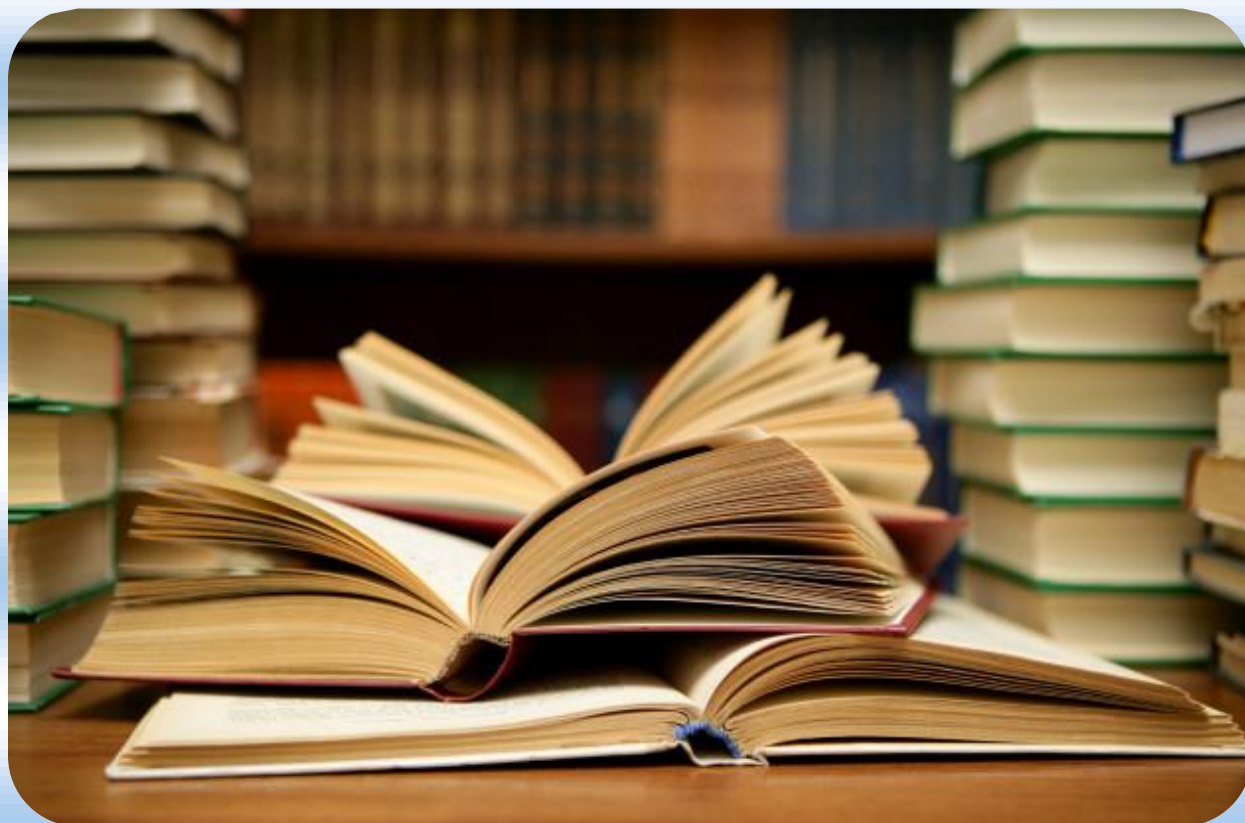


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



JUNE-2022

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer commissioned at IIT, Gandhinagar

ARAM Ananta, a supercomputing facility under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), jointly steered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), was commissioned at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) on May 30. The new facility is set to provide computational power to the scientific community of IITGN as well as the academic institutions and industries in the vicinity of the institute. It will help them take their R&D efforts to a global scale.

