

## Sweden and Finland sign accession protocols with NATO



Sweden and Finland signed the Accession Protocols at the NATO Headquarters. The signing comes days after the trilateral memorandum between Turkey, Finland, and Sweden. Turkey had initially opposed the Nordic countries' entry into the group alleging that the two nations are providing shelter to Kurdish separatists. Turkey lifted its opposition at the trilateral summit in Madrid last week based on certain conditions.

The 30-member NATO group seeks to promote collective security among its members. The collective defense principle laid out in the NATO charter states that an armed attack against any of its members is considered an attack against them all. NATO membership is open to any European state in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area.

## Boris Johnson govt in UK suffers setback as two top ministers Rishi Sunak and Sajid Javid resign



The UK's Finance Minister Rishi Sunak and Health minister Sajid Javid have resigned from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government. Both are key members of Johnson's Cabinet, and their resignations are major blows. The ministerial exits come as a big blow to Johnson's leadership and follow a day of high political drama since a former civil servant spoke out about Downing Street's handling of allegations against recently suspended MP Chris Pincher.

## Sudan: Army will make way for civilian government, says Military leader Burhan



In Sudan, coup leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said that the Army would make way for a civilian government, a demand made for months by street protesters and repeatedly called for by the international community. He said, the military would no longer participate in national talks facilitated by the UN and regional blocs. His announcement came months after the October coup ousted civilians from a transitional administration, sparking widespread international condemnation and aid cuts.

## Sri Lanka bankrupt, crisis may last until 2023: PM



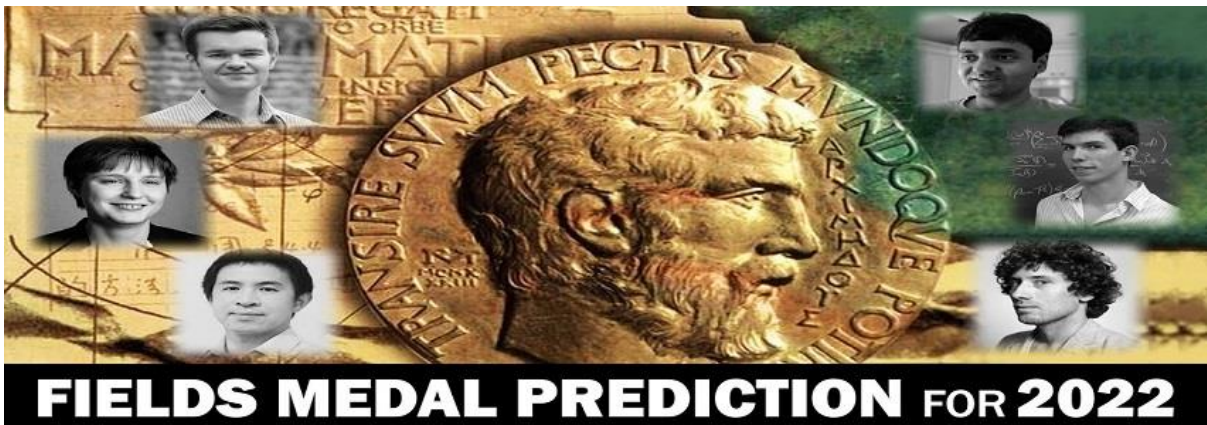
Sri Lanka is bankrupt, and the acute pain of its unprecedented economic crisis will linger until at least the end of next year, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told parliament. The island nation's 22 million people have endured months of galloping inflation and lengthy power cuts after the government ran out of foreign currency to import vital goods.

## Uganda announces discovery of 31 million metric tonnes of gold deposits



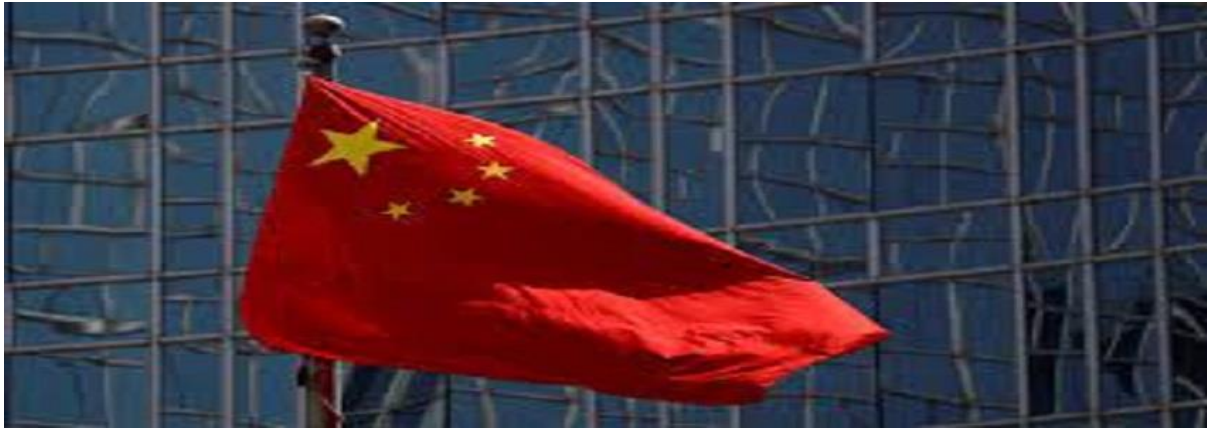
Uganda has announced the discovery of 31 million metric tonnes of gold deposits in the country. A spokesperson from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in Uganda, Solomon Muyita, said that these reports are aimed at attracting gold miners and investors. In a bid to boost the country's economy, the Ugandan Government has licensed Wagagai Gold Mining Company, a Chinese firm to start producing gold products in the Busia district.

