

COVERAGE

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HO: SCO 209, 1st & 2nd Floor, SCO 214, Top Floor, Sec 36-D, Chd | BO: SCO 112-113, 2nd Floor, Sec 34-A, Chd

EXAMS COVER UNDER THIS MAGAZINE



IAS



PCS



HAS



HCS



BPSC



JPSC



RBI GR. B



RBI ASST.



CAPF AC



SBI PO



SBI CLERK



IBPS PO



IBPS CLERK



RRB PO



RRB CLERK



AFCAT



CDS



NDA



SSC CGL



SSC CPO



SSC CHSL



SSC MTS



SSC GD



SSC STENO



JUDICIARY



CIVIL JUDGE



ADJ



ADO



APO



ADD



CLAT



PULLB



DULLB



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NATIONAL

41st edition of India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi, Delhi

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), inaugurated the 41st edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi, on November 14, 2022. Key Points:

• The theme of the IITF 2022 is "Vocal for Local, Local to Global" and was held from November 14 – 27, 2022.

- The partner states of IITF 2022 are Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, whereas the focus states are Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.
- IITF 2022 featured exhibitors from 29 States/Union Territories (UTs), with Leh (Ladakh) participating for the first time this year.
- At the 41st India International Trade Fair in 2022, the Ministry
 of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) pavilion
 was awarded for its "Outstanding Contribution
 Towards Public Communication and Outreach.



23rd Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland

Hornbill Festival, the biggest and most important festival in Northeast India, is annually observed from 1st – 10th December at the Naga Heritage Village of Kisama located at a distance of 12 km from Kohima, in Nagaland.

2022 marks the 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India, graced the inaugural function of the festival as the Chief Guest.

It is the main celebration of the Naga Warrior Tribes and is generally observed for 10 days.

Key Points:

- The festival is observed to encourage inter-tribal collaboration and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland.
- It aims to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- In Kisama, 132 stalls were set up, 100 of which were taken by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and 32 were temporary.
- Along with the daily cultural events, this 10-day festival will feature a variety of other events, such as the Hornbill Music Festival, Photo Fest, Fashion Shows, Adventure Sports, Night Carnival, Hortiscape, etc.
- Tribes from all around Nagaland come to this highly popularised event dressed in breathtaking and magnificent finery.

7 interesting facts about Nagaland:

- Mithun is the state animal of Nagaland
- Rhododendron is the state flower of Nagaland
- Blyth's tragopan is the state bird of Nagaland





- The highest peak in the state is Saramati Peak
- "Unity" is the motto of Nagaland state
- Longleng is the smallest district in the state
- The Hornbill Festival is the most popular festival of Nagaland

First-ever Tribal Winter Festival held in Jammu-Kashmir

Jammu-Kashmir's Bandipora hosted the 1st-ever Tribal Winter Festival of Kashmir Valley which was held at Ketson village in the Aloosa area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

District administration Bandipora, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Tribal Affairs,

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India (GoI), organised a one-day Tribal Winter Festival. The festival was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad. Key Points:

- Dr Owais Ahmad highlighted the role of various government-sponsored, public-oriented schemes in raising the standard of living for people.
- The festival witnessed music, dance, and cultural events that fascinated the people.
- People from the Kashmiri community, Gujjars and
 - Bakerwals danced together to the beats of dhol (drum) in a special demonstration of cultural unity in diversity.
- The 2 tribal communities performed the 'gatka', portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid all geographic, social and political odds.
- School children also performed a skit that highlighted the negative effects of drug abuse.

Interesting facts about Jammu & Kashmir

- The last Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir was Maharaja Hari Singh
- The common name for the syncretic culture of Jammu and Kashmir is popularly known as the 'Kashmiriyat'
- Kalhana wrote a poetry book known as Rajatarangini.
- Kashmiri is the principal language and it belongs to the Dardic group, kind of a language isolate.
- Drass is also the second coldest inhabited place on earth.

India to receive over record \$100 bn in Remittances in 2022: World Bank Brief

- The World Bank in its 37th Migration and Development Brief 2022 titled 'Remittances Brave Global Headwinds, Special Focus: Climate Migration' stated that India is all set to receive more than USD 100 bn in yearly remittances in 2022.
- This means migrant workers from India will send a record USD 100 bn in 2022 to their home country (India), despite global headwinds like rising prices.
- This is for the first time a single country will receive more than USD 100 bn in yearly remittances.
- India remains the world's top recipient of remittances.







- The growth of global remittance flows is expected to be 4.9% in 2022.
- Remittance flows to India will rise 12% which is ahead of China, Mexico and the Philippines.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Digi Yatra for 3 Airports in India

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched 'Digi Yatra' from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi (Delhi) for three airports in India, namely New Delhi, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), and Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Digi Yatra was designed to use Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to achieve contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports.

Key Points:

- In the initial phase, Digi Yatra will be introduced in 7 airports, starting with the first 3: Delhi, Bengaluru, and Varanasi.
- It will be followed by 4 airports by March 2023: Hyderabad (Telangana), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune (Maharashtra), and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).
- Currently, the service is only available to domestic flight passengers.
- With Digi Yatra, India will join the ranks of world-class airports such as Heathrow in London, the United Kingdom (UK), and Atlanta in the United States of America (USA). Digi Yatra project
- The Digi Yatra project is conceived by Digi Yatra Foundation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Digi Yatra platform is built on 4 key pillars: Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flights, & Connected Systems.
 - The project envisions any traveller passing through multiple airport checkpoints using paperless and contactless processing, establishing their identity with facial features and linking it to their boarding card.
- One-time registration (OTR) on the Digi Yatra app using.
 Aadhar-based validation and a self-image capture is required in order to access this facility.
- There is no central storage of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in the project's privacy features.
- The ID and travel credentials of passengers are maintained in a secure wallet on the passenger's smartphone.
- Blockchain technology will be used to process the uploaded data, and all data will be deleted from the servers 24 hours after use.

Ex Agni Warrior 2022 between Armed Forces of Singapore & India Concludes at Maharashtra

The 12th edition of Agni Warrior (XAW) 2022, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces





(SAF) & Indian Army (IA) was held at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali in Maharashtra from November 13 – 30, 2022.

The closing event was witnessed by Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India & Lieutenant General S Harimohan Iyer, Commandant, School of Artillery along with other dignitaries from Singapore & serving officers from both armies.

Key Points:

- The exercise culminated in a joint live-firing exercise involving the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Singapore Light Weight Howitzer, Field Artillery Meteorological System, and the Indian Army's 155mm Field Howitzer 77B.
- XAW comprises joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.
- Expert academic discussions were also conducted on modern trends in Artillery and refinement of Artillery planning process.
- A joint computer war-game was also held as a part of the joint planning process.

Facts about Singapore

- It's a city of not just one island, but 64
- It's home to the world's first night zoo
- It's a city of (man-made) waterfalls
- The locals speak Singlish, not just English
- Singapore pioneered the first F1 night race

Indian Army trains kites to Destroy Enemy Drones

Indian Army forces are training Kites to prey on enemy drones in a first-of-its-kind operation. The military conducts operations with trained birds and dogs. Indian army used a kite named 'Arjun'. Key Points:

- During the ongoing joint training exercise Yuddh Abhyas in Auli, Uttarakhand, the Indian Army showed the use of Kites to prey on hostile drones.
- A 15-day-long exercise, 'Yudh Abhyas 22', the 18th edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise, began on 26th November 2022 in Auli, Uttarakhand.
- Yudh Abhyas 22 will focuses on high altitude and extremely cold climate warfare.



Unemployment rate rises to three-month high at 8% in November 2022

As per the data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate increased to a three- month high at 8% during November 2022.

The unemployment rate in urban India was higher at 8.96% as compared to 7.21% in October 2022.

On the other hand, rural unemployment rate slipped to 7.55% from 8.04% in October 2022.



India's unemployment rate in October 2022 was at 7.77% while in September 2022, it was at a low of 6.43%.

Key Points:

• Among the states, Haryana continued to have the highest unemployment rate in November at 30.6%,. It is followed by Rajasthan at 24.5%, Jammu and Kashmir at 23.9%, Bihar at 17.3% and Tripura at 14.5%.



• The states that witnessed the least unemployment rate in the previous month are Chhattisgarh at 0.1%, Uttarakhand 1.2%, Odisha at 1.6%, Karnataka 1.8%, and Meghalaya at 2.1%.

Civil Aviation Ministry Notifies Operational Guidelines for Drone PLI Scheme

The operational guidelines for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components has been notified by the Ministry of Civil

Aviation (MoCA), after consultation with stakeholders,

including industry representatives.

The PLI scheme, with a funding of Rs. 120 crore, has been authorized by the Government of India (GoI), and it would be implemented during the 2022-23 to 2024-25 period.