Bollywood Singer KK dies after performing at Kolkata concert

Well-known Bollywood singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, died in Kolkata on Tuesday night, officials said. He was 53. KK was feeling unwell after reaching his hotel, following a performance at a concert in the evening where he sang for almost an hour, officials said. He was taken to a private hospital in south Kolkata where doctors declared him brought dead, they said. "It's unfortunate that we could not treat him," a senior official of the hospital said. KK, known as a versatile singer, has recorded songs in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi and Bengali, among other languages.

Telangana Formation Day 2022 is observed on 02nd June

HYDERABAD: On the eve of Telangana Formation Day, Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Wednesday extended greetings to the people of Telangana. He said that the formation of a new state i.e Telangana, has been possible due to the sacrifices made by people for this state, and it was built with the same spirit. "Telangana continued to progress and stood as a role model for the country," he said.

Govt collects Rs 1.41 lakh crore GST in May

The GST revenue for the month of May stood at Rs 1,40,885 lakh crore. The numbers have surged 44% as against Rs 97, 821 during the corresponding period of preceding fiscal. GST collection crosses ₹1.40 lakh crore mark 4th time since inception of GST; 3rd month at a stretch since March 2022. The revenue from import goods went up by 43% this month. The robust collection in May will further boost government's fiscal position and cushion some of the impact from the tax cuts it car

India's economic growth expected to be 8.7% in FY22, Q4 GDP to be 4.1 %

India's economy grew 4.1 per cent year-on-year in the January-March period of 2021-22 (Q4 FY22), even as the rate of growth slowed sequentially for a third straight quarter with the Omicron wave-induced restrictions and high commodity prices weighing on economic activities. The National Statistics Office on Tuesday pared down the overall growth estimate for FY22 to 8.7 per cent from the 8.8 per cent projected in February.

Young women entrepreneur Rashmi Sahoo wins Times Business Award 2022

Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, Rashmi Sahoo has been presented the Times Business Award 2022. In a recently held event of 3rd Times Business Awards, Sahoo was given the award by renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood. The award was given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY -TO-EAT brand.

US Frontier Overtakes Japan's Fugaku As World's Most Powerful Supercomputer

In 2020, Fugaku, a supercomputer jointly developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu Ltd., topped the supercomputer benchmarking index. Two years later, the Japanese machine was dethroned by another built in the West. Frontier, a supercomputer built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) architecture and equipped with Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors, outperformed Fugaku to become the world's fastest supercomputer, according to the Top500 list of world's most powerful supercomputers.

Mens Hockey Asia Cup: India win bronze with 1-0 win over Japan

India beat Japan for the second time in the eight-team tournament to win bronze in the Asia Cup hockey at the GBK Sports Complex in Jakarta on Wednesday. Raj Kumar Pal's seventh minute goal saw the Birendra Lakra-led outfit edge past Asian Games champions. India began cautiously, holding possession in the midfield. Karthi Selvam received a brilliant pass inside the circle and passed to the unmarked Vishnukant Singh. But the Japanese defence dealt with the danger.

Instagram's new feature to help find missing children

Instagram on Wednesday said it is launching an 'alert' feature to help find missing children. The photo-sharing app has partnered with various organisations globally to set up the feature. The feature will display details about missing children on users' Instagram feed if they are in a specific area where an active search is taking place. "Chances of finding a missing child increase when more people are on the lookout, especially in the first few hours," Emily Vacher, Director of Trust and Safety at Meta, said in a blog post.

Punjab Government To Start e-Stamp Instead Of Paper Stamp

The Punjab government on Wednesday decided to abolish the physical stamp papers in an attempt to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue. Punjab Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa launched the 'e-stamp facility' here. Following this, stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via 'e-stamp', which includes computerised print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the State government.

Former SBI MD Ashwani Bhatia takes charge as whole-time member at SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (India) announced on Wednesday that Ashwani Bhatia – former managing director at the State Bank of India (SBI) – had taken charge as a whole-time member (WTM) on Tuesday. For the last seven months, the regulator had operated with only two whole-time members, S K Mohanty and Anant Barua. The tenure of Madhabi Puri Buch and G. Mahalingam as WTMs ended last year. As a result, positions for two whole-time members were vacant at Sebi.

