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# National & States Affairs

**301.** On August 13, as part of the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, released the Indian National Anthem in Universal Design. This version of the Indian National anthem has features of Universal Design, such as audio/video description for visually-impaired persons, and Indian Sign Language and Captions for persons suffering from hearing disabilities. This version of the Indian National anthem has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for Universal and Educational viewing. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities – released ‘Indian National Anthem in Universal Design’
- AYJNISHD works under – Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- This version is certified by – Central Board of Film Certification
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

**302.** In August 2022, IndiGo introduced world’s first ‘Three-point Disembarkation’ process, which will enable its passengers to exit the aircraft faster. Passengers on certain IndiGo flights will be able to leave the aircraft through three doors, instead of the usual two. This scheme will only be for flights that do not use the aerobridge for boarding and deboarding. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IndiGo – introduced world’s first ‘Three-point Disembarkation’ process to enable its passengers to exit the aircraft faster
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Pieter Elbers | Chairman – Meleveetil Damodaran

**303.** On August 18, Directorate of Agriculture, Jharkhand and global blockchain technology company, SettleMint India, jointly announced the successful launch of seed distribution to farmers based on blockchain technology. By implementing the blockchain solution, Jharkhand has become the first state in the country to deploy a production grade blockchain based seed distribution program. It is envisioned to implement blockchain technology for tracking distribution of seeds, inputs, implements etc under all the schemes being implemented by Directorate of Agriculture like State Seed Distribution Scheme, NFSM, PMKSY, NHM. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Jharkhand + SettleMint India = launched seed distribution to farmers based on blockchain technology
- Jharkhand – first state in India to deploy a production grade blockchain based seed distribution program
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**304.** In August 2022, Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the government has set a target to increase the Health budget of the country to 2.5% of the GDP, which is currently at 1.9%. The total health budget has reached Rs 83,000 Crore in 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Indian Govt has set a target to increase the Health budget to 2.5% of the GDP (Currently at 1.9%)
- The total health budget has reached Rs 83,000 Crore in 2022-23
- [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar](#)

**305.** On August 19, Goa has become the first state in India to become 'Har Ghar Jal' certified. Over 100 million rural households of the country have been connected to the facility of clean water through pipes, with 70 million rural families getting connected in last 3 years under 'Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)'. The JJM is a flagship programme of the Government of India which was announced on August 15, 2019. The mission aims to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular and long-term basis to every rural household of the country by 2024.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – became the first state in India to become 'Har Ghar Jal' certified in last 3 years under 'Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)'
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – announced on August 15, 2019
- The mission aims to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country by 2024
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai](#)

**306.** On August 19, Chhattisgarh government will set up Rural Industrial Parks (Gramin Aajeevika Parks) in the state to strengthen the rural economy and make the 'gauthan' (cattle shed) a centre of livelihood. In the first year of the project, there will be 300 such parks. The project will be launched on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2. The first such park in Chhattisgarh came up in Kulgaon, Kanker district, which has been named 'Gandhi Gram'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – to set up Rural Industrial Parks (Gramin Aajeevika Parks) to strengthen the rural economy
- Chhattisgarh – to make the 'gauthan' (cattle shed) a centre of livelihood
- The project will be launched on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2 | Target – 300 parks in first year of the project
- First such park in Chhattisgarh named 'Gandhi Gram' – came up in Kulgaon, Kanker district
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey](#)

**307.** On August 16, Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, unveiled a start-up namely "Goodfellows" dedicated to senior citizens. It provides companionship to senior citizens through young, educated graduates, who are vetted intensely for empathy and emotional intelligence. The start-up has been founded by Shantanu Naidu, who works as General Manager in the office of Mr. Tata. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ratan Tata – unveiled a start-up namely "Goodfellows" dedicated to Senior Citizens
- The start-up is founded by – Shantanu Naidu (General Manager in the office of Mr. Tata)



**308.** On August 19, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched the Online Market Place feature “Aqua Bazar” in the “MatsyaSetu” mobile app during the 9<sup>th</sup> general body meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the NFDB, Hyderabad through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The marketplace aims to connect all stakeholders in the aquaculture sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parshottam Rupala – launched the Online Market Place feature “Aqua Bazar” in the “MatsyaSetu” mobile app
- The app is developed by – ICAR-CIF, Bhubaneswar (with support of NFDB, Hyderabad through PMMSY)
- [Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & Dr. L. Murugan](#)