Key Points:

- The PLI will be extended only to companies in India that manufacture drones and drone components.
- The total PLI for each manufacturer is Rs 30 crore, or 25% of the total financial outlay of Rs 120 crore.
- The scheme is open to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups in India that manufacture drones and have an annual sales turnover of Rs. 2 crore.
- The eligibility threshold for manufacturers of drone components will be Rs. 0.5 crore.
- In order to claim PLIs, Indian non-MSMEs that manufacture drones must have an annual sales turnover of Rs. 4 crore.
- The minimal level for non-MSME drone component makers will be Rs 1 crore.
- Developers of software for drones and drone components will also be eligible for PLI, subject to regulation.
- Any excess incentives given to an applicant (for any cause, such as a sales return in the subsequent year or some other reason) will be adjusted from the incentives payable the following year (s).
- If there are no incentives payable in the subsequent year(s), the applicant must return the incentive along with interest computed at the 3-year SBI Marginal Cost of Lending Rate (MCLR) in effect as of the disbursement date, compounded annually, for the number of days holding the excess incentive.
- The applications will be evaluated by the Project Management Agency (PMA), which has been designated by the GoI.
- The applications as recommended by the PMA will be examined by a committee chaired by the Civil Aviation Secretary.





DIVINE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In addition, the scheme will be monitored by an Empowered Group of Secretaries chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.
- They will take the necessary steps to ensure that the expenditure remains within the outlay approved by the Union Cabinet.



Indian Constitution is a Feminist Document: CJI Dr Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Justice D.Y. Chandrachud delivered at the 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture that the Constitution of India is a 'feminist document and a product of true Indian imagination'. The 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture was hosted by the OP Jindal Global University (JGU), on the theme 'Universal Adult Franchise: Translating India's Political Transformation into a Social Transformation'.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India, was the chief guest at the event. Key Points:

- The Lecture commemorated the life and work of L M Singhvi(1931-2007), a diplomat, jurist, lawyer, and Parliamentarian.
- At the same event, CJI D.Y. Chandrachud further stated that every form of "elite knowledge" of the democratic process that educated people are better decision-makers must be rejected.
- Dr Abhishek M. Singhvi, leading advocate, author and legal luminary, reminisced about his father Dr L M Singhvi.
- He recently established a Rs 2 crore endowment at OP Jindal Global University to provide access to a world-class education for disadvantaged young people.

Facts about Indian Constitution

- M. N. Roy's Suggestion was to Develop a Constitution
- World's largest Constitution.
- Every page is designed by the artists of Shantiniketan.
- The calligraphy in the book was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizda.
- There are many similarities between the two constitutions of India and the United States of America.

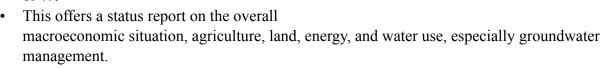
Tribal Development Report 2022: Adivasis at the bottom of India's Development Pyramid

According to the Tribal Development Report 2022 launched by the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF), the Tribal communities(Adivasis) are at

the bottom of India's development pyramid.

Key Points:

 The Tribal Development Report, launched in 2 volumes, is the first of its kind report launched since 1947







- Goal of the report: To inform the stakeholders (policymakers, practitioners, activists, and academics) to help understand the scope of tribal issues.
- The report focus on the overarching theme of livelihoods for tribal communities from central India.

First Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2022 to celebrate Indo-Bangla ties held in Assam

Silchar-Sylhet festival 2022, 1st ever festival celebrating cultural ties between the neighbouring regions of India and Bangladesh was held in Barak Valley, Silchar, Assam from 2nd to 4th December 2022.

The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the Barak Valley region of Assam, India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh.

The event was organised by the India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India (GoI), in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.

Key Points:

- Among the many things connecting India and Bangladesh, links between Silchar and Sylhet stand out
- Silchar-Sylhet Festival was organised in an attempt to celebrate the region's age-old people-to-people connection. Organising Committee:
- Bimal Bora, Minister of Industries & Commerce and Public Enterprises, and Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam.
- Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of Transport, Excise & Fisheries, Government of Assam.
- Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament from Silchar.

Facts About Assam

- India's largest shaktipeeth "Maa Kamakhya Temple"
- India's Widest River "Brahmaputra"
- World's biggest weaving village "Sualkuchi"
- Asia's oldest amphitheater "Ranghar, Sibsagar". World's highest one horned rhino population "Kaziranga"
- India's largest natural zoo "Assam State Zoo"
- India's Tea Capital "Jorhat"

National Conclave on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming 2022 held in New Delhi

 On December 5, 2022 i.e. on the occasion of World Soil Day (WSD), and on the lines of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the National Conclave on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming 2022 was inaugurated at New Delhi, Delhi by the Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) as its Chief Guest.







- It was organized by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in collaboration with GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) affiliated to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.
- During the conclave, a National Mission on Natural Farming as a separate scheme with an expenditure of Rs. 1,584 crores was approved by the Government.

India, Germany sign Migration and Mobility Agreement for Easier Access to Study, Research and Work

A comprehensive migration and mobility partnership was signed between India and Germany for easier access to study, research and work between both countries.

Signatories:

It was signed by India's Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA); and Federal Foreign Affairs Minister of Germany, Annalena Baerbock.

Key Points:

- It will facilitate two-way movement of students, professionals and researchers, and also address the challenges of illegal migration.
- It will aid in expanding the internationalization of higher education systems by interlinking innovation and research areas of both countries, and also strengthen the structures for Vocational Education and Training.
- Indian students can now get increased opportunity to participate in research programs in Germany which is known for its higher education system, research and development efforts especially in the field of Science and Technology.



- Indian students can now get joint degrees and dual degrees through collaboration between Indian and German universities at university level.
- It also ensures joint efforts in tackling future pandemics by reforming and strengthening the World Health Organization (WHO) as directing and coordinating authority on international health work
- The pact will also facilitate German business owners to travel to India and invest here.

SHE STEM 2022 held as a part of Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2022

SHE STEM 2022, the annual event organised as a part of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week to celebrate the women in the field of Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), was held in New Delhi, Delhi on 5th December 2022.

This marks the 3rd edition of the SHE STEM event, a flagship event of the Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Week.

SHE STEM is The event was organised by the Embassy of Sweden in India in partnership with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, the Government of India and the German Centre of Innovation and Research (DWIH New Delhi).

Key Points:



- The winners of the #SHESTEM2022 Video Challenge were announced and honoured during the event.
- SHE STEM 2022 hosted the #SHESTEM2022 Video Challenge, following the success of the Insta-reels Video Challenge in 2021.
- The challenges were hosted across Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Google Drive for students of ages 13 to 17.
- This encouraged the students to imagine themself in 2047 and speak about their innovative solutions to tackle climate change.
- Jury Team of the 2022 Challenge were,
- Atal Innovation Mission Team led by Dr Chintan Vaishnav
- Swedish Embassy team led by Dr Per-Arne Wikström
- German Centre for Research and Innovation led by Dr Katja Lasch.
- The videos were accessed based on the Novelty of the idea; Clarity of thought and articulation; and Sustainability or climate action angle.

Facts about SWEDEN

- Sweden imports waste from Norway!
- More than half of Sweden is covered in forest
- There's a hotel made of ice
- Donald Duck is more popular than Mickey Mouse
- Sweden had a pirate King!

Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates & Drone Yatra in Chennai; Meghalaya Govt unveils Asia's 1st Drone Delivery Hub

- On December 6, 2022, the Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- He also flagged off Garuda Aerospace Private Limited's Drone Yatra at Agni College of Technology in Thalambur, TN, 'Operation 777' which envisages to educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for different agricultural uses across 777 districts in India.
- The Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle has unveiled Meghalaya Drone Delivery Network (MDDN) and hub which is Asia's first drone delivery hub and network aimed at providing universal access to healthcare for 2.7 million people of Meghalaya.



GoI Invests Over Rs 5,000 Crore More in 'SWAMIH Investment Fund I' To Help Homebuyers

The "SWAMIH Investment Fund I," which invests in distressed residential projects and is backed by SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), has received approximately Rs 5,000 crore investment from the



Government of India (GoI), bringing the fund's ultimate value to Rs 15,530 crore. This is among the largest capital raised by any fund in India in recent years.

The "SWAMIH Investment Fund I" was established under the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH).

This fund intends to infuse capital into stressed projects in order to assist home buyers across India in receiving delivery of their stuck apartments.



Key Points:

- SWAMIH is a 'category II' Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) introduced in September 2019 by Union
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and approved by the Cabinet in November 2019.
- It is India's largest social impact fund that aims to offer priority debt financing for the completion of stressed, brownfield, and RERA-registered residential projects that fall under the affordable and midincome housing categories.

7th Edition of Global Technology Summit

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar addressed the 7th Edition of the Global Technology Summit, a 3-day summit, in New Delhi, Delhi about the rise of India's

link with the rise of Indian technology.

Key Points:

- •It is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology, which was jointly hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India. •The theme for the 7th Global Technology Summit is Geopolitics of Technology.
- •Ministers and senior government officials from the United States (US), Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, the European Union, and other countries attended the Summit.



International Lusophone Festival Held in Goa; Organised by MEA in partnership with ICCR & Goa Govt

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government organised the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3rd December to 6th December 2022 to further improve India's connection with the Lusophone world.

