

The background of the page is a blurred photograph of a student with glasses, wearing a white shirt, sitting at a desk and using a laptop. The student's hands are visible, one holding a blue pen and the other on the laptop keyboard. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic overlay on the left side.

Weekly Economic & Social Issues (ESI)

Study Material

22-30 June 2022

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22-30th June 2022

Dear readers,

Weekly Economic & Social Issues (ESI) notes are a collection of important news and events that occurred in the fourth week (22-30th) of June 2022. This file is important for all **regulatory body** exams.

1. ONGC Videsh announces new discovery in Colombia

Note:

- ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, Urraca-IX, in CPO-5 block, Llanos Basin, Colombia.
- ONGC is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), the National Oil Company of India.
- Urraca-1X was spudded on 20th April 2022.
- Well was drilled to target depth (TD) of 10956 ft., encountering 17 ft thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201ft -10218 ft. During initial testing with Electrical Submersible Pump (ESP), fluid flowed @ approx. 600 bbl./day with around 40-50% W/C and oil of 16oAPI.
- Earlier, ONGC has discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

2. Union Minister of State Ashwini Choubey adopts 'Tiger' in Bengal Safari Siliguri

Note:

- Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey has adopted a one-year-old tiger for one year and named him Agniveer.
- He adopted a tiger to spread awareness among the people under the Adoption Program.
- Under the adoption program, a total of 70 people have adopted animals.
- He paid two lakhs for the maintenance of the adopted tiger through online.

3. PM participates in the 14th BRICS Summit

Note:

- PM Narendra Modi has participated at the 14th BRICS Summit under the Chairship of President Xi Jinping of China on 23-24 June 2022.
- Attended by: President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa
- Discussion on: Counter-Terrorism, Trade, Health, Traditional Medicine, Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Agriculture, Technical and Vocational Education & Training, and also key issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system, COVID-19 pandemic, global economic recovery, amongst others.
- At the conclusion of the Summit, BRICS Leaders adopted the 'Beijing Declaration'.

4. 7th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban celebrated by MoHUA

Note:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has celebrated 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).
- This scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25th June 2015.
- Features: The Mission covers the entire urban area consisting of Statutory Towns.
- All houses under PMAY(U) have basic amenities like toilet, water supply, electricity and kitchen.

5. NITI Aayog Launches Report on India's Gig and Platform Economy

Note:

- A report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy" was released by NITI Aayog.

- Suman Bery (vice chairman of NITI Aayog), Amitabh Kant, and Dr K Rajeswara Rao (special secretary) have released the report.
- It emphasised the industry's potential to generate jobs in light of India's growing urbanisation, and widespread access to the internet, digital technology, and cellphones.
- According to the research, the gig economy employed 77 lakh (7.7 million) employees in 2020–21.
- They made up 1.5 percent of India's total labour force or 2.6 percent of the non-agricultural workforce.
- By 2029–2030, there will be 2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers in the gig economy.
- By 2029–2030, it is anticipated that gig workers will account for 6.7 percent of India's non-agricultural workforce and 4.1 percent of all income.
- Currently, medium-skilled occupations make up approximately 47% of gig labour, high skilled jobs make up about 22%, and low-skilled jobs make up about 31%.

6. Prime Minister's visit to Germany and UAE from 26-28 June 2022

Note:

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi visits to Germany to participate in the G7 Summit (under the German Presidency).
- He was invited by the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- PM Modi also travelled to the United Arab Emirates on a brief visit.
- PM Modi had also scheduled to meet the newly elected President of UAE and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The G7 summit was also be attended by Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as the participating countries.

7. MoD approves establishment of wayside amenities 'BRO Cafes' on 75 border roads in 12 States/UTs

Note:

- Defence Ministry has approved establishment of wayside amenities - BRO Cafes on 75 border roads in twelve States and Union Territories.
- Aim: To provide basic amenities and comfort to the tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people.
- These wayside amenities will be branded as BRO Cafes.