**309.** On August 16, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), along with the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, organised an event “Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” at the water sports club in New Delhi. Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat presided over the event where he received the guard of honour by BSF personnel. Meanwhile, the Director-General of NMCG, G Asok Kumar, launched a number of new initiatives under the ‘Arth-Ganga’ initiative. These included the virtual launch of the Jalaj initiative by the Minister for Jal Shakti at 26 locations. During the event, an MoU was also signed between the NMCG and the Sahakar Bharati to achieve the vision of sustainable and viable economic development. A tourism-related portal called “ImAvatar” was also launched to promote livelihood opportunities along the Ganga basin. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMCG + Dept. of Water Resources, RD & GR = organised “Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – presided over the event & received the guard of honour by BSF personnel
- G. Asok Kumar (DG of NMCG) – launched a number of new initiatives under the ‘Arth-Ganga’ initiative
- NMCG + Sahakar Bharati = an MoU to achieve the vision of sustainable & viable economic development
- “ImAvatar” (Tourism-related Portal) – was launched to promote livelihood opportunities along the Ganga basin
- [NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar](#)
- [Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel](#)

**310.** On August 18, Wipro received a multi-year contract to deliver Service Integration & Management (SIAM) Services to the UK government treasury. Wipro and Her Majesty’s Treasury (HMT) will collaborate to enable end-to-end SIAM services, from strategy, design, and implementation to running business-as-usual services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Wipro – received a multi-year contract to deliver Service Integration & Management Services (SIAM) to the UK Govt.
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson](#)
- [HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji](#)



**311.** In August 2022, India entered into the final stages of talks with Russia for purchase of six “Tupolev Tu-160” strategic bombers (nicknamed White Swan). NATO has named the Tupolev-Tu160s as Blackjack. This deal would be a game changer in India’s safety and security. Only three countries in the world - USA, Russia and China possess strategic bombers in their Air Forces. The Indian Air Force (IAF) would be the 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the world to possess the deadly and destructive strategic bombers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – plans to purchase 6 “Tupolev Tu-160” strategic bombers (nicknamed ‘White Swan’) from Russia
- Only three countries in the world possess strategic bombers in their Air Forces – USA, Russia & China
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**312.** The Unique Identification Authority has enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0-5 age group during the first 4 months (April-July) of the current FY 2022-23. This is part of a renewed effort to reach out to more children under the ‘Bal Aadhaar’ initiative. Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued ‘Bal Aadhaar’. Over all, Aadhaar saturation at present is around 94%. Aadhaar saturation among adults is almost 100%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UIDAI – enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0-5 age group during the first 4 months (April-July) of FY23
- Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued ‘Bal Aadhaar’
- Aadhaar saturation (overall) – 94% | Among adults – almost 100%
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009



## **International Affairs**

**313.** In August 2022, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar officially inaugurated the premises of the Indian Embassy in the Paraguay’s capital Asuncion. The Indian embassy in Paraguay began functioning in January, 2022. Mr. Jaishankar co-chaired the Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) with his counterparts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated the premises of the Indian Embassy in the Paraguay’s capital Asuncion
- Paraguay – Asuncion – Guarani | President – Mario Abdo Benitez

**314.** On August 17, Israel and Turkey decided to restore full diplomatic ties and will return ambassadors to each other’s country following a steady improvement in relations. The two countries expelled ambassadors in 2018 over the killing of 60 Palestinians by Israeli forces during protests on the Gaza border against the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Israel & Turkey – decided to restore full diplomatic ties & will return ambassadors to each other’s country
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Yair Lapid
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan





# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**315.** On August 16, Paytm partnered with Samsung stores across India to facilitate smart payments as well as its loan service Paytm Postpaid through deployment of point of sale devices. The partnership will enable consumers purchasing Samsung devices from any authorised store in India to pay through Paytm payment instruments. Paytm through its postpaid or buy-now-pay-later service will provide credit limit of up to Rs 60,000 per month. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Paytm + Samsung stores = partnered to facilitate smart payments as well as its loan service Paytm Postpaid
- Paytm will provide credit limit of up to Rs 60,000 per month through its postpaid or Buy-Now-Pay-Later service
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