Country's First Liquid Mirror Telescope Comes Up in Uttarakhand

The first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia - commissioned atop Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand - will now keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids. The Indian Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) will help in surveying the sky, making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead.

ISRO chairman inaugurates new spacecraft manufacturing facility

Dr S Somanath, the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Wednesday inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park. The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously.

HDFC ties up with Accenture for digital transformation

The collaboration will revamp HDFC's customer experience and business processes to provide greater operational agility and efficiency, and drive business growth. The housing finance major has collaborated with Accenture to digitally transform its lending business. The transformation exercise is aimed at making HDFC's lending lifecycle paper-less and nimble. A key element of the program is a cloud-native lending platform with digital workflows for every step of the customer journey including application.

Tata Projects wins bid to build UP's Jewar Airport

Tata Projects will build the national capital region's new airport at Jewar, after outbidding the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Larsen & Toubro for the contract. While the deal size has not been disclosed, sources pegged it at over Rs 6,000 crore. Tata Projects, the infrastructure and construction arm of the Tata group, will construct the terminal, runway, airside infrastructure, roads, utilities, landside facilities and other ancillary buildings at the Noida International Airport.

Govt ratifies 8.1 pc EPF interest rate for 2021-22

The government has approved 8.1 per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22 — an over four-decade low — for about five crore subscribers of retirement fund body EPFO. Earlier in March this year, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 to 8.1 per cent from 8.5 per cent provided in 2020-21.

Digital Payments in India expected to increase triple by 2026

Digital payments in India will reach \$10 trillion in value by 2026 from \$3 trillion now, said a report on Thursday, forecasting that cash will increasingly be used less. Digital payments (non-cash) will constitute two out of three payment transactions by 2026, said the PhonePe Pulse-BCG report called 'Digital payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity'. The report said the digital payments ecosystem has gained from the entry of multiple new players with diverse offerings driving digital payments adoption at scale.

Airtel Payments Bank partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold

Airtel Payments Bank on Thursday said it has partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold loans through Airtel Thanks app. There will be no-processing charge on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to 75 per cent of the pledged gold value as a loan, the payments bank said. "Gold Loans are secured loans that can be availed to cater to a variety of needs, from personal to professional.

THE Asia University Rankings 2022: 4 Indian institutions in top 100

The Times Higher Education (THE) on Wednesday released the latest edition of Asia University Rankings. The 2022 edition comprises 616 universities from 31 countries and territories with India being the third most-represented country, with 71 institutions. Last year, a total of 62 Indian institutions participated in the rankings. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, is the only institute to make the top-50 list with 42 rank. The JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research makes its debut in 65th place.

Swarup Kumar Saha appointed as head of Punjab & Sind Bank

The PSU lender said that Swarup Kumar Saha assumed the charge as managing director & chief executive officer of the bank on 3 June 2022. Saha's appointment as MD and CEO is for three years. Prior to his elevation, Saha was executive director of Punjab National Bank since 10 March 2021. "In a career spanning over three decades, he has vast experience and expertise in Human Resource Development, Treasury, International Banking, Credit, Risk Management, Organization Restructuring and Board matters," the bank said in a statement.

RBI announces results of 1st Global Hackathon "HARBINGER 2021"

Tone Tag, a brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt Ltd, has been declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon Harbinger 2021, organised to encourage entrepreneurs to suggest innovative solutions for smarter digital payments. The Reserve Bank had launched its first global hackathon - "Harbinger 2021 - Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' in November 2021.

MS Dhoni invests for Chennai drone company Garuda Aerospace

Drone startup Garuda Aerospace has appointed cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the company's firm's brand ambassador, the company announced on Monday. The cricketer will also be one of their shareholders, it added. "(I) look forward to witness their growth story with the unique drone solutions they have to offer," said Dhoni, as quoted in the company statement. The Chennai-based startup had recently announced its plans to support agriculture.

