

- The auction of over 72 GHz of the spectrum will be held by July-end.
- The Cabinet has approved 5G auctions at reserve prices recommended by the sector regulator, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI had earlier recommended about a 39% reduction in the reserve or floor price for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.
- While the 5G spectrum in nine frequency bands will be auctioned to telecom operators such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, the Notice Inviting Applications said big tech firms for the time being will be allowed to take the 5G spectrum for their captive non-public network, on lease from the telecom companies.
- Big tech companies like Google have been seeking direct allocation of spectrum for applications such as machine-to-machine communications, IoT and AI.

Elder Abuse Research Reports - HelpAge India

- The report was released by Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 June).
- According to survey, 47% of elderly people are economically dependent on their families for income and 34% relied on pensions and cash transfers, while 40% of the surveyed people have expressed a desire to work "as long as possible"
- The report said that 52% of the elderly surveyed reported inadequate income; 40% said they did not feel financially secure; 57% said their expenditure was in excess of their savings; and 45% said the pension amount was not enough for survival.
- This suggests both financial planning for later years and social security needs much greater attention. HelpAge India had been advocating for a universal pension of ₹ 3,000 a month.
- One good news is that 87% elders reported there is availability of healthcare facilities nearby, however a significant 67% elderly reported they do not have any health insurance at this critical stage in their lives and only 13% are covered under government insurance schemes.

'331' notified as Cost Inflation Index for Financial Year 2022-23

- The CII is an index that is used to calculate the inflation-adjusted rise in the value of an asset including land, buildings, houses, gold jewellery, debt mutual funds, and so on.
- This CII number will assist you determine the long-term capital gains on which you are required to pay taxes when you file your income tax returns (ITR) next year.
- This number will be used to calculate inflation-adjusted cost for only those assets that allow for inflation-adjusted (indexation benefit). As a result, the CII value cannot be used to calculate LTCG/LTCL on equity mutual funds because any sum above Rs 1 lakh each fiscal year is taxed at a flat rate of 10% without the advantage of indexation.
- The formula to calculate inflation-adjusted cost price is: (CII of the year of sale/CII for the year of purchase) * Actual cost price.
- The government declared in Budget 2017 that the base year would be changed from 1981 to 2001 due to challenges in obtaining appropriate information by taxpayers. In the case of an asset purchased prior to April 1, 2001, the cost of the asset is regarded as the fair market value on April 1, 2001.

Scientists develop ultra-thin heteroprotein films, applications can revolutionise food packaging

- It has been developed by Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology.
- These films consists of two globular proteins: bovine serum albumin (BSA) and lysozyme (Lys).
- They used the technique called using Langmuir-Blodgett (LB) technique which gives the films thickness in the order of nanometer.
- These films are much thinner as compared to the other protein or plastic films. They are soft and thin and have the advantage of being more flexible than the other films.

India's First Six-Lane Road Constructed From Steel Slag

- The road constructed using 100 per cent steel-processed slag is a real example of converting "waste into wealth" and improving sustainability of steel plants.
- The road has been jointly made by Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) -- a laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India.
- Slag is a by-product which comes out during manufacturing of steel through three processes, namely basic oxygen furnace (BOF) route, electric arc furnace (EAF) and induction furnace (IF).
- This is a breakthrough for the industry as far as utilisation of slag is concerned. Slag was being used only for only landfilling.
- Use of such material in road construction shall not only increase its durability but also help in reducing the cost of construction as slag-based materials have better properties than natural aggregates. The use of steel slag in road construction will also address the shortage of natural aggregates in the country.

June 18

Three-day international literary festival Unmesh begins in Himachal Pradesh

- This festival was organized for the first time by the Union Ministry of Culture and the Sahitya Akademi with the support of the state Department of Art and Culture as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The festival, with the title "Unmesh- a celebration of expression", is the biggest international literary festival in the country so far. Over 425 writers, poets, translators and critics from 15 countries, representing over 60 languages, attended the event.

BIS develops Indian Standard for non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay

- Named as 'Mitticool refrigerator', Shri Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the innovator behind the refrigerator which projects an eco-friendly technology.

- BIS standard specifies the construction and performance requirements of a cooling cabinet made out of clay, which operates on the principle of evaporative cooling.
- It is a natural refrigerator made primarily from clay to store vegetables, fruits, milk, and also for cooling water.
- It provides natural coolness to foodstuffs stored in it without requiring any electricity. Fruits, vegetables, and milk can be stored reasonably fresh without deteriorating their quality.
- In this era, where the world is dominated by technology and advancement, there are people in our country who still bank on traditional cooling. Clay pots have been an integral part of Indian kitchens until factory-made products of variety of materials invaded the market.

Volume of trade from three Border Crossing Points between Bangladesh-India to rise by 50 percent by 2027: Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- The South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Integrated Trade Facilitation (SASEC) Sector Development Program (SDP) will reform trade policies and improve the cross-border trade facilities at Akhaura, Sonamasjid and Tamabil BCPs.
- It will also increase connectivity among SASEC countries by facilitating trade among the SASEC countries through Bangladesh as a sub-regional hub.
- ADB believes in advancing regionalism and hence has launched the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program.
- The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership that aims to promote regional prosperity and improve economic opportunities.

India-Japan hold finance dialogue in New Delhi

- Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs of Japan Masato Kanda and Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance Ajay Seth led their sides in this first India-Japan Finance Dialogue.
- In view of the growing importance of India-Japan relations in recent years, the dialogue on India-Japan financial cooperation, which had been held at the level of Deputy Director-Generals, was upgraded to the level of Vice Minister/Secretary.
- The participants confirmed that both sides will continue to work closely together as they hold presidency of G20 and G7 next year.

Amid protests, Modi government increases upper-age limit to 23 for recruitment under Agnipath scheme

- A large number of youth will be benefited by this decision and they will move forward towards their brighter future by serving to the nation.
- Government officials also released a note on “myths and facts” regarding the scheme.
- The note said it was a myth that “21-year-olds are immature and unreliable” and at no point of time will there be more youth than experienced people among the ranks. The number of Agniveers to be recruited in the first year would only make up 3% of the armed forces.

Draft guidelines for operationalization of Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax ferry service along the Indian coast

- The guidelines encompass the two aspects of ferry operation namely -
 - concessions for terminal operation and
 - license for operation of Ro-Pax vessels.
- These guidelines will homogenize and streamline the development and operations of ferry services, along with, promoting ease of doing business by eliminating unnecessary delays.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, under its Sagarmala Programme, has embarked on developing an ecosystem for the promotion of Ro-Ro ferry and waterway transportation in the country.

- This mode of transportation has multiple benefits including reduced travel time, reduced logistics cost and lower pollution in comparison to conventional mode of transportation.
- In view of immense potential and distinct advantages of ferry service, the Ministry is financially supporting 45 projects with total project cost of Rs. 1900 Crore.
- Under the gambit of Sagarmala, Ministry has operationalized Ro-Pax Ferry service between Ghogha - Hazira in Gujarat and Mumbai - Mandwa in Maharashtra.

Global Wind Day or World Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15th of June.

- It is organised by WindEurope and GWEC (Global Wind Energy Council).
- It is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems, decarbonise our economies and boost jobs and growth.
- India currently has the fourth-highest wind installed capacity in the world with total installed capacity of 39.25 Giga Watt as on 31st March 2021 and has generated around 60.149 Billion Units during 2020-21.
- The government is promoting wind power projects by providing various fiscal and financial incentives such as Accelerated Depreciation benefit and concessional custom duty exemption on certain components of wind electric generators.
- It also provides technical support including wind resource assessment and identification of potential sites through the National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai.

Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- The SAIFMM was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. The Meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministers of other ASEAN Countries.
- The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of sectoral partnership in 1992 which graduated to full dialogue partnership in December

1995 and summit level partnership in 2002. The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2012.

- The ASEAN comprises Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

June 19

India and UN to sign pact for use of 'way finding app'

- The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), consisting of five buildings and 21 floors, is housed at the historic Palais des Nations. Large number of delegates, members of civil society and general public visit UNOG to participate in various meetings and conventions.
- Keeping in view the complexity of buildings and huge participation, there was a requirement of a navigational application which can help the visitors and other delegates in finding their way inside the premises while adhering to all security perspectives.
- While the Global Positioning System (GPS) based Apps function in open space, a more precise in-building navigational App will assist the visitors in locating the room and offices.
- The project of development of 'Way Finding Application' has been conceptualized as donation from the Government of India to UN on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 2020.
- The project consists of development deployment and maintenance of a software-based 'Way Finding Application' to facilitate navigation in the Palais des Nations premises of UNLG.
- The development of the App has been entrusted to Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT), an autonomous telecom Research & Development centre of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India.

