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Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

TAMIL NADU	STATES	NATIONAL	INDIA & THE WORLD	INTERNATIONAL
SCHEMES	DEFENCE	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	EVS	ECONOMY
COURT VERDICTS	CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	AWARDS	PERSONALITIES	BOOKS & AUTHORS
SPORTS	RANKS & REPORTS	DAYS	OBITUARY	NEWS OF THE MONTH
KNOWLEDGE	APPOINTMENTS	COMMITTEES	APPS / PORTALS	MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

- **Second Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program**
 - ✓ The World Bank - has approved a \$190 million loan to Tamil Nadu to address the housing needs of the lower-income groups and vulnerable population.
 - ✓ This newly approved 'Second Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program' is the second of a series of two single-tranche operations.

- **Life Sciences Policy and Research & Development Policy**
 - ✓ On July 4, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - unveiled two new policies - Tamil Nadu Life Sciences Policy 2022 and Tamil Nadu Research & Development Policy 2022 - at the Tamil Nadu-Investors First Port of Call investment conclave in Chennai.
 - ✓ These policies seek to define the growth of life sciences and research & development in the state.

- **i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT)**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu - to launch the i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub in September this year.
 - ✓ iTNT hub will coordinate efforts to use technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and blockchain to solve complex challenges in various sectors like agriculture, health or education.

- **Green Tamil Nadu Mission**
 - ✓ The state environment department - is all set to launch its 'Green Tamil Nadu Mission' on August 15.
 - ✓ Under the mission, a massive tree plantation programme of indigenous and diverse species, in coordination with multiple departments, public and private institutions, will be taken up over the next 10 years.

- **President's Colours**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu police department - will be awarded the prestigious President's Colours on July 22.
 - ✓ President's colour is the highest honour that is bestowed upon the military, paramilitary and police forces of the State/Union Territory.
 - ✓ The state police will thus be the first police force in South India to be bestowed with the prestigious honour and the tenth in the country.

- **Tamil Nadu Day**

On July 18, Chief Minister MK Stalin - participated at the Tamil Nadu Day celebrations at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai via video conferencing.

- ✓ Former Chief Minister CN Annadurai renamed Madras State as 'Tamil Nadu' on July 18, 1967, which was the biggest achievement of the Dravidian model, said the CM.
- ✓ On 31 October 2021, CM Stalin had announced that July 18 would be observed as Tamil Nadu Day against the earlier practice of November 1.

➤ **Smart Manufacturing and Digital Transformation Centre (SMDTC)**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has launched a smart manufacturing and digital transformation centre (SMDTC) to focus on collaborative research and innovation in smart process intelligence, 5G enablement and smart manufacturing supply chain collaboration.

The centre will create foundation elements of manufacturing execution system, internet of things (IoT) database and manufacturing intelligence software platforms for Indian MSMEs that adopt industry 4.0 practices.

➤ **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS)**

- ✓ A total of 63% of houses in the rural Tamil Nadu - had toilets, as per the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS) findings.
- ✓ As per the study, the accessibility to toilets in rural Tamil Nadu was 63.3%, which was lower than the national average of 64.9% (rural India).
- ✓ The NFHS survey indicated that the accessibility to toilets in rural Tamil Nadu was 1.6% lesser than the national average.
- ✓ Later, the department conducted a rapid survey of 18,482 households in 473 village panchayats in Pudukkottai, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Ariyalur, Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai, Perambular, Dindigul, Karur and Salem district.
- ✓ The rapid survey found that more than 76% of the houses in these 11 districts had toilets.
- ✓ The findings in rural Tamil Nadu were in contrast to the fifth series of NFHS, which was conducted in 2019-2020.

➤ **Startup TN offers TANSEED Funding**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Start-up and Innovation Mission (TANSIM / StartupTN) is inviting applications for Tamil Nadu Start-up Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED) 4.0.
- ✓ Under this scheme, financial support of up to 10 lakh each will be provided to early-stage start-ups. It is aimed at bridging the gap in fund requirements of start-ups during their early stages.