Kiya.ai launches India's first banking metaverse Kiyaverse

A digital solutions supplier to financial institutions and governments, Kiya.ai has announced the launch of Kiyaverse, which is India's first banking metaverse, in Mumbai as through avatar-based interactions, it intends to connect real-world and metaverse banking application cases. Mumbai-based Kiya.ai seeks to make it possible for consumers to transact, access banking information, and obtain various banking products virtually from the comfort of their own homes through Kiyaverse.



PM Modi launches new series of coins with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav design

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a special series of coins that are also 'visually impaired friendly'. The coins of Re 1, Rs 2, 5, 10 and 20 denominations will have the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) design are not commemorative coins and will be part of circulation.



Alok Kumar Choudhary takes charge as MD of SBI

Alok Kumar Choudhary has taken charge as the new Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI) with effect from June 7, 2022. He was previously Deputy Managing Director (Finance) at the bank. As the new MD, he will be handling Retail Business and Operations. Choudhary is a seasoned banker, who is associated with SBI for three and a half decades. Started his career with SBI in 1987 as a Probationary Officer, Choudhary went on to work at various geographies for the bank.

RBI Monetary Policy: RBI raises repo rate by 50 bps to 4.90%

After a surprise rate hike in May in an off-cycle meeting, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday unanimously voted to increase the benchmark policy rate by 50 basis points thereby taking the repo rate to 4.90 per cent. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 4.65 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate to 5.15 per cent.

World Bank cuts India GDP forecast to 7.5%

The World Bank on Tuesday cut its 2022-23 (FY23) real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 7.5 per cent, from 8 per cent, on the back of inflationary pressures, supply-chain pressures, and geopolitical tensions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Suryoday SFB and Mobisafar Services partnered to provide banking services across India

NEW DELHI : Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB) is partnering with Mobisafar Services to provide banking services through the latter's franchisees and business correspondent network across the country. Suryoday SFB is present across 13 states and Union Territories with over 565 banking outlets. This is aimed at extending digital banking services such as savings account opening, deposit/withdrawal of money, balance enquiry etc. to remoter areas.

Maruti Suzuki installed Asia's largest 20 MWp solar plant at Manesar

New Delhi: India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki on Monday said that it has installed Asia's largest 20 MWp carport type Solar Plant at its Manesar facility. The initiative will contribute 28,000 MWH2 per annum of the company's energy requirements, the automaker said in a release.



Dharmendra Pradhan urges Students to be Nurtured as Future Entrepreneurs

NEW DELHI: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan calls upon higher education institutions to adopt an exponential approach towards building a future-ready workforce. In his concluding remarks at the two-day conference of vice-chancellors of central universities and directors of institutions of national importance at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Wednesday, the minister said that the age of incremental change is gone.

WhatsApp launched SMB Saathi Utsav to support small businesses

WhatsApp India today announced SMBSaathi Utsav - an initiative that aims to support small businesses by helping them adopt digital mediums such as the WhatsApp Business App to run their business.



Himachal Pradesh becomes the first Indian state to approve a policy for drones

The Himachal Pradesh government has approved the drone policy to ensure future readiness of students and to empower them to access job opportunities embedded in the drone sector, an official spokesman said on Monday. The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has given its consent to Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy, 2022 which envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation.

WHO award for PGI Chandigarh centre for tobacco control

Recognising its efforts in advancing tobacco control, the World Health Organization has awarded the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC) of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh.



Ather Energy partners SBI for customer retail finance

Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy has partnered State Bank of India to provide customers with vehicle financing. As part of the association Ather Energy customers will get instant loans at interest rates as low as 9.55 percent per annum. Pre-approved loans will also be administered, depending on the buyer's creditworthiness. SBI will offer the vehicle loans on their YONO mobile application as well as at their branch network.

RBI increased individual housing loan limit for co-operative banks

In a big boost to the home loan segment, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday doubled the limit on housing loans from cooperative banks and also permitted rural cooperative banks (RCB) to finance residential real estate projects to support affordable housing and inclusive growth. The RBI allowed urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to provide doorstep banking services to meet the needs of customers, especially senior citizens and differently abled persons.