8. ISRO launches India's Communication satellite 'GSAT-24' from French Guiana

Note:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched India's communication satellite, 'GSAT-24' from Kourou in French Guiana.
- It is built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- It was launched by French company Arianespace.
- It is a 24-Ku band communication satellite, weight 4180 kg, pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs.
- This is the first demand driven communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL after space sector reforms.

9. PM Modi inaugurates 'Vanijya Bhawan', new premises of Commerce Ministry

Note:

- PM Modi has inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 'Vanijya Bhawan' in New Delhi.
- He has also launched a new portal named NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade).
- The portal was developed as a one stop platform to get all the required information related to India's foreign trade.
- Vanijya Bhawan, will be used by Department of Commerce and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade DPIIT.

10. Indian Navy conducts 38th coordinated patrol with Indonesian Navy

Note:

- India has conducted 38th edition of the Coordinated Patrol with Indonesian Navy (IND-INDO CORPAT) from 13-24 Jun 22.

- INS Karmuk (indigenously built missile corvette) is based at the Andaman and Nicobar Command, along with a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- While the Indonesian Navy is being represented by KRI Cut Nyak Dien, a Kapitan Pattimura (PARCHIM I) class corvette.
- The closing ceremony is scheduled at Sabang, Indonesia on 23 June 22.

11. Assam becomes the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card

Note:

- Assam has operationalised the Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' programme, with this, it is implemented across the country.
- Beneficiaries can get their quota of subsidised foodgrains from any electronic point of sale device (ePoS)-enabled fair price shops.
- Beneficiaries can use their existing ration cards with biometric authentication.
- The implementation of ONORC was initiated in August 2019.
- The government has also rolled out the 'MERA RATION' mobile app.

12. Jammu and Kashmir to host G-20 meetings in 2023

Note:

- Jammu and Kashmir has been selected to host the G-20 meetings in 2023.
- The UT government has also set up a five-member high-level committee for the coordination of G20 summit.
- Piyush Goyal (Commerce and Industry Minister) was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021.
- India will take the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022.
- India has been represented by PM Modi since 2014 in G20 summit.

13. Odisha, 'Mo Bus' service received the prestigious UN Public Service Award

Note:

- Mo Bus, Odisha-based public transport service has been honoured with a prestigious United Nations award.
- Reason: Role and efforts in helping the world recover better from COVID-19.
- Initiatives from Brazil, Canada, India, Ireland, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Ukraine have also been recognised.
- Mo Bus service launched: November 6, 2018
- Aim: transformation of the urban public transport

14. Indian Oil reveals 'Surya Nutan', an indoor solar cooking stove

Note:

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has unveiled a stationary, rechargeable cooking stove named Surya Nutan.
- It is a kitchen connected cooking stove that uses the sun's energy to cook food.
- This was developed by IOC's research and development division at Faridabad.
- It captures solar energy through a PV panel that placed outdoor or on the roof.
- The cost of base model is ₹12,000, while the top model will cost ₹23,000.

15. India recognized as 'country of the year' by Europe's Vivatech

Note:

- The Europe's biggest start-up conference, Vivatech 2020 has recognized India as the "country of the year."
- The country has been recognised with this honour, due to the global contribution of Indian start-ups.
- The start-up ecosystem of India is growing rapidly and has over 100 unicorns.
- India has participated in Vivatech is to showcase Indian start-ups are solving global problems and innovating for the world.

16. IGI becomes first airport in India to run entirely on hydro & solar energy

Note:

- Indira Gandhi International Airport has become India's first airport to run entirely on hydro and solar power since June 1.
- Presently, the airport met its electricity requirement of 6% (approx) from onsite solar power plants and rest 94% by hydropower plants.
- Delhi Airport has signed a power purchase agreement with Himachal Pradesh to supply hydroelectricity for the airport until 2036.

- The airport has also targeted to become a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.