The International Lusophone Festival was inaugurated by Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister (CM) of Goa at the Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan.

Attendees – Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs was the Guest of Honour. Key Points:

- The festival includes performances by cultural troupes with around 70 artists from the CPLP countries at several venues in Goa including ESG complex, Azad Maidan, Sanskruti bhavan and Institute Menezes Braganza.
- As part of the festival, workshops on Lusophone music for artists and volunteers, various workshops cum exhibition of photocopies of historical records, unique Goan architecture, Goan handicrafts and Goan furniture were organised.



• In addition, the Lusophone Food and Spirits Festival, showcasing the culinary links between India and the Lusophone world were also organised.

Facts about Goa

- Over a third of Goa is covered by forest
- Goa is the smallest state in India
- The state has the highest per capita income in India
- Portugal ruled Goa for almost 450 years
- Goa celebrates two independence days

MNRE extends Rooftop Solar Scheme till March 2026

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has extended the 'Rooftop Solar Programme' till March 2026. This means, the consumers do not have to pay any additional charge for solar installations, and the subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the program is achieved.

MNRE also advised residential consumers not to pay any additional charges to any vendor on account of fee for application on the National Portal.



Key Points:

- •MNRE is implementing the Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II to achieve a cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar Projects by 2022 (now extended to 2026). Under, the Ministry is providing a 40% subsidy for the first 3 kW (Kilo Watt) and 20% subsidy beyond 3 kW and upto 10 kW of solar panel capacity.
- •The subsidy under National Portal has been fixed at Rs. 14,588/- per kW (for capacity upto 3 kW).
- •It is being implemented in the state by distribution companies (DISCOMs).

Indian & US Navies Conduct Special Forces Exercise "Sangam" In Goa

7th edition of Exercise "Sangam," a joint Naval Special Forces exercise involving Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOs) and United States (US) Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams, has commenced in Goa on December 01, 2022 and is scheduled to last three weeks.

Key Points:

- Indian Navy MARCOs from Indian Naval Ship (INS)
 Abhimanyu and
 members of SEAL Team Five, based in San Diego, US, will collaborate
 during the 7th edition of Exercise "Sangam."
- It aims to facilitate ideas and knowledge sharing on many facets of Maritime Special Operations.
- Personnel will practice and improve their abilities in special heliborne operations, combat free fall jumps, direct action missions, and maritime interdiction operations, during the exercise.



DoPPW launches Nation-wide Campaign for Promotion of Digital Life Certificate

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P), Government of India (GoI), has

launched a Nation-wide Campaign for Promotion of Digital

Life Certificate for Central Government pensioners.

Key Points:

- Nation-wide Campaign was launched to promote the Life certificate through Digital mode and popularizes the Face Authentication technique.
- All registered Pensioners schemes and centres have been directed to promote the Digital Life Certificate and Face Authentication Technique for submitting Life Certificate

by organising special camps for 'Ease of Living' of pensioners.



INS Kochi, INS Kavaratti & INS Sumedha Participates in BN IFR-22

Indian Navy ships (INS) Kochi, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha participated in BN IFR-22, the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) conducted by the

Bangladesh

Navy (BN) between 6th and 9th December 2022 in Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was the chief guest for BN IFR -22.

Key Points:

- IFR 22 was conducted by BN to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman, the country's father of the nation(Bangladesh) and also to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh.
- All three ships including INS Kochi, a guided missile stealth destroyer; INS Kavaratti, an antisubmarine corvette and INS Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel were designed and developed indigenously.
- INS Kochi is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha form part of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.
 - All three ships are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors, which carry multirole helicopters and symbolise India's warship building capabilities.

India to add 145 GW of RE capacity by 2027: IEA Report

• The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its latest report states that India is expected to add 145 Gigawatts (GW) of Renewable Energy (RE) capacity in the next five years (2022–27) with solar energy accounting for 75%.





- This addition is aided by consistent policy support and competitive auctions implemented to achieve the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030.
- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) accounts for three-quarters of this growth, followed by onshore wind with 15%, and hydropower providing almost all the rest.
- RE will comprise 90% of global electricity capacity expansion by 2027 and much of it will be in India, China, the European Union (EU) and the United States (US).

NCPCR developed & launched GHAR Portal for the Restoration and Repatriation of Children

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed and launched a designated portal for the Restoration and

Repatriation of children –
GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite.
It has been developed to
digitally monitor and track the
restoration and repatriation of
children according to the protocol.
Key Points:

• The Ministry of Women and Child Development administers the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015)(as amended in 2021) and Rules thereunder to ensure children's safety, security, dignity, and well-being.



- The JJ Act of 2015 protects children in need of care and protection, and those in conflict with the law, by meeting their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment, and social reintegration.
- District Magistrates (DMs)have been appointed as the heads of District Child Protection Units
 (DCPUs) to ensure effective coordination in child safety, protection, and development.

 DMs have been given the authority to conduct regular reviews of the functions of DCPUs and CWCs to ensure that timely decisions are made in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act and Rules, with the best interests of children in mind.

PM Inaugurates First Phase of Greenfield International Airport in Mopa, Goa

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first phase of the Greenfield International Airport in Mopa, North Goa, which was built at a cost of about Rs. 2,870 crore. The foundation stone for the airport was laid by the PM in November 2016. Key Points:

- It is Goa's second international airport, besides the existing airport at Dabolim, Goa.
- As an honor to the late Goa Chief Minister (CM) Manohar Parrikar, the airport will be named as the 'Manohar International Airport'.



• During his visit to Goa, PM Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory ceremony of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC). The theme of the 9th WAC & Arogya Expo was "Ayurveda for One Health."

World Bank Report: Women Are the Primary Users of Public Transportation in India

According to the "Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India," released by the World Bank (WB), women are among the most frequent users of public transportation in India, accounting for 84% of all women journeys.

Key Points:

• The absence of an inclusive design, in addition to affordability and a lack of safety, has an impact



onwomen's presence in public areas and labour force participation in India, which was 22.8 % in 2019–2020).

- India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates in the world, at 26.2% in 2020-21.
- The WB toolkit for Indian cities proposes including a genderperspective into new and existing transportation policies and strategies.
- It is based on the practical experience of planning and implementinggender-responsive urban transportation initiatives in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) as part of the World Bank-supported Chennai City Partnership project.

World Bank Facts:

• Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

• President: David Malpass

• Founded: July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States

AIIA inks agreements with International Institutions for the Promotion of Ayurveda

All India Institute of Ayurveda(AIIA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Medical Sciences, Cuba and extended

agreement with Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany, for 5 more years, to promote Ayurveda across continents.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 9th WorldAyurveda Congress and the Arogya Expo in Panjim, Goa.

Key points:

- The MoU with the Havana-based University of Medical Scienceswas signed between Alejandro Simancas Marin, Cuban Ambassador to India and Dr Tanuja M Nesari, the director of AIIA.
- AIIA, a Delhi-based autonomous organisation under the



Ministryof Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), has 15 international partners and 35 national partners as part of its collaborative operations.

• The AIIA and REAA signed an MoU in September 2017 with a 5-year term that has been extended to 2027.

Kerala CM declares Seed Farm in Aluva as India's 1st Carbon Neutral Farm

Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, declared Kerala Seed Farm in Aluva, Ernakulam district, Kerala, as the 1st Carbon Neutral Farm in India.



Key points:

- The farm, located near Thuruthu, Aluva, produced 43 tonnes of carbonin 2021, although its total procurement was 213 tonnes.
- Kerala Government aims to achieve 40% of its energy need fromrenewable energy sources by 2025.
- Carbon-neutral farms will be established in all 140 Assembly constituencies. Efforts have already begun to make 13 Kerala farmscarbon-neutral.
- Compared to the emission rate, the farm obtained up to 170 tonnesmore carbon, allowing it to be designated as India's 1st carbon-neutral seed farm.

Facts about Kerela

•Cleanest state of India

- Home to the first ever church, mosque and synagogue in India
- The largest rubber producers in the country
- Spice Coast of India
- Most literate Indian state
- It is the first state to receive rainfall in India
- Home to the world's richest temple(Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple)

G7 Nations Establish an International Climate Club to Fight Global Warming

Group of Seven (G7) major economies have established an open, international 'Climate Club' for countriesthat want to work together to combat global warming.

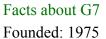
Germany has held the G-7 presidency since January 1, 2022, when it took over from the United Kingdom(UK), and it will be passed on to Japan in 2023. Key points:

- The G7 consists of Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Japan, Canada and the UnitedStates (US).
- The European Union (EU) is also represented at all G7 meetings.
- In June 2022, Germany hosted the "G7 Summit 2022," the annual summit of the G7 heads of state and government, at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps.
- It was also Germany's seventh G7 Summit; the first time the



G7heads of state and government gathered under a German Presidency was in Bonn (Germany) in 1978.