➤ **Uyirthuli**

- ✓ Breastfeeding anthem 'Uyirthuli' released.
- ✓ J. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Department of Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection, on Saturday released 'Uyirthuli', an anthem to create awareness on breastfeeding.

➤ **Doctor Search**

On July 24, the Tamil Nadu Medical Council - has launched a new mobile application 'Doctor Search'.

- ✓ The app will provide names, qualifications and contact information about licensed medical practitioners.
- ✓ Using the App, patients can search the doctors using the pincode of the area they resides and also search according to their medical needs.

➤ **Manavar Manasu**

- ✓ On July 24, School education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi - announced that the government is planning to introduce an online version of 'Manavar Manasu' complaint box.
- ✓ The complaint box was launched to help the student community raise their grievances and share their suggestions and feedback.
- ✓ Further, the government is planning to introduce a similar complaint box for teachers.

STATE

➤ **New Education Policy**

- ✓ Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to implement New Education Policy (NEP) at the pre-primary level.
- ✓ The NEP replaces the Macaulay system of education which was followed in the country for decades. "It offers children an opportunity to pursue choice-based education. They can now study the subjects of their choice in the language they are conversant with.

➤ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**

- ✓ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot - announced the introduction of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for sportspersons in the state.
- ✓ The chief minister said the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics will start from August 29, 2022 and more than 27 lakh players are expected to take part in it.

➤ **Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon)**

- ✓ Kerala is now the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service.
- ✓ The announcement followed the Department of Telecommunications' granting of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence to the IT infrastructure project of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon), which aims to provide everyone in the state access to the internet.

➤ **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh - has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- ✓ The State has 9,423 vehicles, which can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD.

Now these vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS and monitored by both the police and the transport department.

NATIONAL

➤ Udyami Bharat

- ✓ On June 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - participated in 'Udyami Bharat' programme. During the event, the PM launched key initiatives like 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters (CBFTE) scheme and new features of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to ramp up the MSME sector.

➤ India's largest floating Solar Power Project

- ✓ India's largest floating solar power plant was made fully operational by NTPC at Ramagundam, Telangana.
- ✓ The capacity of solar plant is 100 MW.

➤ Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve

- ✓ The number of elephant reserves in the country - has now increased to 32 spreading over 68,700.4 sq km across the country.
This is after the Tamil Nadu government setting aside 1,197.48 sq km area of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve for the purpose of Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve.

➤ Jute Mark India

- ✓ The government - introduced certification of authenticity for jute products with the unveiling of "Jute Mark India" logo by the Union Textile Secretary on July 9, 2022.
- ✓ The Jute Mark India (JMI) scheme will provide the collective identity and assurance on origin and quality for traditional jute and jute products.

➤ Clean Energy

- ✓ India has achieved clean energy targets 9 years before deadline.
- ✓ India has installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity, which is 41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed.
- ✓ In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

➤ National Emblem

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the National Emblem cast on the roof of the new Parliament building.

✓ The emblem is made of bronze and is 6.5m in height, and took over nine months to cast, said senior Central Public Works Department (CPWD) officials.

➤ **Agnipath Scheme**

- ✓ A new recruitment scheme for Indian armed forces, known as Agnipath.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the youth will be given an opportunity to serve in the armed forces as "Agniveers."
- ✓ People between the age of 17.5 years and 21 years will be inducted into the armed forces as Agniveers for 4 years.
- ✓ On competition of the four-year tenure, about 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be enrolled in the armed forces as regular cadres for a minimum period of 15 years.

➤ **SPRINT Challenges**

On July 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled 'SPRINT challenges', an initiative aimed at boosting the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.

- ✓ The PM unveiled the initiative at the naval Swavlamban seminar organised to engage Indian industry and academia towards achieving self-reliance in the defence sector.
- ✓ This collaborative project is named SPRINT – Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), NIIO and TDAC (Technology Development Acceleration Cell).