G33 Ministerial Meet: Goyal concerned over stalemate on public stockholding

- The G33 Ministerial Meeting was held on the sidelines of the 12th World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in the Swiss town of Geneva.
- The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing and least developed countries. Despite the name, there are currently 48 member nations including China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan etc.
- It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference, that have coordinated during the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture.
- Dominated by India, The group has "defensive" concerns regarding agriculture in relation to World Trade Organization negotiations, and seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries.

Cabinet approves 3-year loan repayment moratorium for Cochin Port Authority

- Cochin Port has been brought under the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 with effect from November 2021.
- Cochin Port or Kochi Port is a major port in the city of Kochi, Kerala. It was established in 1928.
- The port lies on two islands in the Lake of Kochi: Willingdon Island and Vallarpadam, towards the Fort Kochi river mouth opening onto the Laccadive Sea.
- It is also the first trans-shipment port in India. The International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), part of the Cochin Port, is the largest container trans-shipment facility in India.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences recommended that newborns be given a mixture of ghee and honey, a paste of gold, and several herbs.

- The guidelines recommend just honey and butter with some herbs on the first day of birth, ghee with herbs on the second day, and colostrum (mother's first milk) with ghee and honey only on the third day of birth.
- Several doctors have called out these guidelines for contradicting the proven benefits of breastfeeding. Some have noted that feeding newborns honey could lead to a rare but serious infection called botulism.

- Doctors say breastfeeding should start as soon as possible, preferably within one hour of birth, and babies should be exclusively breastfed for six months.

Why babies must only be breastfed for 6 months?

- Breast milk contains adequate calories needed for up to six months.
- Semi-solid food should be introduced after six months. It is only after six months, when the infant's weight doubles, that breastmilk isn't enough and they need complementary nutrition in the form of semi-solid foods.

Haryana govt plans 11 fuel stations outside state jails to be run by jail inmates

- The state will set up these jail filling stations in association with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. As a pilot project, a fuel station at the Kurukshetra jail started functioning from May 31.
- After Kurukshetra, similar fuel stations will be operated from the jails of Ambala (two fuel stations), Yamunanagar, Karnal, Jhajjar, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bhiwani, Jind and Hisar.
- Only convicted prisoners with good conduct who have already spent a considerable period in the jails in proportionate to their jail term will be allowed to work at the fuel stations. Undertrials are not allowed to work here.
- For working at the fuel stations, the prisoners will get wages in accordance with the jail manual.
- The profit from these fuel stations will be deposited in the Prison Welfare Industrial Fund to use the same for the welfare of prisoners.
- The objective of the scheme is to make prisoners a part of the society.

Medical trial shows rare result as cancer vanishes in all patients

- The trial used a monoclonal antibody called dostarlimab every three weeks for six months for the treatment of a particular kind of stage two or three rectal cancer.
- The trial showed that immunotherapy alone - without any chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery that have been staples of cancer treatment - could completely cure the patients with a particular kind of rectal cancer called 'mismatch repair deficient' cancer.

- 'Mismatch repair deficient' cancer is most common among colorectal, gastrointestinal, and endometrial cancers. Patients suffering from this condition lack the genes to correct typos in the DNA that occur naturally while cells make copies.

PD1 blockades

- The immunotherapy belongs to a category called PD1 blockades that are now recommended for the treatment of such cancers rather than chemotherapy or radiotherapy.
- PD1 is a type of protein that regulates certain functions of the immune system, including by suppressing T cell activity, and PD1 blockade therapy looks to release the T cells from this suppression.

India approves procurement of Next Generation Corvettes

- A Corvette is the smallest class of naval ships and it falls below the warship class of a frigate.
- These are highly agile ships and are categorised as missile boats, anti-submarine ships, coastal patrol crafts and fast attack naval vessels.
- Modern Corvettes can go up to 2,000 tons in displacement which helps in keeping them agile.
- The Indian Navy at present has the Kamorta Class Corvettes, which are also known as Project 28.
- These ships have an anti-submarine role and are manufactured at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.
- These vessels also have the 'Sanket' electronic warfare systems and 'Kavach' decoy launchers.
- The four Kamorta Class Corvettes that the Indian Navy possesses are named INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt, INS Kiltan and INS Kavaratti. The first of these was commissioned in 2014 and the last one in 2020.
- The next-generation Corvettes will be manufactured for various roles like surveillance missions, escort operations, deterrence, surface action group operations, search and attack and coastal defence. These roles will be in

addition to the anti-submarine roles being already performed by the existing Corvettes in the Navy.

June 20

Govt launched Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana for faster development of tribal villages

- The focus of the scheme is on converging different programs of 41 ministries in the tribal villages to ensure their all-round development.
- Aim of the program is to turn the focus on such remote and backward villages of the country which are lagging behind due to lack of attention. Efforts are also being made to ensure the geo-tagging of and market linkages for the tribal products through TRIFED.

The emerging concept of 'crypto insurance'

- Crypto insurance is a policy designed to protect investors against any losses associated with crypto scams and cyber-attacks. Most exchanges like Coinbase, Binance, etc., already have some insurance to protect the digital assets they hold for their customers.
- Cryptocurrency isn't a legal tender. So, crypto insurance is different from that you can avail for your stocks, bonds or any other bank insurance. In short, it is not protected the same way other deposits might be.
- In August 2021, hackers pulled off one of the biggest ever cryptocurrency heists stealing \$613 million in digital coins from token-swapping platform Poly Network. This rising trend has given birth to crypto insurance.
- Notably, crypto insurances can only cover hacks or crypto thefts. It is designed to cover institutional losses. But it can't insure you if you fall trapped in a Ponzi scheme which promises high returns with no risks.

- The crypto insurance policy doesn't cover direct hardware loss and damage and cryptocurrency transfer to a third party. Additionally, it won't be able to protect against the disruption of the blockchain underlying the asset.

Second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021 (NeSDA 2021).

- The NeSDA 2021 report has been prepared covering the assessment of States, Union Territories with a focus on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.
- NeSDA 2021 covers services across seven sectors: Finance, Labour and Employment, Education, Local Governance and Utility Services, Social Welfare, Environment and Tourism sectors.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) had constituted the NeSDA in 2019 as part of its mandate to boost the e-government endeavours and drive digital government excellence.
- Jammu and Kashmir, assessed for the first time, ranked the highest among Union Territories with an overall compliance of nearly 90 percent for NeSDA.
- Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading state portals with an overall compliance of more than 90 percent across all assessment parameters among the northeast and hill states.
- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 percent among the Remaining States category.
- Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.

CCI approves Air India's acquisition of AirAsia India

- Currently, Tata Sons, the holding company of the Mumbai-based conglomerate, has 83.67% share in AirAsia India, while the remaining is held by Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd. This is the first formal regulatory approval to Tata Group's plan to consolidate its aviation portfolio.
- AirAsia India operates low-cost airline services in domestic sectors in India. The airline was founded as a joint-venture between the Tata Group and Tony Fernandes-led AirAsia Bhd in 2014.

- Tata Group later launched full-service airline Vistara in a 51:49 joint-venture with Singapore Airlines and bought 100% stake in Air India, along with its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express earlier this year.
- The conglomerate is in process of consolidating its aviation portfolio. It is also learnt to be moving all its aviation brands to a single corporate office in Gurugram.

UN experts welcome announcement to abolish mandatory death penalty

- In some countries (like Malaysia until now), the death sentence is imposed as the mandatory or only punishment for certain crimes. In Malaysia, terrorist acts, murder, and rape resulting in death carry the mandatory death penalty.
- A judge does not have the discretion to give a lesser punishment, or to consider aspects such as the circumstances in which the crime was committed or of the defendant before handing out the sentence.
- Barring a few exceptions and certain specific offences, most countries allow capital punishment to be reduced to a life sentence or alternative sentences.
- Some Islamic nations have the punishment for blasphemy, the offence of contempt against God or other sacred objects or people in a faith.
- India is among the countries that persist with the death penalty as the maximum punishment, but it is not mandatory for any crime.

PM Modi Addresses bi-centenary celebration of Mumbai Samachar Newspaper

- The Bombay Samachar, now Mumbai Samachar, is the oldest continuously published newspaper in India.
- Established in 1822 by Fardunjee Marzban, it is published in Gujarati and English.
- The Bombay Samachar is also Asia's oldest continuously published newspaper.

Sequoia Raises Record \$2.85 Bn To Fund Indian Startups, Other Ventures

- Of this, the venture capital firm will deploy about \$2 billion in Indian startups while the remaining \$850 million will be used to fund startups in the Southeast Asia region.

- This is the biggest dedicated India fund raised by an investor at a time when startup funding has slowed down on global cues.
- Sequoia Capital is an American venture capital firm. The firm is headquartered in Menlo Park, California and mainly focuses on the technology industry.
- The venture capital fund has been an early backer of some of the biggest tech companies in the world including Apple, Google and WhatsApp.
- It is one the most active VC fund company in India. In India it is an investor in Byju's, Unacademy and Zomato.