- The Presidency is rotated between members on an annual basis.
- The new International Climate Club will be a global endeavourrather than a G-7 initiative.
- The Paris Agreement (2015), which aims to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), will be swiftly and intensely implemented with assistance from the climate club.
- December 12, 2022, marked the 7th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement.
- The club will aim to expedite the industrial shift to cleaner energy sources and to create more emission-reduction initiatives.
- The club will provide assistance to committed developing and emerging countries so they may moveforward with the transformation of their industries.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will construct a "climate change secretariat" in Berlin (Germany) now that theforum has been established.



Purpose: Political, Economic

Formerly called: Library Group; Group of Six (G6); Group of Eight (G8)

Funding: Member states



The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of the Government of Nepal and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu (Nepal) have signed 3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for the implementation of three High- Impact Development Projects (HICDPs). Key points:

- India and Nepal share extensive and multi-sectoral cooperation.
- Since 2003, India has undertaken 532 High-Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal, of which 476 have .The projects that have been finished at the grassroots in all seven provinces of Nepal cover the areas ofhealth, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation, and the development of other public utilities.

Facts about Nepal

- The Highest Mountains on Earth
- The Deepest Canyon On Earth(Gandaki canyon)





- The Nepal's Capital Was Once A Lake
- Hinduism Is The Most Important Religion In The Land Of Buddha
- The Greatest Concentration Of Places Recognized By UNESCO
- The Fearsome Gurkhas At Service Of United Kingdom

RVNL forms JV with Kyrgyzindustry to develop Rail Infrastructure in KyrgyzRepublic

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) of India has established a joint venture (JV) company, Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL, with Kyrgyzindustry – Open Joint Stock Company (OJSC) to construct a railroad and other infrastructure projects in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Key points:

- RVNL would own 50% of the share and the remaining 50% would be held by Kyrgyzindustry-OJSC.
- RVNL's mandate includes the mobilisation of extra-budgetary resources from banks, financial institutions, multilateral agencies suchas the Asian Development Bank, and bilateral agencies through the development of project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for Port and Hinterland connectivity.
- RVNL may enter into and conduct business connected to developing and expanding rail infrastructure capacity on the fast track.

Facts about Kyrgyzstan:

- It's one of the world's least crowded countries
- It's home to the world's second-largest high-altitude lake(Lake Issyk-Kul)
- It has one of the shortest railway networks in the world(417 kilometres)

WHO-GCTM in Jamnagar, Gujarat to emerge as a Centre of Global Wellness

World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat



will be the 1st and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine worldwide as it will emerge as an international hub ofglobal wellness.

This was announced by Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayush in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. Key points:

- WHO-GCTM is an outpost centre of WHO-HQ (Geneva) funded by the Government of India. It will help establish stronglinkages among the Member States of WHO.
- It would emerge as a global wellness centre that would promote the development of Traditional Medicine medications and research, and increase evidence-based research, training, and awareness about Traditional Medicines.

Facts on Gujarat

- First Port Of India(Lothal)
- Lord Krishna's Abode Dwarka
- Non Alcoholic and a Vegan State



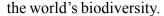
- World's Largest Salt Desert(Raan of Kutch)
- World's Tallest Statue Of Unity
- Home to Asiatic Lions(Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary)

IUCN: Andaman Smoothhound, Himalayan Fritillary among 29 new threatenedspecies in India

International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List, unveiled during the COP15 biodiversity conference here in Canada, includes 29 new species assessed as threatened in India, including the White-cheeked Dancing Frog (Micrixalus candidus), Andaman Smoothhound shark (Mustelus andamanensis), and Yellow Himalayan Fritillary (Fritillaria cirrhosa).

Key points:

• The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health state of



- Over 15,000 scientists and experts across the globe have found that 1,355 of over 9,472 species of plants, animals, and fungi across India's land, freshwater, and seas assessed for the Red List are considered to beunder threat.
- They are classed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable to extinction.

Facts about IUCN

- Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland
- Founded: 5 October 1948. Fontainebleau. France
- Founder: Julian Huxley
- Motto: United for Life and Livelihoods
- CEO: Bruno Oberle (13 Jul 2020–)

MoTA implements 'Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups' aimed to plan Socio-Economic Development of PVTGs3

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) namely 'Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups'. It is aimed at planning for the socio-economic development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

The information for the same was provided by Minister of State(MoS) Bishweswar Tudu, MoTA.

Key Points:

- The scheme will utilize habitat development approach so that their culture and heritage is retained. Under this, funds are released in accordance with the Conservation-Cum-Development(CCD) plans prepared by the State Governments.
- It will cover sectors i.e. education, housing, livelihood, drinking water, agricultural development, roads, health, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting





purpose, conservation of culture and traditional practices, etc.

• The projects/activities taken up under this scheme are demanddriven in nature.

India hosts 1st G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting under its G20Presidency in Bengaluru

1st G20 (Group of Twenty) Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting, under the Indian

Presidency,was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was cochaired by Secretary Ajay Seth, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), and Deputy Governor Dr. Michael Patra, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

It should be noted that India holds the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 on the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and "One Earth, One Family, One Future".



- The meeting saw seven discussion sessions and two side events viz. 'Strengthening MDBs to Address Shared Global Challenges of the 21st century', and 'Role of Central Banks in Managing Climate Risk andin Green Financing'.
- Discussions were also held on issues relating to the global economy and risks, strengthening MultilateralDevelopment Banks (MDBs), managing global debt vulnerabilities, financing climate action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities of tomorrow.
- Global economic challenges were also discussed including global inflation, food and energy insecurity andmacroeconomic implications of climate change.
- Overall, the meeting saw a broad support on the proposed priorities of India's G20 Finance Track agenda for 2023.
- The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting will be held from 23-25 Februaryin Bengaluru, Karnataka.

IEX becomes India's First Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has become India's first carbon-neutral Power Exchange, using market basedtradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions.

EKI Energy, global service provider in Energy, CarbonCredit & Quality Management, was the sustainability partner of IEX by providing advisory & consultancy services.

Key Points:

• To reduce its carbon footprints, IEX voluntarily canceledCERs (certified emissions reductions) from





clean projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and used market-based tradable instruments.

- IEX is committed towards achieving India's net zero emissions targets.
- According to the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) 2022 report, global greenhouse gas(GHG) emissions need to be reduced 45% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- Total global GHG emissions were estimated at around 53 GTCO2eq in 2021.

Passport Index 2022 by Arton Capital: India Ranked 66 In The World's Strongest Passport List

According to Arton Capital's "Passport Index 2022," India isplaced 66 in the world's strongest passport list, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ranked 1st in the passport ranking for 2022. The Passport Index 2022 ranks the strongest and weakest passports in the world and indicates the number of countries that can be entered without a visa.



Key Points:

- In 2nd rank were ten European countries: Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy,the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, along with South Korea.
- The 3rd rank on the list is the United States (US) passport, which grants visa-free access to 116 nations.
- However, Indians with a ranking of 66 can only travel visa-free to 24 countries, require a visa on arrival for 48 countries, and require a visa for 126 countries.

CCI & TEXPROCIL sign MoU on Branding, Traceability and Certification of KasturiCotton India

Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council, known as TEXPROCIL, on Branding, Traceability and Certification of "Kasturi Cotton India" on the concluding day of

Kashi Tamil Samagam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh(UP).

Key Points:

- The MoU will encourage the Industry to work on the principle of self-regulation by taking complete responsibility of Traceability, Certification and Branding of Indian cotton.
- The Textile Ministry will contribute an equal share of Rs.15 crores over a period of 3 cotton seasons starting from FY23to FY25.
- The MoU enables in providing complete traceability of Cotton from the origin farm level, QR Code based

Certification technology to validate KASTURI



Cotton India at each stage and also promotes it as apremium brand by enhancing international perception & valuation of Indian Cotton.

NITI Aayog's AIM & UNDP launches 5th 'Youth Co: Lab' 2022-2023 for Social Entrepreneurs

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India, launched the 5th edition of "Youth Co: Lab" (2022-2023) to support young social entrepreneurs.

Key Points:

- Youth Co: Lab was launched in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation. It is operational in 28 Countriesand territories in Asia and the Pacific.
- In 2019, Youth Co: Lab, the largest youth social entrepreneurship movement in Asia and the Pacific, waslaunched as an initiative by UNDP India in Partnership with AIM, NITI Aayog.
- Through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship, the initiative aims to establish a shared agenda for Asia-Pacific nations to invest in and empower young to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ministry of Culture organises "Swar Dharohar Festival" in New Delhi

Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with Swar Dharohar Foundation, inaugurated 3-day "Swar Dharohar Festival" under Kalanjali to showcase the iconic art & culture, rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States, at Central Vista, New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Points:

- Swar Dharohar festival was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mehtab Ali (Sitar Player) and Pandit Lalit Prasad (ClassicalVocal).
- The 3 days festival was organized from the 2nd to 4th December 2022 at Central Vista, India Gate, New Delhi, Delhi.
- On an inaugural day Classical Performances, Ghazal, Kavi Sammelan, Mushaira, and Sufi Performance were organised.





NHIDCL Signs MoU with NIT Manipur for Innovation in Highways Construction National

Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Manipur through a video conference.