➤ **15th President of India: Draupadi Murmu**

- ✓ Daughter of a tribal family coming from a very ordinary house in Odisha, Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India.
- ✓ The 2022 Indian Presidential Election was the 16th presidential election that was held in India on the 18th of July 2022. Murmu becomes India's first woman tribal president.
- ✓ She also becomes the second woman to hold the post after Pratibha Patil.

➤ **Har Ghar Tiranga**

- ✓ On July 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched "Har Ghar Tiranga" (tricolour at every home) campaign to encourage people hoist or display the national flag at their homes between August 13 and 15.
- ✓ The government has envisioned the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' exercise in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- ✓ The main objective of the programme is that the national flag should be flown at all homes from August 13-15 through public participation, and government and private establishments will also be involved in this effort.

➤ **India's first Passenger Drone "Varuna"**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled Varuna, India's first passenger drone. PM Modi is seen watching the demonstration of the drone.

Varuna, India's first drone that can carry a human payload, has a range of 25 km. The drone can carry a 130 kg payload and has 25-33 minutes of flight time.

➤ **Digital Lok Adalat**

- ✓ National Legal Services Authority Chairman Uday Umesh Lalit - launched the country's first AI-powered, digital Lok Adalat during the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' meet held recently in Jaipur on July 17.

- ✓ The Digital Lok Adalat will be used to dispose of pending disputes or disputes that are at the pre-litigation stage.

- ✓ In this set-up, individuals and organisations can file and resolve the disputes under ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) mechanism online on a single platform without any physical interaction.

➤ **Cultural and Tourism Capital**

- ✓ The holy city of Varanasi - will be declared the first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- ✓ Varanasi will become the "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.

- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation founded in Shanghai on June 15, 2001.

- ✓ The Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security alliance comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Monkeypox**

- ✓ On July 23, the World Health Organisation (WHO) - declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern.
- ✓ The monkeypox has spread in just a few weeks to dozens of countries and infected tens of thousands of people.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 75 countries since May.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **India, Namibia**

- ✓ India and Namibia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on July 20, 2022 on wildlife conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity,
- ✓ Under the MoU, the two countries will collaborate to reintroduce cheetah in the country. Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.

Under the agreement, the first batch of cheetah comprising four male and four female cheetahs will arrive from Namibia in India in August.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **World Urban Forum**

- ✓ India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) – was recently launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.
- ✓ It was launched by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners under the Cities4Forests initiative.

➤ **Animal Health Summit 2022**

- ✓ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Rupala – inaugurated the country's first 'Animal Health Summit 2022' at NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- ✓ The main aim of the summit is to understand the significance of animal health towards the broader objective of the country's food and nutrition security, rural incomes and prosperity and overall economic development.

➤ **World Peace Forum 2022**

- ✓ The 10th edition of World Peace Forum 2022, organised by Tsinghua University – concluded on July 5 in Beijing.
- ✓ It is being organised under the theme "Preserving International Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness and Cooperation".

➤ **Natural Farming Conclave**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a Natural Farming Conclave through video conferencing on 10 July 2022.
- ✓ The conclave was organised at Surat in Gujarat.
- ✓ It witnessed the participation of thousands of farmers and all other stakeholders who have made adoption of natural farming in Surat, a success story.

➤ **I2U2**

- ✓ On July 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - joined US President Joe Biden, Israeli PM Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the first ever virtual summit of the four-nation grouping 'I2U2'.
- ✓ During the summit, the leaders jointly announced initiatives focused on food security and clean energy.
- ✓ The I2U2 (India and Israel making up the 2Is and US and UAE making up the 2Us).

- ✓ India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.



DEFENCE

➤ **ABHYAS**

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has successfully tested the indigenous 'ABHYAS' - a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) in Odisha on June 29, 2022.
- ✓ The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.

➤ **IAF Father-Daughter team of Fighter Pilots makes History**

- ✓ Fighter pilots Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and Flying Officer Ananya of the Indian Air Force (IAF) - have scripted history in the country's military aviation by becoming the first father-daughter pair to fly in a formation of jets.
- ✓ Flying Officer Ananya and her father Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma - flew in same formation of Hawk-132 Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT) at IAF Station, Bidar on May 30.