**316.** On August 20, HDFC Bank opened its first all-women branch with 4 women bankers in Kerala's Kozhikode to enhance gender diversity in banking sector. As on March 31, 2022, women constituted 21.7% of the workforce and the target is to increase it to 25% by 2025, according to the HDFC Bank. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – opened its first all-women branch with 4 women bankers in Kerala's Kozhikode
- As on March 31, 2022, women constituted 21.7% of the workforce (target to increase it to 25% by 2025)
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

**317.** In August 2022, Edelweiss Asset Management Limited launched a new scheme – “Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Fund”. This is the first of its kind fund in India which will give investors exposure to both gold and silver. The new fund offer (NFO) was open for subscription between 24th August to 7th September 2022. The fund will be managed by Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Edelweiss Asset Management Limited launched a new scheme – “Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Fund”
- It is first of its kind fund in India which will give investors exposure to both gold and silver
- The fund will be managed by Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti
- HQs of Edelweiss Asset Management – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Radhika Gupta

**318.** In August 2022, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed an MoU with J&K Regional Office and J&K Grameen Bank to Finance 700 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Dr Ajay Kumar Sood, Chief General Manager. NABARD will provide a promotional grant support of Rs 4000 per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NABARD + J&K Regional Office and J&K Grameen Bank = MoU to Finance 700 JLGs in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- NABARD will provide a promotional grant support of Rs 4000 per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982



**319.** On August 16, Mirae Asset Mutual Fund has launched two new funds - Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund and Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence and Technology ETF Fund of Fund. The vehicle-themed fund will invest in overseas equity exchange traded funds (ETFs) which are based on companies involved in development of electric and autonomous vehicles and related technology, components and materials. On the other hand, the AI themes scheme will invest in units of Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF. These are the first such funds based on companies involved in future technology to be launched in India in the mutual fund industry. GlobalX is a leading ETF provider headquartered in New York. The minimum initial investment in the funds will be ₹5,000. The funds will be managed by Siddharth Srivastava. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mirae Asset Mutual Fund launched 2 new funds based on companies involved in future technology i.e. EVs and A.I.:
  - Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund
  - Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF Fund of Fund
- GlobalX – a leading ETF provider based in New York
- Minimum initial investment – ₹5,000 | Funds will be managed by – Siddharth Srivastava
- [Hqs of Mirae Asset MF – Mumbai](#) | [CEO – Swarup Anand Mohanty](#)

## **Defence Affairs**

**320.** Recently, Mudhol hound dogs were trained and inducted in the dog squad of the Army, CISF and NSG. Known for their hunting and guarding skills, the characteristically lanky Mudhol hounds get their name from the erstwhile kingdom of Mudhol (in present-day Bagalkot in Karnataka), whose rulers first began to breed them. The dogs are fast runners, with excellent stamina and agility, and have a sharp vision and a keen sense of smell. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Mudhol hound’ dogs were trained & inducted in the dog squad of the Army, CISF & NSG
- Mudhol hounds get their name from the erstwhile kingdom of Mudhol (in present-day Bagalkot in Karnataka)
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

## **Sports & Games**

**321.** The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, an annual invitational international men’s hockey tournament, is set to be held after a two-year break from November 16 to 25, 2022 in Ipoh, Malaysia. The last time it was held in Ipoh, Malaysia in 2019 in which South Korea had emerged champions by beating India. India has been invited alongside Australia, Germany and England for the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Sultan Azlan Shah Cup’ will be held from November 16 to 25, 2022 – in Ipoh, Malaysia
- The last time it was held in Ipoh, Malaysia in 2019 | won by – South Korea
- [Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit](#) | [PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob](#) | [King – Al-Sultan Abdullah](#)



