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20 LATEST INTERNATIONAL NEWS ASKED IN SSB INTERVIEW - JULY 2022

Turkey For Sweden & Finland's Membership Of NATO

- It Had Initially Opposed The Nordic Countries' Bids To Join. In A Statement, NATO Said, A Trilateral Deal Had Been Reached At A Meeting Between Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Finland's President Sauli Niinistö, And The Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, In The Spanish Capital, Madrid.
- Foreign Ministers From 3 Countries Signed A **Joint Security Pact** That Addressed Turkey's Concerns. NATO Chief **Jens Stoltenberg** Said Sweden Agreed To Step Up Its Work On Turkish Extradition Requests Of Suspected Militants. The Two Nordic Nations Will Also Lift Their Restrictions On Selling Weapons To Turkey.
- Sweden And Finland Had Historically Declined To Seek NATO Membership, Partly Because Of **Mixed Public Opinion And Caution Around Their Security Relationship With Russia**. However, That Dramatically Changed After Russia Launched A Military Operation On Ukraine In February.



Iran Applies For BRICS Group Of Emerging Countries

- **Iran** Has Applied To Become A Member Of The BRICS. Which Holds The World's **Second-largest Gas Reserves**, Wants To Join The BRICS. Tehran's Membership In The Brics Group Would Result In **Added Values For Both Sides**. **Russia Said Argentina Had Also Applied To Join**.
- **China** Has By Far The Largest Economy In The Brics Grouping, Accounting For More Than **70 Of The Group's Collective 27.5 Trillion US Dollars** In Economic Might. India Accounts For About **13 Percent**.

- With Russia And Brazil Each Accounting For About **Seven Percent**, According To IMF Data. BRICS Account For More Than **40 Percent Of The World's Population** And About **26 Percent Of The Global Economy**.



20th Anniversary Of Adoption Of SCO Charter

- India's Ambassador To China **Pradeep Kumar Rawat** Has Said That India Since Its Accession To **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Has Actively Participated And Has Provided Substantial Support To Various Mechanisms Across Diverse Domains In The Forum.
- For The First Time, India Is Ready To Take Over The **SCO Presidency** From **Uzbekistan In September 2022**, Ambassador Rawat Said, that India Will Continue To Work With Other Members To Develop A Very Meaningful Agenda.



Milestones

- 1996
Foundation of the Shanghai Five, the SCO predecessor
- 1999
Foundation of the Bishkek Group to counter border criminality
- 2001
Uzbekistan joins SCO
- June 15, 2001
Shanghai Cooperation Organization Founding Declaration signed
- 2008
Iran submits official application for full-right SCO membership

T Raja Kumar Takes Over As President Of FATF

- The World's Anti-terrorism Financing Agency. FATF Tweeted That Raja Kumar Will Focus **On Enhancing The Effectiveness Of Global Anti-money Laundering**

And Counter-terrorist Financing Measures, Improving Asset Recovery, And Other Initiatives.

- He Has More Than **35 Years Of Leadership** And Operational Experience In Singapore's Home Ministry And Police Force And Will Serve A Two-year Term. FATF Is A Global Watchdog Tasked With Combatting Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing.



Sweden, Finland Sign Accession Protocols With NATO

- **Sweden And Finland** Signed The **Accession Protocols At The NATO** Headquarters. The Signing Was Held In The Presence Of Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto And Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde.
- The Signing Of The Accession Protocols Marks The **Start Of The Ratification Process**. In A Statement, NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** Termed The Signing Historic. The **30-member NATO Group** Seeks To Promote Collective Security Among Its Members.
- The Development Is Significant Coming In The **Backdrop Of The Ukraine Conflict**. Russia Opposes The Eastward Expansion Of NATO And Finland Is Russia's Neighbor. Mr. Stoltenberg Said That **NATO's Door Remains Open To European** As They Face What He Termed, The Biggest Security Crisis In Decades.



6.26 Million People In Sri Lanka Are Food Insecure

- The **World Food Programme**, In Its Latest Report, Said That **6.26 Million People In Sri Lanka Are Food Insecure**.
- WFP Further Said, It Targets **Three Million People To Receive Emergency Food, Nutrition, And School Meals Until December**.
- The Statement Said That **Three In 10 Food-insecure Households Are Severely Food Insecure And 65,600 Of The Total Two Lakh Food Insecure Households Are Using Emergency Livelihood Coping Strategies**.
- On the Other Hand, Sri Lanka Asked Russian President Vladimir Putin To Help His **Cash-strapped Nation Import Fuel**, As It Faces Its **Worst Economic Crisis** Since Independence From Britain In 1948.
- It Comes After Sri Lanka's Energy Minister Warned At The Weekend That The Country May Soon Run Out Of Petrol.