The MoU was signed between Dr Gautam Sutradhar, director, NITManipur and Chanchal Kumar, managing director, NHIDCL.

This MoU will foster research and collaboration in the field ofhighways and infrastructure.

Key Points

- NHIDCL is seeking and promoting innovative technologies to find pragmatic solutions for the challenges occurring in the construction of highways facing extreme climatic conditions.
- As a part of finding solution, NHIDCL has signed MoUs with prestigious institutes like IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRI), NSDC, IIT Patna, NIT Srinagar, NIT Agartala, NIT Silchar, NIT Uttarakhand, NIT Nagaland NIT Sikkim, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Mandi and NIT Jote, Arunachal Pradesh during 2022-23 fiscal.
- NHIDCL has previously signed MoUs with Bombay & IIT Guwahati for signing suck pacts.



India, the President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. While addressing the launch event, SubrahmanyamJaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs announced that New Delhi will have a database that will record all crimes against the UN Peacekeepers (Blue Helmets).

The co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends' are India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal. Key Points:

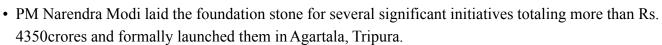
- Peacekeeping is one of the key tools that is available with the UNSC to maintain international peace and security.
- The Group of Friends will seek to facilitate the promotion of accountability for all acts of violence against UN peacekeepers and also supports capacity building along withtechnical assistance.
- The Group of Friends will convene two meetings per year. They are organised by the representatives ofthe Permanent Missions of the co-chairs along with all interested Member States and other UN partners.





PM lays foundation stone, inaugurates and dedicates to the nation multiple projects worth over Rs. 2450 crores in Shillong, Meghalaya

- The Prime Minister (PM), Narendra Modi, laid the foundation for a number of projects totaling more than Rs.2450 crore and officially launched them in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The inauguration of 320 finished and 890 underconstruction 4G mobile towers
- The new IIM Shillong campus was inaugurated in Umsawli, Shillong.
- The inauguration of the Shillong-Diengpasoh Road, which would improve access to the new Shillong satellite township.



• Launch of the "Grih Pravesh" programme for beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)(Urban) and PMAY -Rural.



- Chief minister: Conrad Sangma
- · Official animal: Clouded leopard
- · Official bird: Common hill myna
- Official flower: Paphiopedilum insigne
- Official tree: Gmelina arborea
- Capital: Shillong

MP gets India's 1st & World's 2nd Infantry Museum at Mhow Cantonment, Indore

On 16th December 2022, the eve of 75 years of raising of the Infantry School and to commemorate the VijayDiwas, India's first & World's 2nd Infantry Research Centre and Museum was inaugurated in the Mhow cantonment in Indore district, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

The museum was thrown open to the public on 17thDecember 2022.

The world-class museum has been set up under the aegis of The Infantry School, Mhow.

The Museum aims to showcase the Infantry with the themeline Infantry: The Ultimate.

Key points:

- The museum is housed in a 3 storied building spread across a 2-acre land. The project is developed in 3 phases.
- The construction of the research centre and museum beganin 2009 and was completed in 2019.
- The Museum showcases the history of the Infantry Corps from 1747 to 2020 which includes the





sacrificeof valour and valiant soldiers preserved in statues, murals and photo galleries.

- The museum has also preserved the history of the battles of Plassey, Saragarhi, Buxar and Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 and also features the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The 2nd floor of the building features the Kargil war room with stories of heroes through photographs andthe Fateh Gallery. It also depicts the history of 27 regiments of the Army across India.

Facts about Madhya Pradesh

• Area: 308,245 km²

• Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

• Chief minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

• Official animal: Barasingha

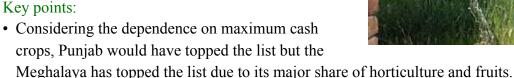
• Points of interest: Kanha Tiger Reserve, Bhimbetka rock shelters

Meghalaya Tops States in Average Monthly Income per Agricultural Household According to the 77th round of the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in therural areas of India, Meghalaya tops the list of Average monthly income per agricultural household.

Meghalaya topped the list with a monthly agriculture householdincome of Rs 29,348 followed by Punjab with Rs 26,701 and Haryana with Rs 22,841.

The 77th round of the survey was conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from January 2019 to December 2019 with reference to the agricultural year July 2018-June 2019.

Key points:



• The agriculture income includes income from wages, income from leasing out of the land, net receipt fromcrop production, net receipt from farming of animals and net receipt from the non-farm business.



India has improved its position in the global ranking of scientific publications from 7th in 2010 to 3rd in 2020, according to the "Science & Engineering Indicators 2022" report by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States (US).

Key points:

- The amount of scholarly output produced in India has increased, going from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1,49,213 papers in 2020.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent USgovernment agency that supports



fundamental research and education in all non-medical fields of science and engineering.

• Over the past three years, the India Patent Office (IPO) has given more patents to Indian scientists thanever before—from 2,511 in 2018–19 to 4,003 in 2019–20 and 5,629 in 2020–

2022 Social Progress Index: Norway Tops Globally, India Ranks 110th

- The Institute for Competitiveness released the annual 2022 Social Progress Index (SPI) which
 - waspublished by Social Progress Imperative. India secured a global rank of 110 with score of 60.19 in Tier 4 countries.
- The index is topped by Norway with a score of 90.74 inTier-1 countries i.e. high income countries.
- The SPI 2022 for States and Districts made by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative was submitted to Economic Advisory Council-Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- It was released by Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM onDecember
 20, 2022 at New Delhi, Delhi in presence of above mentioned author
- presence of above mentioned authors.
 Puducherry got the highest SPI score of 65.99 due to its remarkable performance across components like personal freedom and choice, shelter, and water and sanitation.

Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites Now Includes Vadnagar Town, Modhera Sun Temple & Unakoti Sculptures

According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), 3 new Cultural Sites in India have been added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites. They are as follows:



- 1.Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat and its adjoining monuments
- 2. Vadnagar A multi-layered Historic town, Gujarat, whichis also the birthplace of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi 3.Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti, UnakotiRange, Unakoti District, Tripura



Key Points:

- With this addition, India currently has 52 sites on the UNESCO Tentative List.
- So far in 2022, 6 Indian sites have been included to the tentative list.
- There are 40 sites in India that have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Ministry of Ayush: The Status of Centres of Excellence Scheme 'AYURSWASTHYAYojana'

Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) issued a notification regarding the status of the centres of excellence scheme 'AYURSWASTHYA Yojana'. The information was given by Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. Key Points:

- Financial aid is provided to eligible individual organisations and institutions under the AYURSWASTHYA Yojana's CoEcomponent to construct and improve their facilities and/or conduct AYUSH-related research and development. Objectives of the CoE component of AYURSWASTHYA Yojana:
- To support the establishment of an advanced or specializedAYUSH medical health unit.
- To support creative proposals for the establishment and
 - upgradation of both functions and facilities of reputed institutions to strengthen the competencies of AYUSH professionals at the national and international levels.
- To support creative ideas for prestigious organizations with established structures and infrastructure thatwant to work for AYUSH systems to the level of CoE.



Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched India's first Green Steel Brand, "KALYANI FeRRESTA" in New Delhi. This was manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group using



renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints inthe environment.

India is presently leading the countries which have committed to achieving carbon neutrality, with ongoing greensteel manufacturing.

Key Points:

- Government of India (GoI) is promoting green steel manufacturing and has framed the National Steel Policy toachieve zero carbon emissions by the steel industry.
- The policy makes it mandatory for steelmakers to dedicate acertain percentage of their production lines for making green

steel and also encourages its usage in government projects, as a promotion towards the use of the product.





• GoI sought to decarbonise the steel industry by encouraging enhanced use of renewable sources of energy, application of resource-efficient materials, further expansion of scrap usage, possible use of green hydrogen as a furnace fuel in the future and exploration of carbon capture utilisation and storage.

UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2022: MAHE ranks No 1 in India & 121st Worldwide

According to the UI Green Metric World University Rankings2022 released by The Universitas Indonesia (UI) on 12th December 2022, the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal(town within Udupi), Karnataka is ranked No. 1 in India and 121st worldwide for being the most sustainable university.

Key Points:

- MAHE is followed by Mangalore University, Mangaluru, Karnataka, and S R M University (Institute of Science and Technology) Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu are ranked 2nd & 3rd in India.
- Wageningen University & Research of Netherlands topped the list followed by the United Kingdom(UK)'s Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

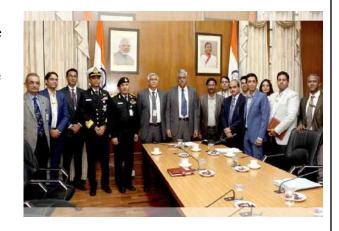


iDEX signs its 150th Innovation Contract with Altair Infrasec Pvt Ltd

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), an initiative of Department of Defence Production (DDP), signed an innovation contract with Altair Infrasec Pvt Ltd, Pune (Maharashtra). This was the 150th contract of iDEX.