Teenager Rahul Srivatshav becomes India's 74th Grandmaster

Rahul Srivatshav P. of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, achieving the title after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy. The 19-year old player reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark after drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia in the Cattolica event. His current Elo rating is 2468.

Retail inflation for May matches estimates at 7.04%

India's retail inflation came down to 7.04% on an annual basis in May from 7.79% in April owing to easing food prices in the month of May. The overall food inflation grew by 7.97% this month as against 8.31% last month and 5.01% in the corresponding period of last fiscal (FY22). Sequentially, the headline inflation slowed to 0.94 per cent in May from 1.43 per cent in April. The CPI-based inflation has breached the upper limit of RBI's tolerance band, ranging from 2-6%, for the fifth consecutive month.

OmniCard becomes 1st RBI licensed PPI to launch cash withdrawal across all ATMs PAN India

OmniCard has announced that it became the 1st RBI licensed PPI (prepaid payment instrument) to launch cash withdrawal using a RuPay-powered card from any ATMs across the country. The move came in after RBI permitted the non-bank licensed entities to enable cash withdrawals from the digital wallets. OmniCard users can withdraw cash from any ATM at their convenience with full security from frauds like card theft, card cloning.

India's first centralised AC railway terminal in Bengaluru becomes operational

BENGALURU : The ultra luxury Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal in Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru was made operational on Monday, 6 June. The Ernakulam Tri-Weekly Express chugged through the station to mark this special occasion.



Gol launched Agnipath military recruitment scheme

Amid protest against the new model for recruitment of soldiers into three armed services, the Centre has decided to increase the upper age limit for recruitment under the "Agnipath" scheme to 23 years from 21 years for the year 2022. Earlier on Tuesday, during the launch of the Agnipath scheme, the Centre had said youngsters between the of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure in the Indian Army/Indian Air Force/Indian Navy.

Neeraj Chopra Sets New National Record With 89.30 Metre Javelin Throw

Ace Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Tuesday set a new national record with a throw of 89.30 metres at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland. This was his first competitive event since winning the historic gold at the Tokyo Olympics 2021. He shattered his previous record of 88.07 m which he had set in Patiala in March last year. Neeraj began the contest with an impressive 86.92m before sending the spear to 89.30m.

India's 1st private train service flagged off under 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme'

The first train to be operated between Coimbatore and Shirdi by a private operator, under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme of the Indian Railways, was flagged off on Tuesday. The Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi will commence at 18:00 hours on 14th June 2022 (Tuesday) and reach Sainagar Shirdi at 07:25 hours on 16th June 2022 (Thursday) with stoppages at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Yelahanka, Dharmavaram, Mantralayam Road and Wadi.

Trade deficit of India broadens to \$24.29 billion in May 2022

India's May trade deficit widened to \$24.29 billion from \$6.53 billion a year ago, a government statement said on Wednesday. May's trade deficit was pushed up by a surge in imports, which rose 62.83% year-on-year to \$63.22 billion, while exports rose 20.55% to \$38.94 billion, revised trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Adani Transmission's \$700 million loan gets 'green loan' tag

Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) on Wednesday said its USD 700 million revolving loan facility has been tagged as 'green loan' by Sustainalytics. Sustainalytics, a Morningstar Company, provides analytical environmental, social and governance (ESG) research, ratings and data to institutional investors and companies. In a statement issued on Wednesday, ATL said its "USD 700 million revolving facility has been tagged as green loan by Sustainalytics. This provides assurance on the green loan framework for the revolving facility."

Global Startup Ecosystem ranking: Kerala ranks top in Asia in global report

Providing a boost for Kerala's start-up ecosystem, the State has been ranked first in Asia in Affordable Talent in Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER). The State has also been ranked fourth in global ranking in the GSER, drawn up jointly by policy advisory and research organisation Startup Genome and Global Entrepreneurship Network. The GSER was released on Tuesday in the backdrop of the ongoing London Tech Week 2022.