10th World Peace Forum

- "**BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities And Challenges**" As Part Of The **10th World Peace Forum In Beijing** Organized By **Tsinghua University**, P K Rawat Tried To Dispel The Notion That **BRICS Is Trying To Replace Other Institutions And Organizations**.
- BRICS Countries As A Whole **Can Make A Greater Contribution** To The World, But **Not Necessarily In Conflict With International Groups**, Adding That India Participates In All The Different International Events As India Can Make A Greater Contribution By Actively Cooperating With More Countries.



UNESCO Panel On Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **India Has Been Elected To The Intergovernmental Committee Of UNESCO's 2003 Convention For The Safeguarding Of The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) For The 2022-2026 Cycle.** India Has Served As A Member Of The ICH Committee Twice - From 2006 To 2010 And From 2014 To 2018.
- As The Nation Celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India Will Be A Part Of Two Prominent Committees Of **UNESCO - Intangible Cultural Heritage (2022-2026) And World Heritage (2021-2025)**. This Is Yet Another Opportunity For India To Reinststate The Values Of 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam'.
- **According To UNESCO, The Core Functions Of The Intergovernmental Committee For The Safeguarding Of Intangible Cultural Heritage** Are To Promote The Objectives Of The Convention, Provide Guidance On Best Practices And Make Recommendations On Measures For The Safeguarding Of Heritage.



Fields Medals 2022

- **Ukrainian Mathematician Maryna Viazovska** Along With Other Three Mathematicians Received The Prestigious Fields Medals. Fields Medal Is Often Described As The **Nobel Prize In Mathematics**. The Fields Medal Is Awarded Every Four Years To One Or More Mathematicians **Under The Age Of 40**.
- **France's Hugo Duminil-Copin, US Based June Huh, And Britain's James Maynard Were Also Awarded The Medals At A Ceremony In Helsinki.**
- Fields Medal Is Awarded At The **International Congress Of The International Mathematical Union (IMU)**. Fields Medal Is Awarded To Recognize Outstanding **Mathematical Achievement** For Existing Work And For The Promise Of Future Achievement.



India Will Surpass China As The Most Populous Nation

- **UN Report** Said That As On **Earth In 2023**.
- The **UN Dept Of Economic And Social Affairs, Population Division**, Said That The **Global Population** Is Projected To Reach **8 Billion On November 15, 2022**.
- The World's Population Is Growing **At Its Slowest Pace Since 1950**.
- It Should Hit **8.5 Billion In 2030 And 9.7 Billion In 2050**, Peaking At Around **10.4 Billion People In The 2080s**.
- More Than **Half Of The Rise Forecast** In The World Population In The Coming Decades Will Be **Concentrated In Eight Countries Of DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, The Philippines, And Tanzania**.



Wimbledon Championship

- **Elena Rybakina Of Kazakhstan** Has Clinched Wimbledon Women's Singles Title Defeating **Jabeur Of Tunisia** In The Final. Elena Has Become The First Tennis Player From Kazakhstan To Win A **Grand Slam Singles Championship**.
- **Serbian Star Novak Djokovic** Won Wimbledon 2022 After Beating **Australia's Nick Kyrgios** In London. Djokovic Has A Total Of **Seven Wimbledon Titles**. It Is **Djokovic's 21st Grand Slam Title Overall**.

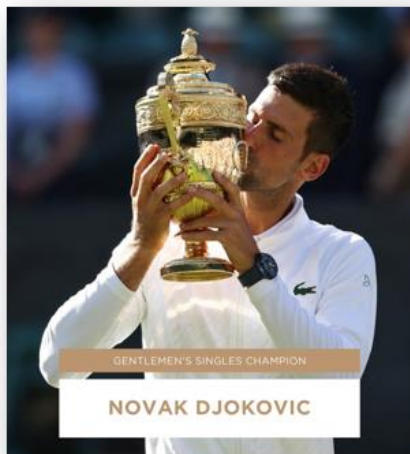


Image Captured By James Webb Space Telescope

- The **First Full-color Image** From **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope** Was Released that Provides Glimpses Of What The **Early Universe Looked Like**.
- The Clearest Image To Date Of The **Early Universe**, Going Back 13 Billion Years, Has Been Released.
- The Image Showed **Thousands Of Galaxies** And Some Of The Faintest Objects Observed, Colorized In Blue, Orange, And White Tones.