**322.** On August 18, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced that 'Dahi-Handi', also known as 'Gopalakala', will now be recognised as an official sport in the state. He also said that "Pro-Dahi-Handi" competitions will be introduced in the state. The 'Govindas' will get jobs under the sports category and all 'Govindas' will be provided with insurance cover of ₹10 lakhs if they lose their lives. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Dahi-Handi' or 'Gopalakala', will now be recognised as an official sport in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**323.** On August 18, when Manisha Kalyan got off the bench to play for Apollon Ladies FC as a substitute for Marilena Georgious, she created history by becoming the first Indian to play in UEFA Women's Champions League. Apollon Ladies are Women's Club champions of Cyprus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manisha Kalyan – became the first Indian to play in 'UEFA Women's Champions League'
- She played for 'Apollon Ladies FC' as a substitute for Marilena Georgious

**324.** In August 2022, Antim Panghal won a Gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championship & became the first Indian woman wrestler to be crowned U-20 World Champion. Priya Malik (76kg), Sonam Malik (62kg) and Priyanka (65kg) took home silver for India while Sito (57kg), Reetika (72kg) and Priyanshi (50kg) won bronze. Earlier in the championships, Indian men wrestlers won 7 medals including 1 silver and 6 bronze in the men's freestyle wrestling. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Antim Panghal – won a Gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championship (first Indian woman wrestler)
- Silver medals: Priya Malik, Sonam Malik & Priyanka
- Bronze medals: Sito, Reetika & Priyanshi
- Indian men wrestlers won 7 medals including 1 silver and 6 bronze in the men's freestyle wrestling

**325.** The International Basketball Federation FIBA is scheduled to host the "FIBA U18 Women's Asian Championship" at Sree Kanteerva and Koramangala Indoor stadiums in Bengaluru from September 5 to 11, 2022. As many as 16 countries were to participate in the event. The first four teams from the championship will qualify for the "FIBA U19 Women's World Cup", which is scheduled to be held in Madrid, Spain, in July 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "FIBA U18 Women's Asian Championship" – to be held in Bengaluru (from Sep 5 to 11)
- "FIBA U19 Women's World Cup" – to be held in Madrid, Spain (in July 2023)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot





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## Science & Technology

**326.** In August 2022, in a major breakthrough, Israel has claimed to have developed world's first synthetic mouse embryo, by using stem cells instead of the egg and sperm procedure. The embryo had a beating heart, brain-like and intestine-like structure. It grew for 8.5 days. The normal gestational period for embryos in mice is 20 days. The research was published in the peer-reviewed journal Cell titled 'Post-Gastrulation Synthetic Embryos Generated Ex Utero from Mouse Naive ESCs'.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Israel – developed world's first synthetic mouse embryo, by using stem cells instead of the egg & sperm procedure
- It grew for 8.5 days | Normal gestational period for embryos in mice is 20 days
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Yair Lapid

**327.** On August 20, during a 2-day "DigiFest-2022", Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated "Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Advanced Technologies (R-CAT)" for graduates in Jaipur, and also inaugurated three "iStart Nest Incubators" in Kota, Bikaner and Churu to promote start-up culture in the state. The R-CAT would provide an opportunity for the state's youth to learn advanced and emerging technologies in areas like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Robotics, Machine Learning and Data Analytics. The youth will be trained by experts from big companies in these fields. Mr. Gehlot also launched three websites 'WebMyWay', 'Sotto' and 'RajSambal' and the Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitra Samvad App. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ashok Gehlot – inaugurated "Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Advanced Technologies (R-CAT)" for graduates in Jaipur
- He also inaugurated three "iStart Nest Incubators" in Kota, Bikaner and Churu to promote start-up culture in the state
- He also launched 3 websites 'WebMyWay', 'Sotto' & 'RajSambal' and 'Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitra Samvad App'
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

## Appointments & Resignations

**328.** In August 2022, the shareholders of Bharti Airtel approved the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as MD & CEO of the company. Vittal will remain the MD & CEO of Airtel for a period of 5 years with effect from February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2028. Airtel's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on August 12, 2022. Earlier, Vittal was re-appointed with effect from February 1, 2018 for a period of 5 years, (upto January 31, 2023). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Gopal Vittal – re-appointed as the MD & CEO of Bharti Airtel from February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2028
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