Mumbai Airport launched Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV hybrid System

In an innovative approach, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has become India's first airport to launch a one-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill) to explore the possibility of utilization .



Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as New PCI Chief

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has been nominated as Chairperson of the Press Council of India on Friday. "The Government of India has today nominated Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as Chairperson of Press Council of India", stated an official release. She replaces Justice (retd) CK Prasad who vacated office in November 2021. The office of PCI chairman has been lying vacant since then.

HSBC India announced \$250 Million lending support for Indian start-ups

Mumbai: Foreign lender HSBC India on Monday announced that it will lend \$250 million to startups in the country. The bank did not specify the timeframe for disbursement of the amount. The lending will be done to high-growth, tech-led startups in the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, the lender said in a statement. The lending, which comes amid increased focus on startups' debt needs by financial intermediaries locally.

IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2022: India ranked 37th

India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development, largely due to gains in economic performance. Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore regained the third spot from fifth, a global study showed on Wednesday.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indian American Harini Logan Wins 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee

Harini Logan, a 14-year-old Indian-American eighth-grader from Texas, spelled 21 words correctly to win the prestigious 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee, beating Vikram Raju in a marathon, first-of-its-kind spell-off, a format that tested the contestants on how many words they could correctly spell within 90 seconds.



UN approves Turkey's request to change name to Türkiye

The United Nations has changed the Republic of Turkey's country name at the organisation from "Turkey" to "Türkiye", following a request from Ankara for the change. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that a letter had been received on Wednesday from the Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu addressed to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, requesting the use of "Türkiye" instead of "Turkey" for all affairs.

Javier Olivan Taking Over As The Meta New Chief Operating Officer

Meta Platforms veteran Javier Olivan is taking over as the company's chief operating officer after playing a crucial but largely behind-the-scenes role stoking the social media company's explosive growth for 15 years. The Spaniard will replace Sheryl Sandberg, who announced on Wednesday she was stepping down from Meta. The move comes as Meta struggles with slowing growth and rising costs. It is transforming from a social media company to one focused on building the metaverse, a collection of virtual worlds that could be a decade away.

Abania Elects General Major Bajram Begaj as New President

PERMET: Albania's parliament elected its top military official as the country's new president on Saturday after no candidates were nominated in three rounds of voting. Gen.-Maj Bajram Begaj won the post after the 140-seat Parliament voted 78 in favor, four against and one abstained. The governing left-wing Socialist Party nominated and voted for Begaj, 55, after failing to reach a compromise with the opposition on a candidate to replace President Ilir Meta, and no independent candidate was nominated.

Bloomberg Billionaires list: Mukesh Ambani richest in Asia

Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani became Asia's richest man on June 3 after a record rally in shares, surpassing Adani group chairman Gautam Adani. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani who has a net worth of \$99.7 billion added \$9.69 billion in 2022. He is placed eighth on the list while Adani with a net worth of \$98.7 billion is ranked ninth.

Mithali Raj announced retirement from International cricket

Mithali Raj, captain of India women's ODI and Test teams, announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket on Wednesday. "I feel now is the perfect time to call curtains on my playing career as the team is in capable hands of some very talented young players and the future of Indian Cricket is bright," Raj said in a statement on Twitter.



Virat Kohli Becomes the 1st Indian To Reach 200 Million Followers On Instagram

Team India's prolific batsman Virat Kohli has now the most number of followers on Instagram. Virat Kohli now has 200 million followers on Instagram, the highest by any Indian or any Indian sportsperson in the photosharing social app. Virat Kohli has also the highest number of followers among all the cricket players. Among sportspersons, only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have more followers on Instagram. Virat Kohli himself took to Instagram to thank his supporters.

World's First 'Right To Repair' Law For Digital Electronics Passed by New York Legislature

In a world's first, the New York state legislature has passed the "right to repair" bill that will require digital electronics manufacturers to make parts, tools, information, and software available to consumers and independent repair shops. The "Fair Repair Act" comes after federal pressure to enforce consumers' rights to repair and refurbish their purchased goods. For independent repair shops, this news is huge as they will finally be able to compete with manufacturers.