Key Points:

- Altair Infrasec Pvt Ltd, Pune is a winner of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT edition on the theme 'Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) TrainingTarget (EMATT) capable of simulating the sound and movement of a submarine'.
- The challenge envisaged development of a training targetcapable of being deployed from P8I aircraft, MH60R helicopters, ships doing speed up to 10 knots and other Remotely Piloted Aircraft without undertaking any



modification on the platform from which the EMATT is required to be launched.

GIXI: IGX launches India's First Gas Price Index

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) launched GIXI, the first ever, nationwide price index to reflect benchmark natural gas prices for India. This launch is on the lines with international benchmarks such as JKM (JapanKorea Marker), HH (Henry Hub), WIM (West India Marker),



TTF (Dutch).

It was launched by Tarun Kapoor, former petroleum secretary and advisor to Prime Minister of India during an event in New Delhi, Delhi.

It will reflect the volume-weighted average price for all gastraded and also represent the gas prices at the Western and Southern hubs.

Key Points:

- IGX Price Index is calculated for various hubs and delivery points with IGX prices being discovered based on actual deliveries making it reflective of the true marketsituation.
- The domestic natural gas market is growing at a fast pace, in line with the Central Government's vision ofachieving 15% share of natural gas in India's energy mix.
- At IGX, over 447 lakh MMBtus (1.1 Billion Cubic Meters) of gas has been traded since inception.
- IGX currently offers delivery-based trade in six different contracts such as day-ahead, daily, weekday, weekly, fortnightly and monthly, under which the trade can be executed for six consecutive months.



Sania Mirza from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, who cleared the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam and secured 149th rank, is set to become India's 1st Muslim female

fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and UP's 1st IAF pilot. On 27th December 2022, she will join NDA Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- In 2016, the IAF commissioned 3 women as fighter pilots.
- AvaniChaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth, and Mohana Singh created history by becoming the 1st female combat pilots in the IAF.
- The 1st female Rafale fighter pilot is Flight Lieutenant ShivangiSingh, who was commissioned in 2017.
- Captain Abhilasha Barak is the 1st woman Combat Aviator in theIndian Army.



Bharti Airtel, Apollo Hospitals conduct India's first 5G-driven colonoscopy

- Bharti Airtel and Apollo Hospitals collaborated with technology companies HealthNet Global, AmazonWeb Services (AWS), and Avesha to perform
 India's first
 - 5G-driven, artificial intelligence (AI)-guided colonoscopytrials.
- The trial was carried out with AI on Airtel's 5G technology, which has ultra-low latency and high processing capabilities, resulting in the detection of





colon cancer much faster and with greater accuracy.

- Colon cancer is currently detected through a colonoscopyprocedure that is manual, requiring close attention for precision, and is time-consuming.
- Avesha edge inferencing applications on AWS platforms processed the data in real-time, ensuring analysis closer to the endpoints.
- The AI-Assisted Colonoscopy Polyp Detection trial will support doctors in improving patient care and detection rates by correctly recording data and eliminating errors.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches Khelo India Dashboard

Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), launched the Khelo IndiaDashboard in New Delhi, Delhi, which has all the statistical data related to the Khelo India Scheme and the Khelo India events.

Key Points:

- Nisith Pramanik, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sportsand senior officials of MoYAS and Sports Authority of India (SAI) were also present at the occasion.
- The unique platform also includes a database of Khelo India Centres (KICs), Khelo India Academies, SAI Training Centres, and National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs).
- It will assist athletes in locating the nearest facility where sports training in various disciplines is available.



Forbes: PV Sindhu World's 12th Highest Paid Female Athlete in 2022; only indian and badminton player on top 25

According to the Forbes's World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2022, Indian Badminton player PV Sindhuis ranked 12th with a total earning of USD 7.1 million (0.1 million on-field and USD 7 million off-field).

She is the only Indian and the only badminton player among the top 25 of the list.

Key Points:

- Naomi Osaka of Japan(Tennis) tops the list with USD 51.1 million(USD 1.1 million on-field and USD 50 million off-field.
- Serena Williams of United States of America(USA) (Tennis) is ranked2nd with USD 41.3 million (USD 0.3 million onfield and USD 41 million off-field followed by Eileen Gu of China (Freestyle Skiing) ranked 3rd with USD 20.1 million (USD 0.1 million and USD 20 million off-field).
- Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, known as PV Sindhu is hailing fromHyderabad, Telangana.
- She is the first and only Indian to become the badminton worldchampion and only the second individual athlete from





India to win two consecutive medals at the Olympic Games

• She won silver in 2016 Olympic (Rio de Janerio) and Bronze in 2020 Olympic (Tokyo).

Home Ministry Gives NOC for Name Change of 2 Places in UP

Union Home Ministry gave its consent to change thenames of two places in Uttar Pradesh (UP) following recommendations from the UP government.

Key points:

- The 'No-Objection' certificates (NOC) were issued by the Home ministry, after taking consent from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Postsand the Survey of India.
- The names were changed for the municipal council 'Mundera Baazar' in Gorakhpur district to 'Chauri- Chaura' and 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria districtto 'Telia Shukla'.



Govt Amends Allocation of Business Rules; MeitY Becomes Nodal Agency of Online Gaming

President of India Droupadi Murmu has signed a notification to amend the Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules to place online gaming under the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY). According to the 377th amendment of AOB rules,

MeitY becomes the nodal agency of online gamingand its intermediaries.

For e-sports, the Department of Sports, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), has been notified as the nodal agency.

Key Points:

- MeitY is set to publish the rules for onlinegaming intermediaries and start public consultation.
- These rules will also encourage innovations toensure that there are no possibilities of illegal content or service.
- The appointment of Meity as the nodal agency will offer clarity and certainty to investors, industry and consumers.
- The allocation of MeitY as the nodal agency for online gaming will address existing regulatory issues.





DGCA approves Type Certification for Marut Drones' AG365

Marut Dronetech Private Limited, Hyderabad (Telangana)-based drone technology manufacturer, has received the Type Certification approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for MarutDrones' multi-utility agricultural drone AG 365.

Key Points:

- After receiving a Type Certificate for the AG 365model, the Drone is now qualified for unsecured loans from the Agri Infrastructure Fund in the amount of Rs 10 lakh at a minimum interest rate of 5-6%.
- Additionally, the Government of India offerssubsidies ranging from 50% to 100%.
- The AG 365 drone was created and built for Indian circumstances. It may be utilised for a variety of tasks, increasing the user's Return onInvestment (ROI).
- Marut Drones is partnering with major universities to provide drone pilots with the best possible training, and as a result, it envisions the growth of 2 lakh drone entrepreneurs in rural areas.



IndianOil signs MoU with Central TB Division to undertake TB elimination project in Uttar Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

Indian Oil Corporation Limited(IndianOil) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CentralTuberculosis (TB) Division (CTD) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and the states of Uttar Pradesh(UP) and Chhattisgarh to undertake intensified TB elimination project. Key Points:

- With this, IndianOil becomes the 1st corporate to implement a large-scale Active Case Finding campaign (ACF) in all 75 districts of UP, coveringaround 10% population once a year for 3 years.
- Under this project, IndianOil will introduce MobileMedical Vans equipped with modern diagnostic technology in UP. the company will also introducethe cost-effective, diagnostic machine, Truenat, to improve access and





availability of TB Diagnostic services in remote tribal regions.

- These machines will be provided to all TB units of the 8 Aspirational Districts of UP Bahraich, Balrampur, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar & Sonbhadra and Community Health Centres (CHC) in Chhattisgarh.
- The company will also provide a handheld Xray Unit covering all 18 State Head Quarters and 8Aspirational Districts of UP and 5 Divisions of Chhattisgarh.

India Assisted Mangdechhu Hydro Project was Handed Over to Bhutan's DGPC

India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project(HEPP), a 720 Megawatts(MW) run-of-river powerplant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District, Bhutan, was handed over to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Bhutan. The handover event was held in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

With this handing over, India and Bhutan have successfullycompleted 4 mega hydroelectric power projects.

Key Points:

- The construction of the hydropower project began in June 2012. The first of the four power plant units were commissioned in June2019, while the second unit was commissioned in July 2019.
- The project was officially inaugurated by Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister(PM) of India, and Lotay Tshering, PM of Bhutan,in August 2019.
- PTC India Limited and Druk Green Power Corporation signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in August 2019.
- The commissioning of this project takes Bhutan's electrical power generation capacity to 2326 MegaWatts, an increase of ~44% on the previous capacity of 1606MW.



TN Government implemented India's 1st Project to Conserve Nilgiri Tahr

The State Government of Tamil Nadu (TN) approved the implementation of India's first The Nilgiri Tahr Project with an outlay of Rs 25.14 crore for a period of 5 years i.e. 2022 to 2027 to conserve Nilgiri Tahr

(Nilgiritragus hylocrius), which is a state animal of TN. The project is dedicated to its conservation, expansion of its habitat and to spread awareness among the public. It will behandled by a team headed by a Project Director. It will be implemented with an initial allocation of Rs





10crore.