17. Parameswaran Iyer becomes new CEO of Niti Aayog

Note:

- Former Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as a new CEO of Niti Aayog for two years.
- He will replace Amitabh Kant.
- He is a 1981-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- In 2016, Iyer was appointed to implement government's Swachh Bharat Mission.
- He resigned as Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation at the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2021.

18. Bharat Electronics signs MoU with Belarus firm for Airborne Defense Suite

Note:

- Bharat Electronics Limited has signed an MoU with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd, India (a subsidiary of DI Belarus).
- Reason: To supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It would be supported by DI with transfer of technology (manufacturing and maintenance) for supply of advanced electronic warfare suite for helicopters under 'Make in India' category.

19. India successfully test-fired VL-SRSAM missile system

Note:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed shipborne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), was successfully test fired from Chandipur in Odisha.
- This missile system has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets.
- Range: 40km to 50km
- This missile's design is based on Astra missile.
- Two key features: cruciform wings and thrust vectoring

20. Former Punjab DGP, Dinkar Gupta appointed as new Director General of NIA

Note:

- The Centre has appointed former Punjab DGP, Dinkar Gupta as the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- He will replace Director General of CRPF, Kuldeep Singh, who was given an additional charge of the NIA after the retirement of Y C Modi.
- He will hold this post till March 31, 2024.
- NIA is a counter-terrorist task force of India.
- It is formed under the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on Dec 31, 2008.

21. Dr Jitendra Singh attends "2022 UN Ocean Conference" at Lisbon

Note:

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh will take part in the "2022 UN Ocean Conference" at Lisbon, which starts from June 27.
- The conference is co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal.
- He will deliver the Keynote address at the Conference on the theme 'Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stock taking, Partnerships and Solutions'.

22. NHA to host Hackathon Series under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

Note:

- The National Health Authority (NHA) will organise its first ever open-to-all hackathon series in the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ecosystem.
- Aim: To drive ideation and innovations.
- The series of hackathon will begin on July 14, 2022.
- This also focus on the Unified Health Interface (UHI) and to mobilise the health start-up ecosystem in India.
- UHI is designed as an open network to enable the interoperable transaction of digital health services.

23. Tata Power Solar commissions India's largest floating solar power project

Note:

- Tata Power Solar Systems has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project of 101.6 Megawatt Peak (MWp) in Kerala backwaters.
- The project has been installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala.
- The installation was completed within the stipulated period, despite the various challenges of variable like water depths, high sea tides, and severe water salinity concern.
- Tata Power Solar is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power.

24. Madhya Pradesh clinches first ever Ranji Trophy title against Mumbai

Note:

- Madhya Pradesh has created history after defeating the 41-time champions, Mumbai by six wickets to win their first-ever Ranji Trophy title at M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- Madhya Pradesh has chased down 108 in the fourth innings for the fall of four wickets.
- Madhya Pradesh has now become the fourth first-time winner of the Ranji Trophy in the last five seasons - joining Gujarat, Vidarbha (two-time winners now) and Saurashtra.

25. IRS officer, Nitin Gupta appointed as new chairman of CBDT

Note:

- Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Gupta, will replace Sangeeta Singh who had been given an addition charge after the retirement of JB Mohapatra on April 30.
- The CBDT is headed by a Chairman and may consist of six members in the rank of Special Secretary.
- It is the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.

26. 'One-Health' initiative launches in Bengaluru on June 28

Note:

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has launched the One Health pilot in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Aim: To bring the stakeholders from animal, human and environment health on a common platform to address challenges.
- DAHD has collaborated with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to implement the One-Health framework in the states of Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

27. Indian Startup IG Drones wins Global Airwards Best Drone Organisation Award

Note:

- Indian startup, IG Drones has been conferred with the "Best Drone Organization Start-up Category" by Airwards for its approach of helping local communities.
- Airwards, is the first panoptic global awards programme of its kind, which identify the positive drone use cases.
- IG Drones is developing disaster response technology and mitigate to increase the efficiency and efficacy of first responders' aid in emergency response.