➤ **Dunagiri**

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - launched the second P17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' into the Hooghly river in Kolkata on July 15.
- ✓ During the launch, the Defence Minister said that 'Dunagiri' would be a world-class stealth frigate with multidimensional capabilities to destroy enemies from sea, sky, and underwater.

➤ **INS Sindhudhvaj**

- ✓ INS Sindhudhvaj - was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam after serving the country for 35 years on July 16, 2022.
- ✓ The Sindhudhvaj submarine had many firsts during its service, including operationalisation of the indigenised sonar USHUS, Indigenised Satellite Communication systems Rukmani and MSS, Inertial Navigation System and Indigenised Torpedo Fire Control System.
INS Sindhudhvaj was a Kilo-class submarine acquired from Russia in 1987.

APPOINTMENT

➤ Eknath Shinde

- ✓ On June 30, Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde – was sworn in as the 20th chief minister of Maharashtra, while BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis took over as Deputy Chief Minister.

➤ Ketanji Jackson

- ✓ Ketanji Brown Jackson has made history by becoming the first Black woman to serve the Supreme Court of the United States.
- ✓ The 51-year-old was appointed to the post by Democratic President Joe Biden.

➤ Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- Indian origin T Raja Kumar - has taken over as President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-terrorism financing agency.
- ✓ Raja Kumar of Singapore has more than 35 years of leadership and operational experience in Singapore's home ministry and police force.

➤ Rajya Sabha

- ✓ On July 6, the government - nominated four acclaimed celebrities from the south – legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja, athlete P T Usha, script writer of 'Bahubali' and 'RRR' K V Vijayendra Prasad and Dharmasthala temple head Veerendra Heggade – to the Rajya Sabha.

➤ Ranil Wickremesinghe

- ✓ Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe has won the presidential election held in the Sri Lankan Parliament with 134 votes.
- ✓ He has been elected as the 9th executive president of Sri Lanka.
For the first time in 44 years, the Sri Lanka's Parliament directly elected a president.

➤ Dinesh Gunawardena

- ✓ In Sri Lanka, Dinesh Gunawardena took the oath as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister on 22 July 2022.
Gunawardena's appointment comes a day after six-time Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the country's new President.

AWARDS

➤ **Maryna Viazovska**

- ✓ Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska - became the second woman to be awarded the Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for mathematics.
- ✓ Viazovska, a 37-year-old Kyiv-born math professor, received the prestigious award alongside three other winners at a ceremony in Helsinki.

➤ **68th National Film Awards**

- ✓ The winners - of the 68th National Film Awards for the year 2020 were announced in New Delhi on July 22.
- ✓ Tamil film "Soorarai Pottru" won the National Award for Best Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress.
- ✓ The film also received the Best Screenplay for Shalini Usha Nair and director Sudha Kongara as well as Best Music Direction (background score) for GV Prakash Kumar.
- ✓ Ajay Devgn-starrer "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior" bagged the awards for Best Actor for Devgn and Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Devgn shared the Best Actor award with Suriya, who got it for "Soorarai Pottru".

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Khushi Patel**

- ✓ Khushi Patel, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022.
- ✓ It is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.
- ✓ She is a biomedical student from the United Kingdom.

➤ **Alluri Sitarama Raju**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district on July 4, 2022.
- ✓ Born on July 4, 1897, Alluri Sitarama Raju is remembered for his fight against the British, in order to safeguard the interests of the tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats region.

➤ **Sini Shetty**

- ✓ At the VLCC Femina Miss India grand finals, Sini Shetty of Karnataka was declared the winner of the Femina Miss India World 2022 title.
- ✓ She will now participate in the 71 Miss World pageant as India's representative.

➤ **Gita Gopinath**

- ✓ India-born Gita Gopinath - became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ✓ The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was chief economist and director of research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- ✓ Gopinath was appointed as IMF chief economist in October 2018 and was later promoted as IMF's first deputy managing director in December last year.