**329.** On August 17, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed India's Electronics & Information Technology Secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma to the 10-member Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel. Internet pioneer Vint Cerf and Nobel Prize-winning journalist Maria Reesa were also appointed to this panel of eminent experts on internet governance. In addition, Guterres' envoy on technology, Amandeep Singh Gill, will also be on the panel. The panel's role is to deal with strategic and urgent issues of the Internet and provide strategic advice to the IGF. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Alkesh Kumar Sharma – was appointed to the 10-member Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel
- Vint Cerf & Maria Reesa were also appointed to this panel
- [HQs of UN – New York, United States](#) | [Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres](#) | [Formed in – October 24, 1945](#)

**330.** On August 17, Badminton players Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are appointed as brand ambassadors of Mastercard in India. As winners of the Thomas Cup 2022 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, these new ambassadors will partner with the company to spread awareness about safety, security, and convenience of digital payments in India. Similar to the key role played by Mastercard’s existing brand ambassador MS Dhoni, the badminton stars will be a part of its ‘Team Cashless India’ campaign. India’s digital payment market is expected to more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026, according to a report by PhonePe-BCG study. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty – appointed as brand ambassadors of Mastercard in India
- These brand ambassadors will be a part of its ‘Team Cashless India’ campaign
- Mastercard’s existing brand ambassador – MS Dhoni
- India’s digital payment market is expected to more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026

**331.** On August 18, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommends Mohammad Mustafa for the position of Chairman in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi will take the final decision on the recommendation of FSIB. Mustafa, a 1995 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has served as the Chairman & MD (CMD) of SIDBI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FSIB recommends Mohammad Mustafa for the position of Chairman in NABARD
- [HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala](#) | [Founded in – 1982](#)

## **Important Days & Dates**

**332.** Every year, August 20 is observed as the “Akshay Urja Diwas” or “National Renewable Energy Day” to raise awareness for the development and efficient use of renewable energy in India. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The day was first organised by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2004 along with the Indian Ministry for New and Renewable Energy Sources (MNRE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 20 – “Akshay Urja Diwas” or “National Renewable Energy Day” (Birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi)
- The day was first organised in 2004 – by former PM Manmohan Singh



**333.** August 19 is observed as World Humanitarian Day around the world to honour individuals who indulge in humanitarian work. According to UN estimates, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022, compared to 235 million in 2021. The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN aims to help 183 million people in 63 nations this year. In 2022, the theme of the day is “It takes a Village”. The day was observed for the first time in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 19 – “World Humanitarian Day” (since 2009)
- Theme – “It takes a Village”

**334.** World Photography Day is celebrated globally every year on August 19. In 2022, the theme of the day is “Pandemic Lockdown through the Lens”. World Photo Day originates from the invention of the ‘Daguerreotype’, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837. The first selfie was clicked by American Robert Cornelius in 1839. On August 19, 2010 World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 19 – World Photography Day
- 2022’s theme – “Pandemic Lockdown through the Lens”
- ‘Daguerreotype’ - a photographic process – developed by Louis Daguerre & Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837

## **Books & Authors**

**335.** On August 16, Israeli President Isaac Herzog unveiled the Hebrew translation of the book “Indians at Herod’s Gate” written by the former Ambassador of India to the US, UK and Israel Navtej Sarna, on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence. India is the only country wherein Israel has the position of Water Attache to help share Israeli best practices and technologies for advancements in India’s water management sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Isaac Herzog ([Israel](#)) – unveiled Hebrew translation of “Indians at Herod’s Gate” book – written by Navtej Sarna
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel](#) | [President – Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM – Yair Lapid](#)

**336.** On August 17, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, addressed the Assistant Section Officers (Probationers) of 2019 Batch at the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) in New Delhi. He said that the government has institutionalised Capacity Building of its officials for getting maximum output. On this occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh also released a book “Transforming India - Governance for Atmanirbhar Bharat” & “Adhigam”, ISTM’s Journal on ‘Research on Training and Governance’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – addressed the Assistant Section Officers (Probationers) of 2019 Batch – at the ISTM, New Delhi
- He also released a book “Transforming India - Governance for Atmanirbhar Bharat” & “Adhigam”
- Adhigam – ISTM’s Journal on ‘Research on Training and Governance’
- [Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions: Dr. Jitendra Singh](#)