Key Points:

- Under this, there will be restoration of its historic and fragmented habitat especially Shola grasslands in UpperBhavani as pilot to reintroduce the Tahr population, and will ensure proper rehabilitation facilities.
- Notably, Nilgiri Tahr has become locally extinct in around 14% of its traditional habitat.
- The project was announced in the 2022-2023 TN Budget.
- It will have nine components, including bi-annual synchronized surveys across the Tahr range, including at the Nilgiri hills and the Asambu highlands, along with diagnosis and treatment for affected individuals.

Facts about Tamil Nadu

Chief minister: M. K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

• Official animal: Nilgiri tahr

Official bird: Common emerald dove

• Official dance: Bharatanatyam

• Official flower: Flame lily

• Language: Tamil

MoHUA launches 'City Finance Rankings, 2022' and 'City Beauty Competition'

- On December 28, 2022, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched 'City FinanceRankings 2022' and 'City Beauty Competition' during an event in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The initiatives and draft guidelines for the same were released by the Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, MoHUA.
- City Finance Rankings 2022 aims to evaluate, recognize and reward ULBs (Urban Local bodies) on the basis of 15 indicators across three key financial parameters viz. resourcemobilization, expenditure performance and fiscal governancesystems.
- City Beauty Competition aims to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities andwards in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.

MeitY Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches G-20 DIA and Stay Safe Online Campaign from New Delhi

• On December 28, 2022, the Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Stay Safe Online campaign and the Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) program, the first-ever programs to be launched worldwide as a G20 (Group of Twenty) initiative.



- The launch was made during an event in New Delhi, Delhi. G-20 DIA Program: Its objective is to identify, recognize and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by 174 startups, from G20 nations and the invited 9 non-member nations.
- Stay Safe Online Campaign: It will create awareness among citizens of all age groups and backgrounds about cyber risksand ways to tackle them.



Agri Minister Approves Formation of Advisory Group for Boosting the Bamboo Sector

The Union Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining the development of the Bamboo sector.

The Advisory group is represented by various stakeholders including academicians, researchers, innovators,

progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing specialists and policy makers.

The Union Agriculture Secretary will be the Chairperson and Mission Director of National Bamboo Mission will be the Convener of the Committee.

Key Points:

- The committee is mandated to advise on the bamboo plantation, technologies for value addition to bamboo, skilldevelopment in bamboo based processing and market linkages.
- The Advisory group consists of representation of various stakeholders including academicians, researchers, innovators, progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing specialists andpolicy makers.



Department of Posts launches an 'Online request Transfer Portal' for Gramin DakSevaks

Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communication launched an 'Online request Transfer Portal' forGramin Dak Sevaks (GDS). The Portal was launched by Alok

Sharma, Director of General Postal Services through Video

Conference in the virtual presence of Chief Postmaster Generals of 23 Postal Circles and Senior Officers of the Department.

Key Points:

 The portal aims to bring transparency and accountability to the governance process by leveraging technology. The online process also saves time and resources.





- Department of Posts has the largest network of Post Offices across the globe. It consists of more than 1,56,000 Post Officesacross India.
- More than 1,31,000 of these Branch Post Offices (BOs) are located in rural areas, where postal services are rendered through GDS.

Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) signs agreements with MSMEs to hasten commercialisation of new products

Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra signed an agreements with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products.

The agreement was signed to commemorate the launchof the AIC at the BARC to speed up to conversion of products from research labs to markets.

Under the framework of AIC-BARC, The scientists at the BARC will mentor the incubatee industries for further improvisation and development of market-ready products.

Key Points:

• The incubation agreements were signed for technologies in line with the global commitments of India to achieve net zero (carbon neutrality) like, access



to access to safe drinking water, and growth of potential import substitutes for advanced and affordable healthcare.

- The technologies includes,
- Alkaline Water Electrolyser for Green Hydrogen production,
- DC Accelerator for Wastewater Treatment,
- novel Gamma Monitoring,
- X-Band LINAC-based X-ray source for radiotherapy machines.

G20 India: IISc to be Secretarat for Science 20 (S20)- G20 science working group

Indian Institutie of Science (IISc) based in Bengaluru, Karnataka is set to be the secretariat of the S20 –Science 20, the science working group of the Group of Twenty (G20).

The Science 20 (S20) 2023 will work towards resolving common global-level challenges like poverty.

- IISc stated that, discussions in various regions of India on this wide issue will take place throughoutthe year.
- Three issues will be discussed at the



discussions in Agartala (Tripura), Lakshadweep, and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh):

- universal holistic health
- clean energy for a greener future
- bridging science and society.
- In addition to the discussions, there will be an inaugural conference in Puducherry and a summit meeting in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Kerala's Dharmadam Becomes First Complete Library Constituency in India

Dharmadam, the constitution of Kerala Chief Minister

Pinarayi Vijayan became first in India to achieve the position of complete library constituency..

Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards and Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in all wards in the constituency.

Key Points:

- The constituency has made libraries available with complete librarianisation was made possible with thesupport of all sections of the people of the constituency.
- The People's Mission for Social Development, a people's organisation, has taken up the work of establishing libraries and expanding the existing ones in Dharmadam constituency.
- The District Library Council and local self-governing bodies became active participants in these activities.



National Health Authority (NHA) has released a beta version of the lightweight, robust, and Ayushman BharatDigital Mission-compliant Hospital Management Information System (HMIS). Key Points:

- The goal of this HMIS solution is to give healthcare professionals a digital platform, particularly focusing onprivate clinics and small health facilities.
- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), whichaims to build the foundation for India's digital health
 - infrastructure, is being implemented by NHA as the nodal agency.
- The beta version of this HMIS offers ABDM compliant, Facility Management, Digital Services, and



e-prescription Services.

• The NHA also invites healthcare providers to participate in its beta-testing based on the trusted CowinPlatform. The virtual beta-testing workshop is scheduled on 4th January 2023.

PM Modi virtually Inaugurates Rs 7,600 crore worth Railway projects in West Bengal

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, virtually inaugurated a railway project worth Rs 7600

crore in West Bengal. He dedicated 4 railway projects to the nation including Boinchi – Shaktigarh 3rd Line, Dankuni – Chandanpur 4th Line Project, Nimtita – New Farakka Double Line and Ambari Falakata – New Maynaguri – Gumanihat Doubling Project.

Key Points:

- He also flagged off the 7th Vande Bharat Express fromHowrah to New Jalpaiguri station and inaugurated the Joka-Taratalastretch of the Purple Line of Kolkata Metro.
- He also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station.

Vande Bharat Express between Howrah & New Jalpaiguri flagged off > Joka-Taratala stretch of Joka-Esplanade Metro flagged off. Cost ₹2,475cr > 25 sewage projects under Namami Gange. 18 of these 4 railway connectivity rojects (Boinchi-Shaktigarh; complete. 5 new ones with Dankuni-Chandanpur: outlay of ₹1500cr launched Nimtita-New Farakka: Ambari > ₹600cr project for cleaning Gumanihat). Cost ₹2,304cr of Adi Ganga > Foundation stone laid for Cruise from Kashi to redevelopment of NJP railway Dibrugarh via Kolkata and Bangladesh covering 3200km. station. Cost ₹335 crore To set sail on Jan 13 2023

Artpark-IISc Join Hands with Google to Launch AI-Powered Project Vaani

ARTPARK (Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Robotics Technology Park), a not-for-profit organisation backedby the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has collaborated with Google Inc. to launch 'Project Vaani', a pan-India inclusive language data initiative for open-

sourcing datasets at 'Google for India 2022' event held in NewDelhi.

- Project Vaani aims to compile comprehensive datasets of transcribed text and spoken language from each district in Indiaand are open-sourced via Vaani's website.
- In future, they can also be accessed through other platforms like "Bhashini" of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY) for advancing research and innovation.
- Vaani joins the Synthesizing Speech in Indian Languages
 (SYSPIN) and Recognizing Speech in Indian Languages (RESPIN) programmes, which encompass 9
 languages, including Magadhi and Maithili, underthe Bhāshā AI umbrella of ARTPARK and IISc.



- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–)
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.





- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

Govt Approves PADMA as Self Regulatory body for the publisher

The government of India(GoI) has approved the Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA) as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across India.

PADMA, an organisation with 47 digital news publishers, will look at grievances related to digital media news content on its platform.

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) intimated the approval through an official order on2nd December 2022.
- The organisation will be headed by former High Court(HC) Judge Mool Chand Garg and have a parttimemember of Prasar Bharati Ashok Kumar

Tandon and journalist Manoj Kumar Mishra as

members.

- PDMA shall perform functions laid down in subrules (4) and (5) of rule 12 for the purpose of redressing grievances related to the code of ethics under the rules.
- It will also ensure that the member publishers have agreed to adhere to the provisions of the rules, including furnishing the requisite information under rule 18.



INTERNATIONAL

India & South Korea Signs Agreement for EDCF Loan worth 1500 Crore

India and South Korea signed an agreement for an Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan worth 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 crores) for the establishment of an

Intelligent Transport System on the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project with a goal to improve traffic management efficiency.