PM Modi inaugurates 'Kranti Gatha' and reconstructed 'Jal Bhushan' in Mumbai

- The Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries has been created in the bunker that was discovered below Raj Bhavan in 2016 by the then Governor of Maharashtra N Vidyasagar Rao. Built before the First World War, it was used by the British store arms and ammunition.
- The bunker has 13 rooms of various sizes and the different cells in it were known as 'Shell Store', 'Gun Shell', Cartridge Store, Shell Lift, Central Artillery Room, Workshop etc. Many of these rooms as well as the wall in the hallway have now been used for the 'Kranti Gatha - Gallery of Revolutionaries'.
- The 'Kranti Gatha' gallery commemorates many revolutionaries from Maharashtra from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the Naval uprising in Mumbai in 1946.
- In this Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Chaphekar brothers, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Babarao Savarkar, Krantiguru Lahuji Salve, Anant Laxman Kanhere, Rajguru, Madam Bhikaji Cama feature prominently.

Skalzung Rigzin, the first Indian Mountaineer to climb Mount Annapurna peak without supplemental Oxygen,

- With 16 days of gap between climb of Mt Annapurna on April 28 and Mt Lhotse on May 14, Skalzung Rigzin has set a record to summit two peaks without oxygen supplements.
- Annapurna is a mountain situated in the Annapurna mountain range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal. It is the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091 metres above sea level.

- Mt Annapurna is one of the most difficult among the 8000 meters height peaks in the world and is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate.



PM to chair the first-ever National Conference of Chief Secretaries at Dharamshala

- The National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held from 15th to 17th June 2022.
- More than 200 people participated in the conference, representing the Central Government, all States/ UTs and domain experts. It was a significant step towards further strengthening the partnership between the Centre and the State Governments.
- Spread over three days, Three themes were discussed in the Conference:
 - Implementation of the National Education Policy;
 - Urban governance; and
 - Crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities.

June 21

West Bengal assembly passes bill to replace governor with CM as chancellor of state universities

- The appointment of Vice-Chancellors in state government-run universities is among the responsibilities of Governors as Chancellors.
- Chancellors in most states have the power to annul decisions of the decision-making bodies of universities such as the Executive Council, and to make appointments to these bodies.
- They also enjoy the power to preside over the convocation of universities.
- In some states, however, Governors have little or no say in appointing VCs despite holding the post of Chancellor. In Telangana and Gujarat, Governors have no option but to appoint VCs from among the names approved by the state governments.
- The move by the Mamata Banerjee government has once again brought to the fore similar disputes playing out in Opposition-ruled states such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, which too have curtailed the authority enjoyed by Governors as Chancellors.
- While no attempt has been made to officially designate the CM as Chancellor in any other state, Tamil Nadu in April passed two Bills that seek to transfer the power of the Governor to appoint VCs of 13 state universities to the state government, which is currently run by the DMK.

ICMR releases guidelines for type-1 diabetes

- Type 1 diabetes is a condition where the pancreas completely stops producing insulin, the hormone responsible for controlling the level of glucose in blood by increasing or decreasing absorption to the liver, fat, and other cells of the body.
- This is unlike type 2 diabetes – where the body's insulin production either goes down or the cells become resistant to the insulin.
- Type 1 diabetes is predominantly diagnosed in children and adolescents.
- Type 1 diabetes is much more severe than type 2. Unlike type 2 diabetes where the body produces some insulin and which can be managed using various pills, if a person with type 1 diabetes stops taking their insulin, they die within weeks as the body produces zero insulin.
- Symptoms in children's include frequent urination, extreme thirst, and diabetic ketoacidosis (a serious condition where the body has a high concentration of

ketones, a molecule produced when the body isn't able to absorb glucose for energy and starts breaking down fats instead).

- There are over 10 lakh children and adolescents living with type 1 diabetes in the world, with India accounting for the highest numbers.

Jack Dorsey announces 'Web 5

- Web 1.0: Web 1.0 was the first generation of the global digital communications network. It is often referred to as the “read-only” Internet made of static web-pages that only allowed for passive engagement.
- Web 2.0: The next stage in the evolution of the web was the “read and write” Internet. Users were now able to communicate with servers and other users leading to the creation of the social web. This is the world wide web that we use today.
- Web 3.0: Web 3.0 is an evolving term that refers to a “read-write-execute” web - with decentralization as its bedrock. It speaks about a digital world, built leveraging the blockchain technology, where people are able to interact with each other without the need of an intermediary. Web 3.0 will be driven by Artificial Intelligence and machine learning.

Web 5.0

- Being developed by Dorsey's Bitcoin business unit, The Block Head (TBH), Web 5.0 is aimed at “building an extra decentralized web that puts you in control of your data and identity”.
- Web 5.0 is Web 2.0 plus Web 3.0 that will allow users to ‘own their identity’ on the Internet and ‘control their data’. Both Web 3.0 and Web 5.0 envision an Internet without threat of censorship - from governments or big tech, and without fear of significant outages.

Why a senior Google engineer claimed its AI-based chatbot LaMDA is ‘sentient’

- LaMDA is a language model created by Google AI, a division of Google dedicated to artificial intelligence.

- LaMDA is an artificial intelligence system that creates chatbots – AI robots designed to communicate with humans – by gathering vast amounts of text from the internet and using algorithms to respond to queries in the most fluid and natural way possible.
- Google first announced LaMDA at its flagship developer conference I/O in 2021.
- In June 2022 the LaMDA chatbot received widespread coverage regarding claims about it having achieved sentience (i.e. the capacity to experience feelings and sensations).

Canada's Manitoba assembly passes the Turban Day Act

- Why April 13? The day of Baisakhi or Vaisakhi, which usually falls on April 13 or 14 each year, commemorates the birth of Khalsa Panth. It was on this day in 1699 that the tenth Guru Gobind Singh had laid the foundation of Khalsa Panth at Anandpur Sahib among his followers.
- Significance of the Act: Giving an official recognition to the turban or dastar (a headgear which is Sikh religious symbol) will spread awareness against racism that Sikhs still face in Canada.
- Sikhs constitute just 1.4 per cent (around 5 lakh in number) of Canada's total population but hold significant positions in the government and political system.
- Not just Sikhs, Canada remains the most preferred destination for Punjabis to immigrate.
- The month of April is celebrated as Sikh Heritage Month across Canada after the Federal Parliament passed the Bill in 2019 and it was given the Royal Assent.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Greece to demilitarise islands

- The Aegean Islands are the group of islands in the Aegean Sea, with mainland Greece to the west and north and Turkey to the east; the island of Crete delimits the sea to the south, those of Rhodes, Karpathos and Kasos to the southeast.
- The vast majority of the Aegean Islands belong to Greece. The only sizable possessions of Turkey in the Aegean Sea are Imbros (Gökçeada) and Tenedos (Bozcaada), in the northeastern part of the Sea.

- Greece and Turkey are NATO allies, but the neighboring countries have a history of disputes over a range of issues, including mineral exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and rival claims in the Aegean Sea.
- Turkey argues the islands were ceded to Greece on the condition they remained demilitarized.
- Greece maintains Turkey has deliberately misinterpreted the treaties and says it has legal grounds to defend itself following hostile actions by Turkey.

Thailand becomes the first Asian country to legalise Marijuana.

- Thailand legalised the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks, the first Asian country to do so, with the aim of boosting its agriculture and tourism sectors but smoking pot is still against the law.
- Thailand, which has a tradition of using cannabis to relieve pain and fatigue, legalised medicinal marijuana in 2018. The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.
- The possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0.2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is not allowed, which will mean smokers of the drug known as “pot”, “weed” and a host of other names, will struggle to get “stoned”.
- Those who break the law can still face jail and fines.

June 22

France's Total to buy stake in Adani hydrogen unit

- As part of the tie-up, TotalEnergies would acquire a 25% stake in Adani New Industries Ltd. (ANIL), a unit of Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL).
- The joint venture aims to invest \$50 billion over the next 10 years to set up the green hydrogen ecosystem. In the primary phase, ANIL will develop green hydrogen production capacity of 1 million tons per annum at Mundra before 2030.

- Green hydrogen gas is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyzer that may be powered by electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

Russia overtakes Saudi Arabia to become India's second biggest oil supplier

- Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil in May 2022, or more than 16% of all their oil imports.
- Russian-origin crude hit 5% of India's total seaborne imports in April for the first time, rising from under 1% throughout 2021 and Q1 2022. Iraq remained the top supplier to India in May and Saudi Arabia is now the third-biggest supplier.

The Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021

- This study, an annual one commissioned by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, tracks how news is consumed in different countries.
- This year's report, the eleventh overall, is based on a survey conducted by YouGuv, a British market research and data analytics firm.
- It flags six major trends which could have wider socio-political implications.
- Firstly, people are trusting news content less and less. The average level of trust in news, at 42%, was found to be lower than the previous year.
- Second, consumption of traditional news media declined in nearly all the countries surveyed.
- Third, the proportion of news consumers who say that they "avoid news" has risen sharply across countries, with the report describing the phenomenon as "selective avoidance".
- Fourth, despite small increases in the proportion of people willing to pay for online news (mostly in richer countries), the growth in digital subscriptions for news content seems to be leveling off.
- Next, "the smartphone has become the dominant way in which most people first access news in the morning".
- Finally, news consumption is increasingly happening via social media platforms such as Facebook and TikTok rather than traditional media.

- India is a strongly mobile-focussed market. 72% of the survey respondents accessed news through smartphones and 35% did so via computers.
- Also, 84% of the Indian respondents sourced news online, 63% from social media, 59% from television, and 49% from print. YouTube (53%) and WhatsApp (51%) were the top social media platforms for sourcing news.
- India registered a small increase in the level of trust, with 41% trusting news overall.
- While legacy print brands and public broadcasters continued to have high trust levels, only a minority – 36% and 35% – felt that the media was free from undue political influence and from undue business influence respectively.

Demolition drives violate international law

- This idea of serving 'justice' through bulldozers emanated in Uttar Pradesh.
- In the wake of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 the Uttar Pradesh government passed orders to recover damages from those who were allegedly involved in destroying public property. This process has been further institutionalised through the enactment of the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020.
- Several commentators have already pointed out that the use of such brute state power violates various domestic and international legal provisions.
- The right to housing is not only a fundamental right recognised under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, it is also a well-documented right under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The right to property under Article 300A of Indian constitution is a human right, former Supreme Court judge Justice V. Gopala Gowda said.
- Likewise, Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognises the right to adequate housing.
- According to the UN Human Rights Office, an integral element of the right to adequate housing is 'protection against forced evictions'.

Findings Of SIPRI Yearbook 2022

- A key finding is that despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade.
- Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons.
- India had 160 nuclear warheads as on January 2022 and it appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal. While India's nuclear stockpile increased from 156 in January 2021 to 160 in January 2022, Pakistan's nuclear stockpile has remained at 165.
- China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear weapon arsenal, which satellite images indicate includes the construction of over 300 new missile silos. China had 350 nuclear warheads in January 2021 and 2022.

Ministry seeks public feedback on draft national policy on disability

- The draft said the current national programme on prevention of disabilities run by the Health Ministry focused on "traditional causes", but there were other causes of disability, such as malnourishment, medical negligence, socio-cultural factors and impairment caused by disasters.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act, 2016, also expanded the number of disabilities from seven to 21.
- The policy said the States and Union Territories should add a provision on compliance with the RPD Act when granting permission or recognition to educational institutions. A module on disability should be included in MBBS and other medical courses.
- To make vehicles more accessible, the policy said: "The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will issue necessary guidelines for making modification in the personal vehicles being used by persons with disabilities as per requirement."

Report on new 50 km limits of BSF jurisdiction

- While in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, the BSF jurisdiction, from the border towards the hinterland, was enhanced from the earlier 15 km to 50 km, in Gujarat the same limit has been reduced from 80 km to 50 km, while in Rajasthan the limit has been kept unchanged at 50 km.

- The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965. It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Researchers Find A Rare 'Abnormal' Dinosaur Egg In India; A Unique Egg Never Seen Before

- While eggs-within-eggs are a rare phenomenon, they are so far known to occur only in birds and never known in reptiles. Until this discovery, no egg-in-egg fossil egg was found in dinosaurs and other reptiles such as turtles, lizards and crocodiles.
- The findings talk about the “egg-in-egg” phenomenon in a titanosaurid dinosaur egg found at Bagh in Madhya Pradesh’s Dhar district . The new discovery of an ovum-in-ovo egg, brings out newer connections between reptilian and avian evolution.
- Dinosaurs of the Sauropod family were among the largest land animals that ever lived and widespread millions of years ago in the territory that is now India. Fossils of these animals have been found in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- The Upper Cretaceous Lameta Formation of Central India is long known for its dinosaur fossils (both skeletal and egg remains).

Centre tightens norms for celebrity endorsers

- According to new guidelines released by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, endorsements must reflect the honest opinions, belief or experience of the endorsers.
- The endorsers have to make material connection disclosures and failing to do so will attract penalty under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA).
- Material disclosures mean any relationship that materially affects the weight or credibility of any endorsement which a reasonable consumer would not expect.
- Violation of these guidelines will attract a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh for the first offence and ₹ 50 lakh for the subsequent offence, under the CPA.

- The new guidelines “Prevention of misleading advertisements and necessary due diligence for endorsement of advertisements”, which came into effect in June 2022, have been issued to prevent misleading advertisements.

June 23

ATF price hiked again by 16.3%, reaches all-time high

- The record increase in ATF prices, combined with the depreciating rupee, is set to increase the cost of operations for airlines, which could lead to an increase in air fares by up to 15%.
- The cost of ATF constitutes up to 50% of the cost of operations for airlines in India that are already struggling due to the high cost environment and lower fares in the country.
- The airline industry had sought respite from high fuel prices through a cut in excise duty on ATF or by bringing jet fuel under GST, that would have brought down prices and also allowed airlines to claim input credit tax on the GST paid.
- While bringing ATF under GST seems unlikely for now, the Aviation Ministry had requested the Finance Ministry to reduce excise duty on jet fuel by 2 percentage points to 9 per cent. The Finance Ministry, however, did not cut any taxes on ATF.
- Jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF, also abbreviated avtur) is a type of aviation fuel designed for use in aircraft powered by gas-turbine engines. It is colorless to straw-colored in appearance.

US passes world's first 'right to repair' law for digital electronics

- This provides consumers with the right to repair and refurbish their purchased goods. With access to relevant tools and repair manuals, independent repair shops will finally be able to compete with manufacturers.
- The rationale behind the “right to repair” is that the individual who purchases a product must own it completely. This implies that apart from being able to use the product, consumers must be able to repair and modify the product the way they want to.

- Monopoly on repair processes infringes the customer's' "right to choose" recognised by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Consumer disputes jurisprudence in the country has also partially acknowledged the right to repair.
- In *Shamsher Kataria v Honda SIEL Cars India Ltd (2017)*, for instance, the Competition Commission of India ruled that restricting the access of independent automobile repair units to spare parts by way of an end-user license agreement was anti-competitive.

Phase-2 of fortified rice distribution starts

- The pet scheme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, started in October 2021, aims to supply fortified rice to beneficiaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman, or PM-POSHAN, scheme.
- fortification means "deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in a food so as to improve the nutritional quality of food and to provide public health benefit with minimal risk to health".
- Various technologies are available to add micronutrients to regular rice, such as coating, dusting, and 'extrusion'. 'Extrusion' involves the production of fortified rice kernels (FRKs) from a mixture using an 'extruder' machine. The fortified rice kernels are blended with regular rice to produce fortified rice.
- Fortification of food is considered to be one of the most suitable methods to combat malnutrition.

Migration in India 2020-2021

- The 'Migration in India' report, which is based on first-time collection of additional data during the annual round of Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020-June 2021, separates the categories of 'temporary visitors' and 'migrants'.
- 'Temporary Visitors' have been defined as the ones who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.

- 'Migrants' have been defined as those, for whom the last usual place of residence, any time in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration.
- After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, 0.7 per cent of India's population was recorded as a 'temporary visitor' across households during the July 2020-June 2021 period.
- Over 84 % of these 0.7 % 'temporary visitors' moved for reasons linked to the pandemic ranging from loss of job, closure of educational institutions and health related reasons.
- The all-India migration rate was 28.9 per cent for July 2020-June 2021, with 26.5 per cent migration rate in rural areas and 34.9 per cent in urban areas.
- Females recorded a higher share of migration rate of 47.9 per cent, with 48 per cent in rural areas and 47.8 per cent in urban areas. The migration rate for males was seen at 10.7 per cent, with 5.9 per cent in rural areas and 22.5 per cent in urban areas.
- Among females, the highest level of migration rate was seen at 86.8 per cent for marriage, while 49.6 per cent of the males migrated due to employment related reasons.