➤ **Pallavi Singh**

- ✓ India's Pallavi Singh has won the Mrs Universe Divine Title at the finals held at Yeosu City, South Korea.
- ✓ She hails from Kanpur, India, and has made her country proud in this contest that saw participation from 110 countries

➤ **Gautam Adani**

- ✓ Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani - overtook Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to be the 4th richest person in the world on July 20, according to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires list.

- ✓ With a net worth of \$116.3 billion, Adani was at the 4th position, while Gates, with a net worth of \$105.1 billion, stood at the 5th position, as of July 21. Only three people were richer than Adani - Tesla chief Elon Musk (\$252.2 billion net worth), Louis Vuitton CEO Bernard Arnault (\$156.5 billion), and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$149.9 billion).

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life**
- ✓ The book is titled 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life'. It has been written by Viswanathan Anand with author-journalist Susan Ninan.
- ✓ In this edition, the book has a bonus chapter on how to navigate uncertainty and rapidly changing realities in the wake of the pandemic.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ PSLV-C53

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation - successfully launched PSLV-C53 which placed three Singapore satellites into their respective orbits.
- ✓ The fourth stage of the rocket then turned into an orbital platform for scientific experiments as it began to circle the earth.

➤ AzaadiSAT

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) – is all set to launch AzaadiSAT, a nanosatellite and technology demonstrator on communications during disasters on August 15.
- ✓ A total of 750 girl students from 75 government schools across the country are involved in the making of satellite and it will be integrated as a single satellite at Anna University.

➤ Pivot

- ✓ Researchers at IIT Madras - have developed a path-breaking tool that can identify cancer-causing genes in individuals.
- ✓ The Artificial Intelligence-based tool called 'Pivot' will help doctors devise personalised treatment strategies for patients based on their genetic profile.

➤ POP-FAME

- ✓ Scientists at the US Lawrence-Berkeley Lab - have developed a fuel from a bacterium of the genus *Streptomyces* that provides more energy than even the rocket fuels in use currently.
- ✓ The scientists have named the new fuel 'POP-FAME', which stands for polycyclopropanated fatty acid methyl ester.

➤ New Space India Ltd (NSIL)

- Ten in-orbit operational communication satellites - have been transferred from the government to space PSU New Space India Ltd (NSIL) to push space reforms.
- ✓ The ten communication satellites includes – Gsat-8, Gsat-10, Gsat-12R (CMS-01), Gsat-14, Gsat-15, Gsat-16, Gsat-17, GSAT-18, Gsat-30 and Gsat-31.
- ✓ The transfer is part of the space sector reforms aimed at strengthening the role of NSIL to enhance the nation's share in global space economy.

➤ **Surgical Robotic System**

✓ Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre of New Delhi have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System.

✓ The device named “SSI-Mantra”.

It is a brainchild of World-renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr Sudhir P Srivastava.

➤ **Samantha Cristoforetti**

✓ Italian Samantha Cristoforetti - became the first European woman astronaut to embark on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station on July 21.

✓ Cristoforetti was joined by Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev on the spacewalk. The pair spent six and half hours over 400km above Earth.



SPORTS

➤ **Jasprit Bumrah**

- ✓ Indian test cricket captain, Jasprit Bumrah - set a Test world record for maximum runs off a single over in the fifth rescheduled Test at Edgbaston, England.
- ✓ On July 2, Bumrah smashed two sixes and four fours to score 29 runs in a single over of 6 legal deliveries from Stuart Broad, beating the legendary Brian Lara's record by one run.

➤ **Ons Jabeur**

- ✓ Tunisia's Ons Jabeur - became the first North African and Arab woman to enter the final of a major grand slam.
- ✓ On July 7, World No.2 Jabeur entered her maiden Grand Slam final after beating Germany's Tatjana Maria in three sets at the Centre Court in the semifinals of the Wimbledon 2022.