## Woman mathematician from Ukraine wins Fields Medal



Ukrainian Mathematician Maryna Viazovska is among the four winners of the 2022 Fields Medals, one of the highest honours in Mathematics awarded to scholars under 40. Best known for her solution to the sphere packing problem, she was among the four winners of the prize which is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize. The others were France's Hugo Duminil-Copin, US-based June Huh, and Britain's James Maynard.

## **China said to plan \$75-bn infra fund**



China will set up a state infrastructure investment fund worth 500 billion yuan (\$74.69 billion) to spur infrastructure spending and revive a flagging economy. China's economy has started a slow recovery from the supply shocks caused by extensive lockdowns since the second quarter. The fund is expected to be set up in the third quarter.

## **Italy: Govt declares state of emergency in five northern regions amid worst drought in 70 years**



In Italy, government has declared a state of emergency in five northern regions surrounding the Po River amid the worst drought in 70 years. The state of emergency is aimed at managing the current situation with extraordinary means and powers. Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Piedmont, and Veneto will be given 38 million dollars in emergency funds to tackle the water shortage.

The drought threatens more than 30 percent of Italy's agricultural produce, according to the Agricultural Union Coldiretti. Several municipalities have already announced water rationing.

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal releases first edition of 'State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act'



Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022 during a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India. Odisha has topped the ranking of states for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. As per the government's ranking, Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794).

Among the special category states (the Northeastern states, Himalayan states, and the Island states), Tripura has obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions.

## In a first, father-daughter duo in Air Force fly Hawk sortie together



In a first, a father-daughter duo in the Indian Air Force created history by flying in the same formation of a Hawk-132 at the Bidar station in Karnataka. According to an Air Force release, Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and his daughter, Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, flew a Hawk sortie in Bidar, Karnataka. The father-daughter duo created history when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft, the IAF said.

## Navy eyes govt. route to buy carrier-based jets



The Indian Navy is looking for an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with either France or the U.S. to procure new fighter jets to operate from its aircraft carriers, as the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant is all set to be commissioned next month coinciding with 75 years of Independence. The Navy also has a Russian-origin carrier, INS Vikramaditya , in service.

## India's Service sector activity in June records highest growth in 11 years: PMI survey



India's services sector logged its fastest growth in over 11 years after June month's service activities improved further as per the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.9 in May to 59.2 in June its highest mark since April 2011. This growth rate is the highest since April 2011 amid ongoing improvements in demand conditions, even as cost pressures in the service economy remained stubbornly high.

### Make in India: Toy export up by 61 percent, Import down by 70 percent over 3 years



The Union government has said that toy import has decreased by 70 percent, while exports have gone up by 61 percent in the last three years as Make in India yields positive results for the sector. The import of toys to India has reduced from USD 371 Mn in FY 2018-19 to USD 110Mn in FY 2021-22 thus showing a decrease of 70.35 percent. Additionally, the exports have jumped by 61.38% over the same period. The export of toys has increased from USD 202 Mn in FY 2018-19 to USD 326 Mn in FY 2021-22, up by 61.39 percent.

### Yes Bank loans rose 14% by June end



Yes Bank said its loans and advances increased by 14% to Rs. 1,86,598 crores at the end of June from Rs. 1,63,654 crores at end-June 2021. Gross retail disbursements during the quarter more than doubled to Rs. 11,431 crores compared with Rs. 5,006 crores by June 30, 2021.

## FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022: India hold China to 1-1 draw



India was held to a 1-1 draw by China at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 in Amstelveen. Jiali Zheng gave China the lead in the 26th minute before Vandana Katariya equalized for India in the 45th minute. India drew 1-1 against Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist England in their tournament opener.

## Novak Djokovic storms into semi-finals of Wimbledon Tennis Championship 2022



Defending champion Novak Djokovic has stormed into the semi-finals of Wimbledon Tennis Championship. He defeated Jannik Sinner of Italy 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. Djokovic will now face Britain's Cameron Norrie for a place in the final, which will be played on Sunday. Djokovic is bidding to go level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time Wimbledon men's champion.



### **Jonny Bairstow and Root smash tons as England wins rescheduled 5th Birmingham Test match against India**



England have defeated India by seven wickets in the rescheduled 5th Test match at Edgbaston in Birmingham. An unbeaten stand of 269 runs between Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow for the fourth wicket helped the hosts chase down a 378-run target in the fourth innings. This is their highest successful chase in the final innings of a Test.

### **Sania & Pavic cruise into the semifinals**



Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic advanced to the Wimbledon mixed doubles semifinals with a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 win over fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and John Peers. This is Sania's best mixed doubles performance at the All England Club. She had previously reached the quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015.