**337.** Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has written a memoir titled “Bibi: My Story” which will be published on November 22, 2022 by Threshold Edition, a division of Simon & Schuster. Netanyahu has previously written “A Durable Peace” and “Fighting Terrorism,” among other books. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Bibi: My Story” a memoir – written by Benjamin Netanyahu (Former PM of Israel)
- He has also written “A Durable Peace” & “Fighting Terrorism”
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel](#) | [President – Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM – Yair Lapid](#)

**338.** A new book “Madam Sir: The Story of Bihar’s First Lady IPS Officer”, published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI), is an autobiography of Manjari Jaruhar, retired Special DG of the CISF & presently an Advisor to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). The book tells the inspirational story of Manjari Jaruhar who overcame extraordinary odds to become the first woman from Bihar to join the country’s elite police cadre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Madam Sir: The Story of Bihar’s First Lady IPS Officer” – autobiography of Manjari Jaruharv (retired Special DG of CISF)
- Published by – Penguin Random House India

**339.** On August 16, Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande released a book titled “Men of Steel” on leadership in the armed forces. Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar Singh (retd) & Major General Yash Mor (retd) are the Editors of the book. The book was produced by Centre of Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). The book is a collection of essays that examine leadership in the armed forces and provides categorical recommendations to sustain the effectiveness and ethos of the military. Spread across 15 chapters, all authors have systematically contextualised the role of military leaders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Men of Steel” book on leadership in the Armed forces – released by Army Chief General Manoj Pande
- Editors of the book – Lt. Gen. Ajay Kumar Singh (retd) + Major Gen. Yash Mor (retd)
- Book produced by – CLAWS

## Obituaries

**340.** On August 16, renowned Malayalam Novelist Narayan, noted for his award-winning novel “Kocharethi”, died at the age of 82 due to COVID-19-related complications. He won the “Sahitya Akademi Award” and the “The Economist Crossword Book Award”. He also wrote Ooralikkudi, Vannala, and Aranu Tholkkunnavar, among others. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narayan – Malayalam Novelist – Passed away (Famous for his award-winning novel “Kocharethi”)
- Awards won by him – “Sahitya Akademi Award” & “The Economist Crossword Book Award”





## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**341.** In August 2022, an Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Halifax, Canada. During the Conference, 8 workshops were held on various subjects. The Lok Sabha Speaker participated as a panelist in the Workshop 'C' titled "A People's Parliament: Accessibility through Innovation". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference – held in Halifax, Canada
- Om Birla – participated as a panelist in the Workshop 'C' titled "A People's Parliament: Accessibility through Innovation"

**342.** On August 16, Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day National Security Strategies Conference, attended by 600 police officers in virtual and physical mode. The conference was organised by the Intelligence Bureau. Deliberations were held on various subjects of national security, including counter-terrorism, radicalisation, issues pertaining to crypto currencies, counter rogue drone technology, and challenges posed by Maoist outfits. The Minister also inaugurated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) developed by National Crime Records Bureau for quick disposal of cases with the help of a centralised finger print database. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated the "National Security Strategies Conference" – organised by Intelligence Bureau
- Amit Shah – also inaugurated "National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)" developed by NCRB
- HQs of IB – New Delhi | DG – Tapan Deka



## Ranks, Reports & Serveys

**343.** On August 17, the report titled "Air Quality and Health in Cities" was released by US-based Health Effects Institute. It analyses pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants - particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). Delhi (110 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and Kolkata (84 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) were ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM2.5 levels were compared. However no Indian city appeared in the list of top 10, or even top 20 polluted cities when NO<sub>2</sub> levels were compared. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Air Quality and Health in Cities" report – released by Health Effects Institute ([US](#))
- It focuses on two of the most harmful pollutants – PM2.5 & NO<sub>2</sub>
- Top 10 most polluted cities: 1<sup>st</sup> – Delhi | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kolkata (when PM2.5 levels were compared)
- No Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 or even 20 polluted cities (when NO<sub>2</sub> levels were compared)