28. AI adoption will add \$500 billion to India's GDP by 2025: Nasscom report

Note:

- As per the new report of Nasscom, the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and data utilisation strategy can add \$500 billion to India's GDP by 2025.
- Four key sectors of AI adoption -- BFSI, consumer packaged goods (CPG) and retail, healthcare, and industrials/automotive.
- These four sectors can contribute 60% of the total \$ 500 billion opportunity.
- The current rate of AI investments in India is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 30.8%.

29. India successfully tests indigenously developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile

Note:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Tank in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar
- The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability.
- It is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

- The successful development of the laser guided ATGM will enhance the fire power of the MBT Arjun.

30. Govt launches e-learning portal 'Dak Karmayogi' for Dak Sevaks employees

Note:

- Communications Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav and MoS Communications Devusinh Chauhan have launched 'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal.
- This portal is developed under the vision of 'Mission Karmayogi'.
- This portal will develop the competencies of about four lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks and departmental employees.
- After the completion of the final assessment, a system-generated certificate will generate, and sent to the trainee's registered email ID automatically.

31. Iran applies to join BRICS group of emerging countries

Note:

- Iran has applied to become a member of the BRICS.
- BRICS is a group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Iran is the world's second-largest gas reserves and membership in the BRICS group would added values for both sides.
- President of Argentina, Alberto Fernandez has also reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.
- The term BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.
- Iran Capital: Tehran; Currency: Rial

32. India successfully tests high-speed expendable aerial target Abhyas

Note:

- India has successfully tested the indigenously developed, high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), 'ABHYAS' from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- It can be used as an aerial target for evaluating various missile systems.
- It is developed and designed by Aeronautical Development Establishment, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ABHYAS has been programmed for fully autonomous flight.
- DRDO chairman: G. Satheesh Reddy; HQ: New Delhi

33. ISRO to launch rocket PSLV-C53, carrying three Singapore satellites

Note:

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is ready to launch the rocket PSLV-C53 with three Singapore satellites on 30th June, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- PSLV-C53, is the second dedicated commercial mission of the NewSpace India Limited, Department of Space.
- Primary payloads: 365 kg earth observation satellite called DS-EO, a 155 kg NeuSAR satellite and the 2.8 kg Scoob-1 nanosatellite of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

34. NITI Aayog launches report on Future Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers

Note:

- NITI Aayog and TIFAC have launched a report titled 'Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India'.
- Total eight scenarios have been for analyzing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country.
- Optimistic scenario Forecasts: 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by FY 2026-27.
- TIFAC, is an autonomous organization set up in 1988 under the Department of Science & Technology.

35. Union Minister Arjun Munda launches GOAL 2.0 programme in New Delhi

Note:

- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has launched the second phase of the Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) Programme in New Delhi.
- The GOAL 1.0 has changed the lives of tribal youth through the digital mentorship programme.
- This programme will also create a platform for Self-Help Groups and ten lakh families associated with TRIFED to take their products global.
- Aim: To digitally upskill the youth from tribal communities of the country.

36. Odisha govt wins first prize in 2022 National MSME Award

Note:

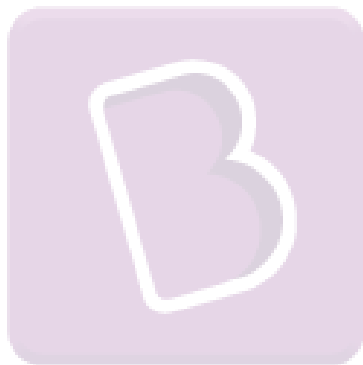
- Odisha's MSME Department has been awarded first prize in the category "National MSME Award 2022" to States/UTs for their outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector.
- Bihar and Haryana have been placed second and third respectively.
- Kalahandi, Odisha won third prize in the category of Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of MSME Sector.

37. The Centralized Pay System, PADMA for Indian Coast Guard launched

Note:

- Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence has launched the Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA).
- PADMA is an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard.
- It is developed under the aegis of Defense Accounts Department.
- It will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.
- ICG Director General: Virender Singh Pathania
- Founded: 1 February 1977

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