➤ **Elena Rybakina**

- ✓ The 17-seeded Elena Rybakina - has won the women's singles title at Wimbledon by beating World No. 2 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia on July 9.
- ✓ This is the first Wimbledon women's final that featured a pair of first-time major finalists since 1962.
- ✓ Rybakina is the first player representing Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles title.

➤ **Wimbledon - Novak Djokovic**

- ✓ Novak Djokovic - won a seventh Wimbledon title and 21st Grand Slam crown with a four-set triumph over Nick Kyrgios in the men's singles final at the Centre Court on July 10.
- ✓ This was Djokovic's 32nd Grand Slam and eighth Wimbledon final to his Australian opponent's first.

➤ **World Games 2022 - Archery**

- ✓ The Indian compound mixed team archery duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam - won a bronze medal at the World Games 2022 in Birmingham (USA).
- ✓ This is India's first World Games medal in archery and its fifth overall since the event's start in 1981.

➤ **Bhagwani Devi**

- ✓ Bhagwani Devi, a 94-year-old sprinter from India - won the gold medal in the 100m sprint with a timing of 24.74 seconds at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Tampere.

The event is a world championship calibre event for the sport of athletics (track and field) for male and female athletes aged 35 years and over.

➤ **World Athletics Championships**

- Murali Sreeshankar - became the first Indian male long jumper to qualify for World Athletics Championships finals.
- ✓ Sreeshankar had a best jump of exactly 8m in his second attempt, to finish second in qualification round Group B and finished seventh overall in Oregon, USA.
- ✓ The World Athletics Championships 2022 is being held in Oregon from July 15 to July 24.

➤ **Singapore Open**

- ✓ Former world champion PV Sindhu - won her first Super-500 title of the year in the Singapore Open on July 17.
- ✓ In the women's singles final, Sindhu defeated China's Wang Zhi Yi to win the third title of the year.
- ✓ Earlier, Sindhu had won the Syed Modi Super-300 and Swiss Open Super-300 titles earlier this year.

➤ **ISSF World Cup**

On July 18, Mairaj Khan - created history by becoming the country's first-ever skeet shooter to clinch a gold medal in men's event at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.

Mairaj is the only skeet shooter to have shot in two Olympic Games.

➤ **Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships**

- ✓ Junior weightlifter Harshada Garud - clinched gold medal at the Asian Youth & Junior weightlifting championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 18.
 - ✓ The 18-year old Pune weightlifter had created history by becoming first Indian to win gold at the World Junior Championships in May this year.
- Harshada lifted a total of 157kg to clinch the junior gold in the 45kg weight category at the Asian meet.

➤ **2028 Summer Olympic Games**

- ✓ The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States.

- ✓ The opening ceremony for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will take place on July 14, 2028, and continue till July 30.
- **Surfing Nationals**
- ✓ Chennai - to host the country's first-ever surfing nationals in Mahabalipuram on August 1 and 2.
- ✓ The event will be called 'Point break Challenge' and 80 participants from across the country are expected to participate in it.
- ✓ After a break of two years, the surf festival returns to Chennai from August 5 to 7 with over 100 surfers expected from India and overseas to participate.

OBITUARY

- **Shinzo Abe**
- ✓ Former Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe - died at age 67 after being shot during a campaign speech in the city of Nara in western Japan on July 8.
- ✓ Abe was the longest-serving Japanese prime minister in history in terms of consecutive days in office, before stepping down in 2020, citing health reasons.
- **B K Syngal**
- ✓ 'Brijendra K Syngal, former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed away on 9 July 2022 at the age of 82.
- ✓ He is referred to as the 'father of the internet in India.'
- ✓ Syngal left satellite communications company Inmarsat to take charge of VSNL in 1991.

REPORT

➤ **The United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022**

India's urban population - is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035, the second highest behind China's one billion.

- ✓ This was projected by the latest UN report titled "The United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022" released on June 29.
- ✓ As per the report, the global urban population is back on track after covid pandemic to grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050.

➤ **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022**

- ✓ Number of undernourished people in India has declined to 224.3 million.
- ✓ As per this report, the number of people affected by hunger globally reached to 828 million in 2021.
- ✓ According to this report, the number of undernourished people in India has declined from 247.8 million in 2004-06 to 224.3 million in 2019-21.