Hate speech, IPC Sec 295A, and how courts have read the law

- India does not have a formal legal framework for dealing with hate speech. However, a cluster of provisions, loosely termed hate speech laws, are invoked. These are primarily laws to deal with offences against religions.
- Provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), primarily Section 295A, define the contours of free speech and its limitations with respect to offences relating to religion.
- Section 295A defines and prescribes a punishment for deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.
- Section 295A is one of the key provisions in the IPC chapter to penalise religious offences.
- The state often invokes Section 295A along with Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, which penalises promoting enmity between different groups on

grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Rangila Rasool case

- Section 295A was brought in 1927. The amendment was a fallout of an acquittal under Section 153A of the IPC by the Lahore High Court in 1927 in *Rajpaul v Emperor*, popularly known as the Rangila Rasool case.
- Rangila Rasool was a tract – brought out by a Hindu publisher – that had made disparaging remarks about the Prophet's private life.

The controversy around the Northern Ireland Protocol

- Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that shares a land border with the EU, as the Republic of Ireland (or Ireland) is an EU member-state.
- As long as the U.K. was part of the EU, things were fine. But with Brexit, the U.K. exited the EU's customs union. This created a problem whose solution needed two seemingly contradictory outcomes: preserving the sanctity of the EU's single market, as well as that of the U.K.'s domestic market.

Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP):

- NIP's solution was to avoid a customs check at the actual customs border – on the island of Ireland, between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland – as this would have violated the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and risked instability in a region. It instead shifted the customs border to that between Northern Ireland and Britain, effectively at Britain's ports.
- As per the NIP, goods flowing into Northern Ireland would be checked at this 'sea border' before entering the island, and Northern Ireland would continue to follow EU rules in product standards.
- The main irritant for the U.K. in the current version of the NIP was the creation of "unacceptable barriers" to trade within the U.K. internal market – between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- The European Union (EU) has said that the proposed law violates international law and has threatened to take legal action against the U.K. if it goes ahead with the legislation.

Stalin's letter on Inter-State Council

- Inter-State Council is a mechanism that was constituted “to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India”. The Council is basically meant to serve as a forum for discussions among various governments.
- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which states that the President may constitute such a body if a need is felt for it.
- In 1988, the Sarkaria Commission suggested the Council should exist as a permanent body, and in 1990 it came into existence through a Presidential Order.
- The main functions of the Council are inquiring into and advising on disputes between states, investigating and discussing subjects in which two states or states and the Union have a common interest, and making recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
- The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Council, whose members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with legislative assemblies, and Administrators of other UTs.
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre's Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members.
- Since its constitution in 1990, the body has met only 11 times, although its procedure states it should meet at least three times every year. That there has been no meeting since July 2016.
- The Council was reconstituted in May 2022. The body will now have 10 Union Ministers as permanent invitees, and the standing committee of the Council has been reconstituted with Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman.

Amrit Mahotsav: Centre plans to release prisoners

- The special remission would be granted to a certain category of prisoners, and they would be released in three phases – August 15, 2022, January 26, 2023 and August 15, 2023.
- The prisoners who would qualify for premature release are women and transgender convicts of ages 50 and above and male convicts of 60 and above who have completed 50% of their total sentence period without counting the period of general remission earned.
- Among others eligible for remission are disabled convicts with 70% disability and more who have completed 50% of their total sentence period, convicted prisoners who have completed two-thirds (66%) of their total sentence and poor prisoners who have completed their sentence but are still in jail due to non-payment of fine imposed on them by waiving off the fine.
- The Ministry said that persons who committed an offence at a young age (18-21) and with no other criminal involvement or case against them and who have completed 50% of their sentence period would also be eligible for the remission.
- Persons convicted with death sentence, life imprisonment or persons convicted under the Terrorist and Disruptive (Prevention) Act, 1985, Prevention of Terrorist Act, 2002, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Explosives Act, 1908, National Security Act, 1982, Official Secrets Act, 1923, and Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, would not be eligible.

Govt's new guidelines banning surrogate ads

- Notified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, “Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022” apply to ads across all media platforms including television, print and online.
- The guidelines have imposed a complete ban on surrogate advertising.
- Surrogate advertising is the strategy of advertising a product that cannot be advertised openly.
- Advertisers instead create ads that help in building a brand, and often involve popular celebrities - all without naming the actual product that is being indirectly advertised.

- In India, tobacco products and alcohol cannot be advertised openly under laws like the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, which bans all kinds of direct and indirect advertisements of tobacco products.

June 24

New species of bamboo-dwelling bat found in Meghalaya

- The species, found near the forested patch of Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary, has been named *Glischropus meghalayanus*. The present discovery is the first report of a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also from South Asia.
- Thick-thumbed bats of the genus *Glischropus* are currently composed of four recognised species from Southeast Asia. The newly discovered species is small in size and has a dark brown colour with sulphur yellow belly.
- Bamboo-dwelling bats are a particular kind of bats living in the internodes of bamboos with specialised morphological characters that help them to adopt to the life inside a bamboo.
- With this new discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at 131.
- Meghalaya, a State with a small geographical area, harbours the highest bat diversity in the country with 67 species, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.
- From the same forested patches outside the Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary, scientist found another species of disk-footed bat *Eudiscopus denticulus* which was a new record in India.

10% reservation in Central Armed Police Forces, Assam Rifles

- Agniveers will also get ten per cent reservation in Defence Ministry's job vacancies.
- Reservations for agniveers meeting requisite eligibility criteria will be implemented in the Indian Coast Guard and defence civilian posts, and all the

16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings. This reservation would be in addition to existing reservations for ex-servicemen.

- The Ministry has also decided to give three years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in Central Armed Police Force and Assam Rifles.
- For the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit.

After a 9-year lull, India and EU re-launch negotiations for India-EU Free Trade Agreement

- Besides, negotiations were also launched for a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and a Geographical Indicators (GIs) Agreement.
- While the proposed IPA would provide a legal framework for cross-border investments to enhance the confidence of investors, the GI pact is expected to establish a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, to facilitate trade of GI products including handicrafts and agri-commodities.
- Last year, in the India and EU Leaders' Meeting held in Porto on 8th May 2021, an agreement was reached for resuming negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA and starting fresh negotiations on the IPA and a separate agreement on GIs.
- Both partners are now resuming the FTA talks after a gap of about nine years since the earlier negotiations were left off in 2013 due to difference in the scope and expectations from the deal.
- This would be one of the most significant FTAs for India as EU is its second largest trading partner after the US.
- The India-EU merchandise trade has registered an all-time high value of USD 116.36 Billion in 2021-22 with a year-on growth of 43.5%. India's export to the EU jumped 57% in FY 2021-22 to \$65 billion. India has a surplus trade with EU.

Gujarat becomes first State in the country to launch Balika Panchayat.

- The country's first-ever girl Panchayat, "Balika Panchayat", which was started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district, aims to promote the social and

political development of the girls and ensure their active participation of girls in politics.

- This is a unique initiative of the Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- It started in Kunaria, Maskar, Motaga, and Vadsar villages of the Kutch district.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also planning to begin the girl panchayat across the country.
- "Balika Panchayat" is managed by people in the 11-21 age group and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry denies any foreign funding in Padma Bridge construction

- It said that some quarters are trying to portray that the bridge which is to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 25 June has been constructed with foreign funds and is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China.
- The 6.15 kilometres long Padma Bridge is the largest bridge in Bangladesh. The bridge will help connect 19 south-western districts of Bangladesh with the rest of the country.

China's PLA Navy launches its third aircraft carrier named 'Fujian'

- Fujian is the name of China's eastern coastal province of Fujian. Fujian, in the southeast, is the closest province to Taiwan, a self-ruling province that China says must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.
- China's first aircraft carrier, the 'Liaoning', was a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 followed by the indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier 'Shandong' in 2019. Liaoning and Shandong are names of two provinces of China.
- China plans to have around five aircraft carriers. The next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

June 25

Another failure extends the elusive search for Alzheimer's 'silver bullet'

- Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disorder that slowly robs people of their memory and thinking abilities.
- Worldwide, it is the most common form of dementia or loss of cognitive functioning – thinking, remembering, and reasoning - contributing 60%-70% cases, according to the WHO.
- Progressive and irreversible, it usually begins with mild memory loss, and as symptoms grow severe, patients lose the ability to perform even simple tasks.
- The disease was discovered after Dr Alois Alzheimer examined a memory-loss patient's brain after her death in 1906 and found abnormal clumps (beta-amyloid plaque) and bundles of fibres (neurofibrillary tangles).
- Pathology of the disease is deposition of an abnormal protein called beta-amyloid in the brain. The plaque and tangles, along with loss of connections between the neurons to transmit messages inside the brain, are key markers of the disease.
- In India, only 1 in 10 people with dementia receive any diagnosis, treatment or care for the disease, according to the World Alzheimer's Report, 2021.
- An increasing prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is expected to drive up the incidence of dementia in India in the coming decades.
- According to the Global Burden of Disease study published this year in The Lancet, India could see a 197% jump in dementia, including Alzheimer's, from 3.84 million cases in 2019 to 11.44 million cases by 2050.