Global Gender Gap Index 2022

- **WEF Ranked India At 135 Out Of 146 Countries.** India's Overall Score Has Improved From **0.625 (In 2021) To 0.629**, Which Is Its **7th Highest Score** In The Last 16 Years. In **2021, India Was Ranked 140 Out Of 156 Countries.**
- **Iceland Has Retained Its Position** As The World's Most Gender Equal Country, Among 146 Nations On The Index. **Finland, Norway, New Zealand, And Sweden** Are The Top Five Countries On The List, Respectively. **Afghanistan Is The Worst.**
- The Index Benchmarks Countries On Their Progress Towards Gender Parity In Four Key Dimensions With Sub Metrics:
- **Economic Participation And Opportunity**
- **Educational Attainment**
- **Health And Survival**
- **Political Empowerment**

INDIA'S REPORT CARD

Index/sub-index	2022 (146 countries)		2021 (156 countries)	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	135	0.629	140	0.625
Political empowerment	48	0.267	51	0.276
Economic participation & opportunity	143	0.350	151	0.326
Educational attainment	107	0.961	114	0.962
Health and survival	146	0.937	155	0.937

WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM

Inaugural I2U2 Meet Concluded

- The Inaugural I2U2 Leaders Meeting Focussed On The **Food Security Crisis And Clean Energy**. Innovative Ways Were Discussed To Ensure Longer-term, More Diversified Food Production And Delivery Systems That Can Better **Manage Global Food Shocks**.
- Intend To **Mobilize Private Sector Capital And Expertise** To Modernize Infrastructure, Advance Low Carbon Development Pathways For Industries, Improve Public Health And Access To Vaccines, And Advance Physical **Connectivity Between Countries In The Middle East Region**.
- The **UAE Will Invest Two Billion Dollars** To Develop A Series Of **Integrated Food Parks Across India** That Will Incorporate **State-of-the-art Climate-smart Technologies** To Reduce Food Waste And Spoilage, Conserve Fresh Water And Employ Renewable Energy Sources. **India Will Provide Appropriate Land** For The Project And Will Facilitate Farmers' Integration Into The Food Parks.
- The **US And Israeli Private Sectors** Will Be Invited To Lend Their **Expertise And Offer Innovative Solutions** That Contribute To The **Project's Overall Sustainability**. These Investments Will Help Maximize Crop Yields And Help Tackle Food Insecurity In South Asia And The Middle East.
- The **I2U2 Group Will Advance A Hybrid Renewable Energy Project In Gujarat Consisting Of 300 Mega Watts Of Wind And Solar Capacity** Complemented By A Battery Energy Storage System. The US Trade And Development Agency Funded A Feasibility Study For The **330-million Dollar Project**.
- **UAE-Based Companies** Are Exploring Opportunities To Serve As Critical **Knowledge And Investment Partners**. Israel And The US Intend To Work With The UAE And India To Highlight Private Sector Opportunities. Indian Companies Are Keen To Participate In This Project And Contribute **To India's Goal Of Achieving 500 GW Of Non-fossil Fuel Capacity By 2030**.



Varanasi To Be Cultural And Tourism Capital Of SCO

- **Varanasi Will Be The First City In SCO Region To Be Granted The Rotating Title Of 'Cultural & Tourism Capital Of SCO' Under A New Mechanism During India's SCO Presidency From September 2022 To September 2023. India Will Take Over From Uzbekistan At The Samarkand Summit In September This Year.**
- **SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming** Said That **People-to-people Cooperation** Is An Important Area Under The SCO Framework, And Member States Are Very Proactive And Positive And Implemented A Large Amount Of Cooperation In Cultures.



13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue Begins In Berlin

- The Two-Day Informal Ministerial Meet Is Being Chaired By **Germany And Egypt**, The Hosts Of This Year's **Annual Climate Meet (COP-27)**. To **Build Consensus And Provide Political Direction** To Resolve Divergences Aimed At Improving The Implementation Of Climate Action, The Core Goal Of **COP-27**.
- During The Dialogue, Ministers And Delegations From Several Countries Recalled The Urgency To Move To The Implementation Of All The Previous Resolutions Made During The Last Meeting In Order To **Limit Global Warming To 1.5 Degrees Celsius**.
- As Per The Previous Resolution, The Fight Against Climate Change Requires **The Preservation Of The Congo Basin Forests**, Which Alone **Absorb 1.2 Billion Tonnes Of Carbon** Globally Per Year.
- The **Petersburg Climate Dialogue** Will Pave The Way For **A Successful Global Climate Conference In Egypt In November**. Since Its Inception In 2010, The Petersburg Dialogue Has Served As A Forum For Ministers To Build Political Consensus That Helps **Resolve Differences** On Issues Holding Up Progress.