➤ **World Population Prospects 2022**

- ✓ India will surpass China as the most populous country on earth in 2023, according to a UN report.
- ✓ The World Population Prospects 2022 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, said that the global population is projected to reach 8 billion by Nov 2022, around 8.5 billion in 2030, and 9.7 billion in 2050.
- ✓ World's population is growing at its slowest pace since 1950.

➤ **India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)**

- ✓ India's infant mortality rate (IMR) - has shown significant improvement, falling from 47 in 2010 to 28 in 2020, bringing it close to the global IMR of 27.
- ✓ The states which showed the most improvement were Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Kerala.
- ✓ In 1971, India's IMR was 129.
- ✓ Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of babies less than a year old who die for every thousand live births.

➤ **Dark Side to Modern Domesticity - Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Data from the recent National Family Health Survey for 2019-2020 (NFHS) report reveal that 44.7% of married women in Tamil Nadu have experienced physical and sexual violence in their homes.

✓ Tamil Nadu ranks second in India when it comes to domestic violence against women. The NFHS report says that more than two-thirds of married women in Tamil Nadu are said to be afraid of their husbands due to spousal violence.

➤ **Basic Road Statistics**

- ✓ India - added nearly 1.16 lakh km to its road network in 2018-19 to take the total length to nearly 63.32 lakh km.
- ✓ This was revealed in the Basic Road Statistics for 2018-19, which was published on July 20.
- ✓ As per the report, India has a network of over 63,31,757 Km of roads as on 31.03.2019, which is the second largest in the world.

➤ **New GST Rates**

- ✓ The new GST rates came into effect from July 18, 2022.
- ✓ Several food items have become costlier including products like paneer, rice, wheat, jaggery, curd and lassi that are pre-packaged and labelled.
- ✓ These day-to-day household items will attract 5 percent GST from July 18.
- ✓ The GST rates for bank services have also been hiked. The new GST rates for Bank services including the fee charged by banks for issuing cheques will now be 18 %.

RANKING

➤ **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)**

- ✓ On June 30, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - released assessment report for the year 2020 of the States and Union Territories in the implementation of Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) at New Delhi.
- ✓ Seven states - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu - were categorised as 'top achievers' as per the latest fifth edition of the report.

➤ **Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021**

- ✓ Four Indian cities - have made it to the list of top-20 sustainable cities in the Asia Pacific region, as per the Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021.
- ✓ Bengaluru has been ranked 14th, the only Indian city to achieve the 'Gold Standard' category, followed by Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai at 17th, 18th and 20th ranks in the Asia Pacific region.

➤ **State Ranking Index**

- ✓ On July 5, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal - released the first edition of 'State Ranking Index' for implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- ✓ Overall, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh scored the highest and secured the top three positions amongst the General Category States in the index.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was ranked at 9th place among the larger states in the index, while the state was ranked 10th in the comprehensive country level index.

➤ **Global Gender Gap Index 2022**

- ✓ Iceland - has once again been named the most gender equal country, topping the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2022.
- ✓ India was ranked low at 135th place out of a total of 146 economies in terms of gender parity.
- ✓ This is considered as an improvement over its 140th position out of 156 in 2021, but still it is a sharp deterioration from the 105th rank out of 135 countries in 2012.

➤ **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**

- ✓ IIT Madras tops National Institutional Rankings 2022, IISC-Bengaluru bags second spot.
- ✓ IIT Madras has emerged as the best educational institution while Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is best university in Institutional Rankings-2022 which was

released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on 15 July 2022.

➤ **Henley Passport Index**

- ✓ Indian passport was ranked at **87** in the Henley Passport Index.
- ✓ Japan, Singapore and South Korea have the most powerful passports in the world.
- ✓ The rest of the top 10 include countries such as Germany, Spain, Finland, Luxembourg, and Italy.