Kerala has struggled to identify buffer zones around its protected forests

- As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

- While the 10-km rule is implemented as a general principle, the extent of its application can vary. Areas beyond 10-km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important “sensitive corridors.
- The ESZs are not meant to hamper the daily activities of people living in the vicinity, but are meant to guard the protected areas and “refine the environment around them”.
- Guidelines list the activities prohibited in an ESZ, such as commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood, etc., apart from regulated activities like felling of trees.
- Lastly, there are permitted activities like ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, among others.
- ESZs are created as “shock absorbers” for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the “fragile ecosystems” by certain human activities taking place nearby.
- Furthermore, these areas are meant to act as a transition zone from areas requiring higher protection to those requiring lesser protection.

India re-establishes diplomatic presence in Afghanistan

- India also sent its first consignment of earthquake relief assistance to Afghanistan, where more than 1,000 Afghans have been killed in an earthquake outside the city of Khost. Paktika province in the south-east has been the most affected.
- The move to reopen the embassy, 10 months after the government shut it down, marks a reversal of the government's policy on engaging the Taliban.
- The Indian Embassy will become the 15th mission to be open in Kabul with staff deployed there under the Taliban regime, along with Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, European Union and four Central Asian states.
- The opening of the embassy is a step towards working more closely with the Taliban regime, particularly as India worries about the impact of terrorist groups, drug trade and migration on the region.

CBDT Notifies TDS Disclosure Requirements For Cryptos, Virtual Digital Assets

- The Finance Act, 2022 introduced Section 194S in The Income Tax Act, 1961, under which a TDS of 1 per cent will be levied on the transfer of VDAs effective July 1 if the value of transactions exceeds Rs 10,000 in a year.
- In cases where the transfer of VDA takes place on or through an exchange, and the VDA being transferred is not owned by the exchange, tax may be deducted by the exchange making the payment to the seller.
- However, when the payment between the seller and the exchange is being done through a broker, the responsibility to deduct tax shall be on both the exchange and the broker.
- The CBDT has defined four primary VDAs – bitcoin, ether, USD Tether, and USD Coin – for the purpose of tax deduction on lesser known cryptocurrencies.

Senior IPS officer Dinkar Gupta is appointed Director General, NIA

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the primary counter-terrorist task force of India.
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- Headquartered in New Delhi, the NIA has branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai and Imphal.

MO BUS

- The public transport service has been recognised for its role in “promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)”.
- Mo Bus, the UN noted, has incorporated “real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing”, and an e-rickshaw system called ‘Mo E-Ride’ has been introduced as a last-mile feeder service.
- The “impact” is that 57 per cent of the city’s commuters now use the Mo Bus, the UN said. Mo E-Ride is estimated to reduce pollution by 30-50 per cent.

Also, 40 per cent of Mo Bus conductors are women and 100 percent of Mo E-Ride drivers are women, transgender people, and people from disadvantaged communities.

- In 2019, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conferred a special award on CRUT, the Bhubaneswar City Bus Modernisation Project, popularly known as the Mo Bus service.
- The UN describes its Public Service Awards as the “most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service”. It is intended to reward “the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide”.
- The first Awards ceremony was held in 2003.

Government to move NDPS from Finance Ministry to Ministry of Home Affairs

- Currently, while the home ministry governs the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Department of Revenue (DoR) in the finance ministry administers the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act of 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is a central law enforcement and intelligence agency that has been tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances under the provisions of the NDPS Act.
- The NDPS Act, prohibits a person from the production/manufacturing/cultivation, possession, sale, purchase transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
- The PITNDPS Act, 1988 provides for detention in certain cases for the purpose of preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- The transfer was being considered under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. Transferring administration of the NDPS Act and PITNDPS to MHA will lead to a single command chain and unification of all matters related to narcotics.

ONGC Videsh announces new discovery in Colombia

- Well, Urraca-1X was spudded on 20th April 2022 and drilled to target depth (TD) of 10956 ft., encountering 17 ft thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201ft -10218 ft.
- ONGC Videsh has earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing @ 20,000 bbl oil per day.
- Block CPO-5 was awarded to ONGC Videsh Limited in the 2008 bid round of Colombia. ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest (PI) in the block along with operatorship, remaining 30% is held by partner Geopark.
- ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).

June 26

Assam has become the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).

- With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all the 36 states/UTs, making food security portable throughout the country.
- It was initiated in August 2019. During the last two years of COVID-19 pandemic, ONORC plan has significantly contributed in ensuring subsidized foodgrains to NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries, especially migrant beneficiaries.
- The objective of this program is to empower all NFSA beneficiaries to become AtmaNirbhar for their food security anywhere in the country, through portability of their existing ration cards enabling them to seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized foodgrains (in part or full) from any Fair Price Shop of their choice.
- Another dimension under ONORC plan is the 'MERA RATION' mobile application which has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the

ONORC plan. The mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages.

US Supreme Court overturns landmark Roe v. Wade

- It also overturned was Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a 1992 case that upheld Roe.
- Abortion rights – which have been available to women for over two generations – will now be determined by individual States.
- Some 20 States have laws (which were overruled by Roe until now) restricting or banning abortions. Thirteen States have laws banning the procedure, that come into effect, now that Roe has been overturned.
- Addressing the nation, President Joe Biden called the decision a “tragic error” and a “sad day” for the court and the country. “The court has done what it has never done before, expressly take away a constitutional right that is so fundamental to so many Americans,” he said.
- Biden warned officials, “state or local” ,” high or low” not to interfere in the right of a woman to travel to a State where she could have an abortion.

‘Roe v. Wade’

- The case, sometimes referred to simply as “Roe”, struck down laws that made abortion illegal in several states, and ruled that abortion would be allowed up to the point of foetal viability, that is, the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb.
- Foetal viability was around 28 weeks (7 months) at the time of the ‘Roe’ judgment nearly 50 years ago; experts now agree that advances in medicine have brought the threshold down to 23 or 24 weeks (6 months or a little less), and newer studies show this could be further pegged at 22 weeks. An average pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks.
- Foetal viability is often seen as the point at which the rights of the woman can be separated from the rights of the unborn foetus.

PM Modi inaugurates commerce ministry's new premises 'Vanijya Bhawan'

- Constructed near India Gate, the Vanijya Bhawan will serve as an integrated and modern office complex that will be used by the two Departments under the Ministry i.e. Department of Commerce and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- During the Programme, Prime Minister will also launch a new portal - NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade) - which is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

Poll panel to delete 111 unrecognised political parties for flouting norms

- The EC had deleted 87 RUPPs in May after announcing a clean-up drive against more than 2,100 such parties that it said had violated a string of rules by failing to furnish contribution reports or communicating changes to party-related information.
- There are 2,796 RUPPs, according to EC's data till September 2021, an increase of more than 300% since 2001.
- According to the EC, during verification the RUPPs against whom action has been taken were found existing only on paper or letters sent to their addresses returned undelivered.
- The EC has for long been seeking powers to deregister political parties. The poll panel has also been seeking modification to Form 24A to mandate disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000 instead of the current Rs 20,000.

Prime Minister's Awards for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga-2021

- Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, The Divine Life Society from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for the award.
- Ayush Ministry said, the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate and cash award of 25 lakh rupees.
- The award was first announced by the Prime Minister Modi on the occasion of the second International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh in 2016.

NIPUN: Upskilling of construction workers launched to train for overseas job opportunities

- The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.
- The construction industry is poised to become the largest employer by 2022 and needs 45 million additional skilled workers over the next 10 years.
- To fulfil this mission, the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have joined Project NIPUN as industry partners and will identify training job roles of aspirational value in the construction sector in collaboration with the SSC.

IIT Madras to set up 5G test bed for Army Training Command

- The test bed will facilitate Indian Army to utilise the 5G technology for its operational use, especially along its borders. The collaboration would provide an impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian armed forces.
- Under the ambit of the MoU, IIT Madras will provide consultancy, duly supported by research for feasibility studies and prototype development on 5G enabled future communications.

'Svadha'- Wellness Wear Collection in Khadi

- In Atharva veda, 'Svadha' means ease, comfort or pleasure, which are truly the attributes of this collection.
- The wellness clothing 'Svadha' range emphasizes the values of mindfulness and perseverance and is aimed to attract all age groups from Gen Z to young at heart. The wellness wear has used hand-spun khadi in natural hues.
- Center of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at NIFT, with the objective to help Khadi Institutions (KIs) to effectively

design, produce and market high quality differentiated khadi products in the Indian and global market.