## Amount & Agreements

**344.** On August 17, Gurgaon-based ReNew Power has raised a \$1-billion project loan through external commercial borrowings (ECB), tying up with 12 international banks for the finance. It is the single largest project funding in Indian Renewable Energy. ReNew will use the funding for its upcoming hybrid round-the-cock (RTC) battery-enabled project. The company has also signed a power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for the battery project at Rs 2.90 per unit with 3% escalation annually for 15 years. It will set up wind and solar projects in Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra under RTC. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ReNew Power – raised a \$1-billion project loan through ECB tying up with 12 international banks for the finance
- ReNew Power + SECI = signed power purchase agreement for the battery project at Rs 2.90 per unit
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011

## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**345.** On August 19, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways released a draft to amend the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”, which aims to bring in sweeping reforms in the sector by bringing non-major ports into the national fold, creating a new mechanism for resolution of disputes, and empowering maritime state development council (MSDC). The bill seeks to eliminate delays in decision making for non-major ports through the creation of a council, which will be chaired by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways – released a draft to amend the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”
- The bill seeks to eliminate delays in decision making for non-major ports through the creation of a council
- The council will be chaired by – Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**346.** On August 16, Promoter Abrdn Investment Management Ltd (formerly Standard Life Investments) sold about 34% of the estimated 3.45 Cr shares it holds in HDFC Asset Management Company for Rs 2,303 Cr. Abrdn sold a total of 1.19 Crore shares, representing a 5.58% stake, of HDFC AMC. Post the sale of a portion of its stake, Abrdn will have about 10.63% stake in HDFC AMC against 16.21% earlier. HDFC is the biggest shareholder in the mutual fund with 52.59% stake. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Abrdn Investment Management Ltd – sold about 34% of its holdings in HDFC AMC for Rs 2,303 Cr
- Post the sale, Abrdn will have about 10.63% stake in HDFC AMC against 16.21% earlier



**347.** On August 18, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal to merge Creixent Special Steels and JSW Ispat into JSW Steel. JSW Steel and JSW Ispat are into manufacturing and sale of steel products while CSSL is in the business of holding investments. Separately, the CCI cleared the proposed acquisition of Varmora Granito Pvt Ltd and other entities by the Carlyle Group entity Katsura Investments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved the proposal to merge Creixent Special Steels & JSW Ispat into JSW Steel
- CCI cleared the proposed acquisition of Varmora Granito Pvt Ltd by Carlyle Group entity Katsura Investments
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of JSW Steel – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson Emeritus – Savitri Devi Jindal | CMD – Sajjan Jindal

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

**348.** On August 18, the Bengaluru-based Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) signed an MoU with the Chhattisgarh government for setting up a regional testing laboratory in Raipur district. The national-level testing unit will have test facilities for transformers, energy meters, transformer oil, switch fuse unit and other electricity-related equipment. Power companies will get a 20% rebate in the testing of equipment. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CPRI ([Bengaluru](#)) + Chhattisgarh = an MoU for setting up a regional testing laboratory in Raipur
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**349.** On August 16, the Border Security Force (BSF) signed an MoU with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to ensure the safety and security of booking data under its Air e-ticket Service for the troops of India's border guarding force. Besides, the pact will ensure facility of extra baggage, lounge, cargo and less cancellation or reschedule charges for authorised BSF personnel. This service will provide a dedicated online portal with a credit facility of 60 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSF + IRCTC = an MoU to ensure the safety & security of booking data under its Air e-ticket Service
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)

**350.** On August 18, India and the Philippines agreed to expand their ties in sectors like civil aviation, fintech, education, defence, and security. The decision was taken at the 13<sup>th</sup> India-Philippines Foreign Office Consultations and the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue that took place in Manila. The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In January, the Philippines concluded a \$375 million deal with India for the procurement of 3 batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Philippines = to expand their ties in sectors like Civil Aviation, Fintech, Education, Defence & Security
- 13<sup>th</sup> India-Philippines Foreign Office Consultations & the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue – took place in Manila
- Indian delegation at the talks was led by – Saurabh Kumar (Secretary in the MEA)





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