Henley Passport Index 2022

- **Japan, Singapore, And South Korea** Have The Most Powerful Passports As The World Continues To Recover From **Covid-19**, Reversing Pre-pandemic Rankings That Were Dominated By **European Nations**.
- A Japanese Passport Provides **Hassle-free Entry To 193 Countries**, One More Than Those From **Singapore And South Korea**, According To The Latest **Henley Passport Index From Henley & Partners, An Immigration Consultancy**.
- **Russian** Ranked **50th**, Giving Easy Access To 119 Nations. **China Placed 69th** With Access To **80 Countries**, **India's Passport Ranked 87th**, And **Afghanistan's Passport Is The Least Useful**, Getting The Holder Into Only 27 Countries.

Passport	Rank	Country Access Score
Japan	1	193
Singapore	2	192
South Korea	2	192
Germany	3	190
Spain	3	190
Finland	4	189
Italy	4	189
Luxembourg	4	189
Austria	5	188
Denmark	5	188



Iran To Be Admitted In SCO

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Is Set For Its Second Expansion With Iran To Be Added As Its Newest Member At The Upcoming Summit In The **Samarkand** In Mid-September Under The **Uzbekistan Presidency**.
- SCO Secretary-general Zhang Ming Said That He Expects To See A **Memorandum Of Obligations Of Iran Joining The SCO** To Be Passed At The Summit.
- **Belarus** Has Also Applied For Sco Membership. Legal Process Regarding Belarus' Application Will Soon Start, But It Will Require The **Consensus Of All Member States**. The Decision To Admit Iran Was Made In Last Year's **Dushanbe Summit**.

- **SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting On 28-29 July** Will Set The Agenda For The **Samarkand Summit** Where Sco Expansion Is Among The Issues That Leaders Of The Grouping Are Likely To Discuss.
- This SCO Summit Is Being Held Amid Major Geopolitical Developments Like **War In Ukraine, The Situation In Afghanistan, Cross-border Terrorism, Extremism, Supply Chain Logistics, And Connectivity With Eurasia.**



Ukraine And Russia To Allow Export Of Grain

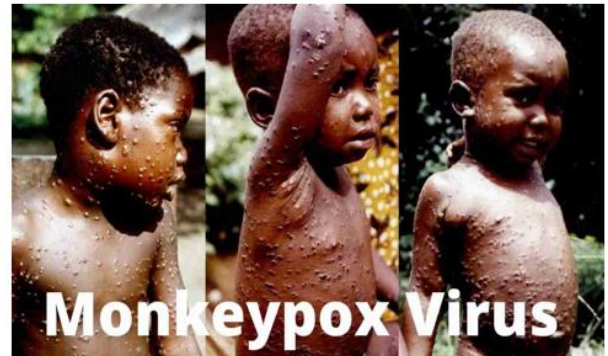
- Ukraine And Russia Have Signed An **UN-Backed Deal** To Allow The **Export Of Millions Of Tonnes Of Grain From Blockaded Black Sea Ports.** The Agreement Potentially Averted The Threat Of A Catastrophic Global Food Crisis.
- The Deal Would Open The Way To Significant Volumes Of **Food Exports From Ukraine** And Alleviate A **Parallel Food And Economic Crisis** In The Developing World.



Monkeypox Declared “A Global Health Emergency”

- The **2nd Meeting Of The WHO's Emergency Committee** On The Virus. The Classification Is The **Highest Alert** That The WHO Can Issue And Follows A Worldwide Upsurge In Cases. More Than **16,000 Cases** Have Now Been Reported From **75 Countries.**

- There Have Been **Five Deaths** So Far As A Result Of The Outbreak. There Are **Only Two Other Health Emergencies Currently** - The **Coronavirus Pandemic** And The **Continuing Effort To Eradicate Polio**.



Russia To Withdraw From ISS Project After 2024

- **Russia** Has Decided To Quit The **International Space Station After 2024**. Moscow's Space Agency **Roscosmos** ' Newly-appointed Chief **Yury Borisov** Announced The Decision. President **Vladimir Putin** Was Also Briefed About It.
- **Russia And The United States** Have Worked Side By Side On The Space Station Which Has Been In Orbit Since **1998**. The Space Program Will Continue To Get Top Priority, And Russia Will Start Putting Together A **Russian Orbital Station Before 2024**.
- Sending The **First Man Into Space In 1961** And Launching The **First Satellite Four Years** Earlier Are Among Key Accomplishments Of The **Soviet Space Program** And Remain A Major Source Of **National Pride In Russia**.
- **NASA** Has Made No Immediate Comment On The Russian Decision To Quit The International Space Station After 2024. US State Department Spokesman Ned Price Called The Announcement An **Unfortunate Development** Given The "Valuable Professional Collaboration Our Space Agencies Have Had Over Years.



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