12th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management between India and Nepal held on 15-16 June

- The two sides reviewed the decisions taken in the last JWG held in 2015 in Pokhara, Nepal.
- The Joint Working Group reviewed the Border District Coordination Committee (BDCC) meetings held earlier and also the progress made on the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, Extradition Treaty and other outstanding MoUs to be signed between the two sides.
- The Indian Delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Nepali side was led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal.
- The Nepalese delegation extended an invitation to the Indian delegation for the next JWG to be held in Nepal next year.

June 27

Terrorist outfit ISIS-K claims responsibility for attack on Gurudwara in Afghanistan's capital Kabul

- The area is densely populated and is the centre of the Afghan Hindu and Sikh communities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed shock over the cowardly terrorist attack on the Karte Parwan Gurudwara in Kabul.
- The gurdwara in Kabul has been home to at least 150 Sikhs, who have been staying there since the fall of the Ashraf Ghani government last August. The latest attack has come days after India sent a senior diplomat to hold dialogue with the Taliban in Kabul.

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict rages on, the spotlight is on Kaliningrad, Russia's westernmost region.



- Russia has warned Lithuania of serious consequences after it banned the rail transfer of some goods to the Russian territory of Kaliningrad.
- Last week, the Lithuanian authorities announced they would ban goods subject to EU sanctions from passing through their territory to Russia.
- As Russia's westernmost federal entity, the Kaliningrad Oblast occupies 15,000 sq km and houses under 1 million people. Russia is divided into 85 such oblasts, or states.
- It is situated almost 300-km away from mainland Russia, and shares no borders with it.
- Home to the deployment of Moscow's Iskander missiles and the Russian Baltic Fleet, Kaliningrad has been called the Kremlin's "unsinkable aircraft carrier".
- The end of the Second World War marked an important milestone in Kaliningrad's history.
- The Potsdam Agreement was signed by America, Britain and the former Soviet Union in 1945 in which Kaliningrad, then known as Königsberg, was ceded to Russia.
- This was done as the Soviet Union, under Stalin, had already taken control of the East Prussian territory due to its strategic geographic location.

Canada to ban companies from importing or making plastic bags, by the end of this year

- The country is also banning their sale by the end of 2023 and their export by the end of 2025.
- Canada previously announced a ban on plastic, however, environment advocates were dismayed about delays. In addition to bags and takeout boxes, the ban will affect plastic straws, bags, cutlery, stir sticks and six-pack rings that hold cans and bottles.
- The federal government listed plastics as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act last year.

DoT extends production-linked incentive scheme for telecom by one year

- The guidelines for the PLI Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products have been amended to introduce design-led manufacturing with additional incentive rates.
- The design-led manufacturing scheme is open for both medium and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs) and non-MSMEs, including domestic and global companies.
- The DoT also said applications for design-led manufacturing will be prioritised over other manufacturers. The scheme requires an investment threshold of Rs 10 crore for MSMEs and Rs 100 crore for non-MSMEs, excluding land and building cost.
- The Centre will provide additional incentives of over Rs 4,000 crore under the amended scheme.
- The incentives will be based on incremental sales of the manufactured goods, and range between 4 per cent to 7 per cent for different categories over the years. MSMEs will get an additional 1 per cent incentive in the first, second, and third years.
- The DoT has also approved 11 new telecom and network products to the existing list of products that can be manufactured under the scheme.
- Investment made by successful applicants in India from 1st April 2022 onwards and up to Financial Year 2025-2026 shall be eligible, subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds.

Historic torch relay for 44th Chess Olympiad launched by Prime Minister in New Delhi

- This torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before the final culmination at Mahabalipuram near Chennai. It will then head over to the FIDE Headquarters, Switzerland.
- India is hosting the prestigious Chess Olympiad for the first time and in the process, Asia gets to host the event after a gap of 30 years. Philippines last hosted it from Asia in 1992.
- India, who made its debut at the event in 1956 Moscow (27th position), has a gold medal (joint winners with Russia in 2020) and two bronze medals (2021, 2014) from the Chess Olympiad.
- While the 2020 and 2021 editions were held virtually owing to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2022 edition will be the first over-the-board Chess Olympiad being held since 2018 in Georgia.

In a First, Microplastics Are Found in Fresh Antarctic Snow

- Researchers collected snow samples from 19 sites in the Ross Island region of Antarctica and found that all contained microplastics.
- While microplastics have been found across the world, from the world's deepest ocean floors to the peak of Mount Everest, researchers say that this is the first time that they have been found in freshly fallen snow in Antarctica.
- **How did they reach Antarctica?** These particles, due to their light weight and low density, might have travelled through air from more than 6,000 km away. However, there is also a possibility that the human presence in Antarctica created a microplastic 'footprint'.
- It shows that the spread of microplastics is so widespread, that even the remotest and least habitable places in the world are now infested by these particles.
- Microplastics are not biodegradable and can be toxic for plants and animals.
- The microplastics deposited in ice and snow can accelerate the melting of the cryosphere – regions where water is in solid form, like the planet's North and South Poles. Dark-coloured microplastics are better at absorbing sunlight and retain more heat.
- Microplastics are tiny plastic debris that are smaller than 5 mm in length, tinier than even a grain of rice. There are two types of microplastics.

- Primary microplastics are tiny particles that are purposely designed as such for commercial use, like in cosmetics, nurdles-plastic pellets used in industrial manufacturing and in fibres from synthetic textiles like nylon.
- Secondary microplastics are formed through the degradation of larger plastic items like bottles, fishing nets and plastic bags. This occurs through exposure to the environment, like radiation from the sun, wind and ocean waves.

Indian Oil unveils indoor solar cooking stove 'Surya Nutan'

- Surya Nutan is a Stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking.
- This is a patented product designed and developed by IndianOil R&D Centre, Faridabad.
- It works on a Hybrid Mode (i.e. can work on both solar & auxiliary energy source simultaneously) which makes the Surya Nutan a reliable cooking solution for all weather conditions.
- Surya Nutan can be used in all weather and seasons including when the Sun is not available for long durations or for continuous days, such as monsoons and extreme winters.

June 28

Open network for digital commerce

- As per the strategy paper on ONDC, it is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
- It is neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network.
- The ONDC aims to enable buying of products from all participating e-commerce platforms by consumers through a single platform.
- Currently, a buyer needs to go to Amazon, for example, to buy a product from a seller on Amazon. Under ONDC, it is envisaged that a buyer registered on one

participating e-commerce site (for example, Amazon) may purchase goods from a seller on another participating e-commerce site (for example, Flipkart).

- The ONDC model is trying to replicate the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the field of digital payments. UPI allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms they are registered on.
- The open network concept also extends beyond the retail sector, to any digital commerce domains including wholesale, mobility, food delivery, logistics, travel, urban services, etc.
- **Current Status:** Presently, ONDC is in its pilot stage in five cities – Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore – with a target of onboarding around 150 retailers.
- The ONDC will standardise operations like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment, hence making it simpler and easier for small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business.
- However, experts have pointed out some likely potential issues such as getting enough number of e-commerce platforms to sign up, along with issues related to customer service and payment integration.

Indian Navy's Operation Sankalp

- In the milieu of the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, post attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named 'Op SANKALP', in the Gulf Region on 19 June 2019 to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- This operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and DG, Shipping.

Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III inducted in to Coast Guard

- The ALH will be the first aircraft of the newly created "840 Squadron" of The Indian Coast Guard that will be stationed in Chennai and will be the first ALH MK-III to be positioned in the Coast Guard Region East.
- Three more ALHs will be added to the "840 Squadron" shortly.

- The aircraft are having Beyond the Visual Range detection, using modern radars. It is equipped for target neutralisation operations, using its mounted Heavy Machine Gun.
- The squadron's operations area will encompass the entire Eastern Region due to its strategic importance and geographical location.

Jammu and Kashmir will host the 2023 meetings of the G20

- The G20 countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021. India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- The participation of the delegates from G-20 countries will be a major boost to the efforts of the Centre to project the situation in J&K as normal, after J&K's special constitutional position was ended in 2019.

ISRO has successfully launched communication satellite GSAT-24. The satellite was flown by Ariane-5 rocket from the spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

- GSAT-24, built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was launched by French company Arianespace.
- GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs. It was the first demand driven communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms.
- NSIL, a Government of India company under the Department of Space, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

MoD approves 'BRO cafes' in border areas

- The scheme provides for wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode with agencies, on a licence basis, which will design, build and operate the facility as per guidelines of the BRO.

- Proposed amenities include parking for two and four wheelers, food plaza, restaurant, separate rest rooms for men, women and differently abled, and first aid facilities, among others.
- Selection of licences will be done through a competitive process.
- These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people.