➤ **The India Innovation Index 2021**

- ✓ The India Innovation Index 2021 report - was released by Niti Aayog in New Delhi on July 21.
- ✓ Karnataka, Manipur and Chandigarh have topped in their respective categories in the third edition of NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index.
- ✓ Karnataka has topped again in the 'Major States' category, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- ✓ Manipur is leading the 'North East and Hill States' category and Chandigarh is the top performer in the 'Union Territories and City States' category.
- ✓ The India Innovation Index is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem.

State	Score	Rank
Karnataka	18.01	1
Telangana	17.66	2
Haryana	16.35	3
Maharashtra	16.06	4
Tamil Nadu	15.69	5

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day - July 1**

- The GST Day is observed every year on July 1 to commemorate the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that replaced the old indirect tax regime in the country.
- ✓ GST was launched in the central hall of Parliament on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, 2017.

➤ **National Doctors' Day - July 1**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the selfless contributions of doctors to the society.
- ✓ The day marks the birth and death anniversary of physician and second chief minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Family Doctors on the Front Line."

➤ **International Day of Cooperatives: July 2**

- ✓ International Day of Cooperatives is marked annually on the first Saturday of July. This year, the day will be observed on 2 July to highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement.
- ✓ "Cooperatives Build a Better World" – echoes the theme of the International Year.

➤ **World Zoonoses Day: July 6**

- ✓ World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6 to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like Ebola, Avian influenza, and West Nile virus.
- ✓ Zoonoses is an infectious disease that spread from animals to humans.

➤ **World Chocolate Day 2022: July 7**

- ✓ World Chocolate Day is celebrated on July 7 every year to commemorate the invention of chocolate.
- World Chocolate Day was first celebrated in the year 2009.

➤ **World Population Day - July 11**

- ✓ World Population Day is observed annually to highlight the problems of the global population issues.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all."

The first World Population Day was marked on 11th July 1989 and in 2022, the World will mark its 33rd Population Day.

➤ **World Youth Skills Day: July 15**

- ✓ World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on July 15.
- ✓ The sole purpose of this day is to provide essential skills to youngsters around the globe so that they can get employment.
The theme for 2022 is 'Transforming youth skills for the future.'

➤ **Nelson Mandela International Day 2022 - July 18**

- ✓ Every year on July 18 the world marks Nelson Mandela International Day. The day is a remembrance of the first democratically elected President of South Africa and his long years of struggle for justice against apartheid.
The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2022 is “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”, according to the United Nations.

➤ **World Chess Day - July 20**

- ✓ World Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20 globally. The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- ✓ On this day, we can observe the day by teaching someone or learning how to play the game.

➤ **International Moon Day: July 20**

- ✓ July 20, 2022 marked the inaugural celebration of International Moon Day.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly, on December 9, 2021, recognised the proposal submitted by the Moon Village Association and several other groups within the organisation.
On July 20, 1969, US astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to reach the lunar planet.

➤ **World Brain Day: July 22**

- ✓ People around the world celebrate World Brain Day on July 22 of every year.
- ✓ It is observed to raise awareness about brain health issues.
- ✓ The day is organised each year by The World Federation of Neurology (WFN).
The World Brain Day's theme for 2022 is “Brain Health for All”.

➤ **National Broadcasting Day - July 23**

- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 in India. The day aims to remind Indian citizens about the impact of radio on our lives.

- ✓ Akashvani or All India Radio (AIR) is India's home-grown national radio broadcasting service which reaches millions of homes across the nation.
- ✓ AIR is a division of Prasar Bharati which was previously under government control but is an autonomous body now, set up by an Act of parliament.

➤ **National Income Tax Day - July 24**

- ✓ National Income Tax Day is celebrated to highlight the importance of Income Tax for the nation-building exercise
- ✓ The day is celebrated on July 24 because income tax was first levied as a duty in India in 1860 on this very day.

➤ **World Drowning Prevention Day: July 25**

- ✓ World Drowning Prevention Day is celebrated annually on 25 July.
- ✓ The United Nations recognised this day for the global advocacy of drowning prevention with a resolution.