India's Krishna Srinivasan to head IMF's Asia-Pacific dept

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on June 8 announced the appointment of Indian national Krishna Srinivasan as director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) from June 22. According to an IMF announcement, Mr. Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee whose retirement from the Fund was announced on March 23. "Krishna is a highly regarded member of our Fund family and has made many important and innovative contributions to our mission throughout his career at the Fund," Ms. Georgieva said.

AR Rahman appointed ambassador of Indo-UK culture platform

Music great A R Rahman has been named the ambassador of the British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture', which aims to boost collaboration among emerging artists. The 'Season of Culture' that marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence was officially launched on Tuesday here by Director (India) of British Council Barbara Wickham.



France signs agreement to accept UPI payments and RuPay cards from India

UPI in France: The National Payments Corporation of India International on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Lycra Network of France. According to this MoU, Indians can soon be able to pay with their UPI or RuPay card in France. This will be beneficial for Indian students or travelers. The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw announced this MoU between France and India.

LinkedIn tie-up with UN Women to create employment opportunities for women

LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, on Wednesday said it will invest USD 5,00,000 (Rs 3.88 crore) in partnership with UN Women to advance women's economic empowerment. The project will launch a pilot in Maharashtra to cultivate the digital, soft and employability skills of 2,000 women and present them with a range of career-building opportunities through job fairs, mentoring sessions and peer-to-peer networks, a statement said.

Google announced a startup accelerator program for women founders

Google on Tuesday announced a startup accelerator program for women founders which will help them address challenges such as fundraising and hiring. The inaugural batch of the 'Google for Startups Accelerator - India Women Founders' will accept up to 20 women-founded / co-founded startups in the country, and support them through a three-month program.



Arati Prabhakar to be appointed as science adviser to the President of US

US president Joe Biden is expected to name Arati Prabhakar as the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will succeed Eric Lander who left the role nine months after his appointment after he admitted to bullying his staff and creating a hostile work environment during his tenure.



Microsoft's Internet Explorer retiring after 27 years

It announced the plan last year, making Internet Explorer 11 its final version. Internet Explorer debuted on Windows desktop computers in 1995 and by 2004, had cornered 95% of the market. But now, Google Chrome, Apple's Safari and Mozilla Firefox are dominant. Users wanting to stick with Microsoft are being directed to Microsoft Edge, launched in 2015, alongside Windows 10.



Russia overtakes Saudi Arabia to become India's 2nd biggest oil supplier

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil behind Iraq as refiners snap up Russian crude available at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine, industry data showed. Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil in May or over 16 per cent of all their oil imports. Russian-origin crude hit 5 per cent of India's total seaborne imports in April for the first time, rising from under one per cent throughout 2021 and Q1 2022, the data showed.

Tencent bought stake in Flipkart worth Rs 2,060 crore

Chinese technology major Tencent has bought a stake worth \$264 million (Rs 2,060 crore) in Walmart-owned Flipkart from co-founder Binny Bansal, through its European subsidiary, according to a news item first broken by news agency PTI. Binny Bansal holds around 1.84% stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV.



UNGA adopts resolution on multilingualism, mentions Hindi language for 1st time

In a significant initiative, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions the Hindi language for the first time. The resolution passed on Friday encourages the UN to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language. "This year, for the first time, the resolution has a mention of Hindi language.



Britain's Queen becomes the world's second-longest reigning monarch

As of Monday, she has been on the throne for 70 years and 127 days, second only to Louis XIV of France who became king at the age of four. She overtakes Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in 2016, having equalled his reign on Sunday. Last weekend, the 96-year-old's Platinum Jubilee was marked with four days of celebrations across the UK. She had officially reached 70 years of rule on 6 February, with the extended bank holiday weekend chosen for the Jubilee events.