Vitamin D3-rich weed among 18 plants stifling Kaziranga

- The list released by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) did not contain the “usual culprits” of many protected areas in India - parthenium and lantana that threaten more than 40% of India's tiger reserves, according to a global study in 2020.
- It did mention ipomoea (*Ipomoea carnea*) and mimosa (*Mimosa himalaica*) but marked them as largely controlled and not much of a worry now.
- Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is believed to have come to India as contaminants in a consignment of wheat imported from the U.S. in the 1950s while lantana (*Lantana camara*) was brought by the British as ornamental plants from South America two centuries ago.
- Some weeds have herbal properties, but their toxicity outweighs their utility. For instance, wild boars love to gorge on the succulent rootlets of the *Leea macrophylla* or ‘kukura thengia’ that is fast clogging the patrolling paths and grasslands.
- Another one is the *Cestrum diurnum* or day-blooming jasmine of West Indies origin “coming up gregariously” on the Brahmaputra sandbars. The plant is otherwise a source of Vitamin D3.

June 29

Payroll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)

- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- This module has been developed under the aegis of Défense Accounts Department and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.
- The launch marked the beginning of the Centralized Pay System (CPS), the foundation of which is being laid down by the Defence Accounts Department Headquarters to provide one stop pay accounting solutions for all organisations under the Ministry.

Disability board asks States to assess accessibility of public buildings

- The CAB, which is required by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to meet once in six months, held its fifth meeting recently. The last meeting was in 2020.
- Fifth Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides a timeline of five years for making all existing public buildings accessible by 14.06.2022.

European Union grants candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia

- European Council President Charles Michel made the announcement after discussions among leaders of the EU's 27 member states.
- In order to join the 27-member EU bloc, the three countries will be required to carry out a series of political and economic reforms.
- The European Council, which comprises the heads of all 27 EU governments, would have the final vote on Ukraine's membership.

Forget Pegasus, new spyware 'Hermit' now being used by govts

- Hermit is a commercial spyware that is known to be used by governments with victims in Kazakhstan, Italy and northern Syria. The spyware was first detected in Kazakhstan in April 2022 after the government violently suppressed protests against government policies.

- Hermit is a modular spyware that hides its malicious capabilities in packages downloaded after it's deployed.
- These modules, along with the permissions the core apps have, enable Hermit to exploit a rooted device, record audio and make and redirect phone calls, as well as collect data such as call logs, contacts, photos, device location and SMS messages.
- Hermit tricks users by serving up the legitimate webpages of the brands it impersonates as it kickstarts malicious activities in the background.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the upgraded Ayush Wellness Centre in the President's Estate

- The Ministry of Ayush and President Secretariat, in a joint initiative, had established the first AYUSH Wellness Clinic (AWC) of the country with all systems under one roof at President's Estate in July 2015.
- The AWC has treatment facilities in the streams of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy, and it caters to the medical needs of the President, officials of President's Secretariat and residents of the President's Estate.
- It is a precursor of many such clinics in various government departments and reputed institutes like AIIMS across the country.

BIS formulates standard for EV batteries following spate of fire incidents

- BIS, the National Standard Body of India, has published standards for Test Specifications for Lithium-ion Traction Battery Packs and Systems (Performance Testing) for Electrically Propelled Road Vehicles. The standard IS 17855: 2022 for these battery packs and systems is harmonized with ISO 12405-4: 2018.
- The IS 17855:2022 standard has been formulated after considering real-life scenarios for an EV such as a parked vehicle (battery is not used for an extended period of time), battery system shipped (stored), battery running at low and high temperatures, among others.
- The BIS is in the process of publishing two more standards for batteries to be used in electric passenger and goods carrying vehicles.

What is BNCAP and how will it assess vehicular safety in collisions?

- Bharat-NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles.
- Star Rating of Indian Cars based on Crash Tests is extremely crucial not only to ensure structural and passenger safety in cars, but to also increase the export-worthiness of Indian automobiles.
- The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities.
- Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the Number one automobile hub in the world.

June 30

Cabinet approves Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- The aim of the Agreement is to drive ambition, leadership and knowledge on green energy transitions based on renewable energy in India. The Agreement will help India's energy transition efforts and will also help the world in combating climate change.
- The areas of cooperation as envisaged in the Strategic Partnership Agreement will support India in achieving its ambitious target of 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.
- The salient features of the Agreement include enhanced cooperation in the following areas:
 - Facilitating knowledge sharing from India on scaling-up renewable energy and clean energy technologies
 - Supporting India's efforts on long term energy planning
 - Collaborating to strengthen the innovation climate in India

- Moving towards cost-effective decarbonisation through catalysing development and deployment of green hydrogen.
- Thus, the Strategic Partnership Agreement will help India's energy transition efforts and will also help the world in combating climate change.

NIUA's C-Cube and WRI India launch the India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions

- The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions by
 - Defining a shared language and by communicating benefits that inform actions at the local level including scaling up of existing NbS interventions.
 - Driving investment and strengthening delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
 - Mainstreaming urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions in India through informing policy, plans and project interventions
- 'India Forum for Nature-based Solutions' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI Indija) under the Cities4Forests initiative.
- It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of United Kingdom and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Cabinet approves Deregulation of Sale of Domestically Produced Crude Oil

- This will ensure marketing freedom for all Exploration and Production (E&P) operators.
- The condition in the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) to sell crude oil to Government or its Nominee or Government Companies shall accordingly be waived off. All E&P companies will now be free to sell crude oil from their fields in domestic market.

- Government revenues like Royalty, cess, etc. will continue to be calculated on uniform basis across all Contracts. As earlier, exports will not be permissible.
- This decision will further spur economic activities, incentivize making investments in upstream oil and gas sector and builds on a series of targeted transformative reforms rolled out since 2014.

Coal Ministry Approaches Environment Ministry for Inclusion of Five Coal Mine Pit Lakes in Ramsar List

- The suitability of coal mine pit lakes for inclusion in Ramsar List was discussed with MoEFCC, the nodal Ministry for identification of wet lands for placing on the Ramsar List.
- As per the guidance of MoEFCC, CIL has identified five pit lakes in the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh for consideration of including in Ramsar list. CIL is in process of preparing Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS).
- These mine pit water bodies are regularly visited by different species of birds and also has avifauna population. The environment around these water bodies has ameliorated due to the efforts of CIL through large scale plantation and other soil moisture conservation activities.

Cabinet approves computerisation of primary agricultural credit societies

- This project proposes computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of 5 years with a total budget outlay of Rs. 2516 crore with Government of India share of Rs. 1528 crore.
- The Primary Agricultural Cooperative credit societies (PACS) constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier Short-term cooperative credit (STCC) in the country comprising of approx. 13 Cr. farmers as its members, which is crucial for the development of the rural economy.
- PACS account for 41 % (3.01 Cr. farmers) of the KCC loans given by all entities in the Country and 95 % of these KCC loans (2.95 Cr. farmers) through PACS are to the Small and Marginal farmers.

- The other two tiers viz. State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) have already been automated by the NABARD and brought on Common Banking Software (CBS).

GEMCOVAC-19: India's own mRNA Covid vaccine

- Most vaccines contain a weakened or dead bacteria or virus. However, scientists have developed a new type of vaccine that uses a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) rather than part of an actual bacteria or virus.
- Messenger RNA is a type of RNA that is necessary for protein production.
- In cells, mRNA uses the information in genes to create a blueprint for making proteins. Once cells finish making a protein, they quickly break down the mRNA. mRNA from vaccines does not enter the nucleus and does not alter DNA.
- mRNA vaccines work by introducing a piece of mRNA that corresponds to a viral protein, usually a small piece of a protein found on the virus's outer membrane. (Individuals who get an mRNA vaccine are not exposed to the virus, nor can they become infected by the vaccine.)
- Using this mRNA blueprint, cells produce the viral protein. As part of a normal immune response, the immune system recognizes that the protein is foreign and produces specialized proteins called antibodies.

Maharashtra government renamed Aurangabad city as Sambhajinagar

- Aurangabad was founded in 1610 by Malik Ambar, the Siddi general of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. The city was named Khirki or Khadki at the time, and its name was changed to Fatehpur by Malik Ambar's son Fateh Khan following Malik Ambar's death in 1626.
- In 1653, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb invaded the Deccan and set up his capital in the city, which he renamed Aurangabad. The city has borne the association of its name with Aurangzeb ever since.
- Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son and successor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was tortured and killed in brutal fashion on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689.

NASA's CAPSTONE mission launches to the Moon

- The satellite, launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1, is heading toward an orbit intended in the future for Gateway, a Moon-orbiting outpost that is part of NASA's Artemis program.
- As a pathfinder for Gateway, CAPSTONE aims to help reduce risk for future spacecraft by validating innovative navigation technologies, and by verifying the dynamics of the halo-shaped orbit.
- The orbit is known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO). It is significantly elongated, and is located at a precise balance point in the gravities of Earth and the Moon. This offers stability for long-term missions like Gateway, NASA said on its website.