Key Points:

- To enhance the efficiency in traffic management through establishment of the Intelligent TrafficManagement System (ITMS) including traffic centre, for improving the efficiency in toll management through the establishment of the Toll Collection System (TCS).
- To establish a sustainable model of ITS and its O&Mthrough transfer of technology from the Republic of Korea.
- The bilateral relationship between India and South Korea was upgraded to 'Special Strategic Partnership' in 2015, which further consolidates and strengthens the Special Strategic Partnership between India and Republic of Korea.
- In October 2016 Republic of Korea was designated as



India's Official Development Assistance (ODA) partner for development cooperation.

Facts about South Korea

- OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Korea
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Republic
- CAPITAL: Seoul
- POPULATION: 51,418,097
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Korean
- MONEY: Won
- AREA: 37,901 sq mi (98,190 sq km)
- MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Taebaek Mountains, Sobaek Mountains
- MAJOR RIVERS: Han, Kum, Naktong

Germany Announces 1 billion EURO for Energy Transition Projects in India

Germany launched a proposal to grant **1 billion EURO (8440 crore)** for energy transition projects across India under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development. The announcement was made ahead of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to Indiain December 2022.

Germany will assist India in making its energy supply technically, economically, andenvironmentally sustainable in the area of renewable energy.

India and Germany entered into an agreement on the fundingfor more than 20 development projects in FY23.







- The fund will support India's initiatives in the areas of renewable energy, sustainable urban development in smartcities, and sustainable resource use.
- The funding comprises 10% in grants and the remaining 90% will be in the form of lines of credit.
- The lines of credit will be provided by **KfW Development Bank** with 'very cheap interest'ranging from 2.7% to 3.2% for development projects in states including Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.
- **Note** Germany will support India with 10 billion EURO by 2030 under the umbrella of the newIndo-German partnership for green and sustainable development. This financial support will also include the funding of 1 billion EURO for the projects in India.

CAGs of India & Chile Sign MoU to enhance the professional practices betweentwo countries

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop institutional professional capacities and learn from each other's best practices in Santiago, Chile.

The MoU was formally signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAGof India, and Jorge Bermudez Soto, the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile.



Key Points:

- Under the MoU, both parties agreed to assist capacity building, share methodology for publicaudits, and conduct training programmes in their respective nations.
- The MoU will bring in a new era of constructive engagement and deepen bilateral ties with Chile's Supreme Audit Institution (SAI).

Facts about Chile

• President: Gabriel Boric Trending

• Capital: Santiago

• Population: 1.95 crores (2021) World Bank

Continent: South AmericaOfficial language: Spanish

India Assumes UN Security Council Presidency for December

India assumed the Presidency of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) for the month of December, the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22. India had earlier assumed the UNSC Presidency in

August 2021. Key Points:

• During India's Presidency, two high-level



signature events will be held on 14th December 2022 on Reformed Multilateralism and 15th December 2022 onReformed Multilateralism and will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

- On 14th December 2022 The high-level open
 debate onthe theme 'Maintenance of International
 Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed
 Multilateralism' will be conducted, which will
 encourage the UN members to work on reforms in the current multilateral architecture with the UNat its centre.
- On 15th December 2022, a **high-level briefing** on the theme 'Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism Challenges and Way Forward' will take place, which helps in building a consensus on the principles of a global counter-terror architecture.
- This will enhance the Delhi Declaration adopted during the special meeting of the counter-terrorism committee in October 2022 in India.

Peru's VP Dina Boluarte sworn in as the 1st Female President of Peru



•Vice President of Peru, **Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, was** swornin as the **first Female President of Peru** after
Pedro Castillo, President of Peru, was
ousted by Congress and arrested on a
charge of rebellion.

Peru's Congress removed President Pedro Castillo shortly after he attempted to dissolve the legislative body(Congress) and take unilateral control of the government, triggering a serious constitutional crisis.

• The lawmakers of Peru voted 101-6 with 10 abstentions to removePedro Castillo from the office of President for reasons of "permanent moral infirmity".He was removed from office due to "permanent moral infirmity" by a vote of 101-6 with 10 abstentions.

• The Presidential period of Pedro Castillo was from 28th July 2021 to 7th December 2022.

Facts about Peru

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Peru

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Constitutional republic

CAPITAL: Lima

POPULATION: 31,331,228

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Spanish, Quechua

MONEY: Nuevo Sol

AREA: 496,224 square miles (1,285,216 square kilometers)



MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Andes

MAJOR RIVERS: Amazon, Ucayali, Madre de Dios

India & Finland Sign Joint Declaration of Intent On Migration and Mobility

India and Finland have signed a joint declaration of **Intent On Migration and Mobility** in order to reacha mutually beneficial agreement on migration and mobility.

The Joint Declaration was signed by Union Minister of State (MoS) V. Muraleedharan, Ministry of ExternalAffairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI), and Tuula Haatainen, Finland's Minister of Employment.

Key points:

- India and Finland have warm and friendly relations basedon common values such as democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.
- The declaration emphasizes the determination of both countries to collaborate in building a common framework of arrangements and cooperation.
- This will promote the mobility of students, academics, researchers, business people, and professionals while also assisting in the fight against irregular migration.



<u>United Nations ECOSOC Voted to Remove Iran from its Women's Rights Body</u> -UNCSW

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) voted to remove Iran from its Women's rights



body – The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term with immediate effect.

Iran was removed from UNSCW due to Tehran's

brutalcrackdown on women-led protests.

Key Points:

• It was highlighted that Iran undermines and suppresses the human rights of women and girls, including the right tofreedom of expression and opinion, often with the use of excessive force

- Iran's government has administered policies flagrantly contrary to the human rights of women and girls.
- The government has used lethal force resulting in the deaths of peaceful protestors including women andgirls.
- UNSCW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of genderequality and the empowerment of women.

• Nations on the women's commission are elected by the UN Economic and Social Council, whosemembers are voted on by the General Assembly.

<u>Urgent Action Needed in South Asia to Curb Deadly Air Pollution: World Bank</u> <u>report</u>

World Bank (WB) has released its report titled 'Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia' stating that South Asia is home to 9 of the world's 10 cities with the worst air



pollution, and there is a requirement of urgent action to curb it.

It is causing an estimated 2 million premature deaths across the region each year and incurs significant economic costs.

Key Points

- •The concentrations of fine particulate matter such as soot and small dust (PM 2.5) in some of the region's most densely populated and poor areas are up to 20 times higher than the WHO limit (5 μ g/m³).
- Exposure to such extreme air pollution impacts adverselyincluding stunting and reduced cognitive development in
- children, to respiratory infections and chronic and debilitating diseases.

<u>India and Moscow Signed a Memorandum to Enable Russian Companies to Enters</u> <u>Indian E-trade Platforms</u>

Minister of the Government of Moscow, and Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of the City of Moscow (DEEIR) signed a memorandum with the Indian Chambers of International Business (ICIB) and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) in New Delhi.

The memorandum was signed after identifying the potential in promoting the products of Russian companies on major trading platforms in India such as Flipkart.



This was signed during a session at the "Business Dialogue: Regional cooperation as a driver of economic development" held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- India has traditionally been a major trade and economic partner of Moscow.
- The total volume of accumulated investment from India into Moscow's economy as of January 2022



isUSD 143 million.

- The trade turnover between Moscow and Indian partners in 2021 has increased by 43.5% compared to 2020 and amounted to USD 3446.7 million.
- In 2022, Moscow traced an upward trend in trade turnover. In the first half of 2022, an increase to USD1,468.7 million was recorded.
- Compared to the same period in 2021, this is around 6.3% more.

Facts about Russia

• OFFICIAL NAME: Russian Federation

• FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federation

• CAPITAL: Moscow

• POPULATION: 142,122,776

• OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Russian

• MONEY: Ruble

• AREA: 6,592,772 square miles (17,075,200 square kilometers)

• MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Ural, Altay

• MAJOR RIVERS: Amur, Irtysh, Lena, Ob, Volga, Yenisey

Highlights of 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

• From December 7 – 19, 2022, the United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Conference was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada to acknowledge new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 in order to preventnature loss.

• It comprised of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention

onBiological Diversity (CBD), 10th Meeting of the Parties to the

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Cartagena Protocol COP/MOP 10), and the 4th meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol COP/MOP 4).

- The president of COP15 was China.
- India was represented by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- The conference saw the adoption of the Global Biodiversity
 Framework (GBF) that addresses the key drivers of nature loss, and promotes health and well-being ofmankind and planet. It will replace the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**.
- A number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has agreed to form a 'Coalition for Nature' for theimplementation and adoption of GBF. It will be led by **Cabo Verde**, **Samoa** and **Seychelles**.

Facts about Canada

- OFFICIAL NAME: Canada.
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federal parliamentary state.
- CAPITAL: Ottawa.
- POPULATION: 35,881,659.
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: English, French.
- MONEY: Canadian dollar.
- AREA: 3,849,674 square miles (9,970,610 square kilometers)





MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Rockies, Coast, Laurentian.

Nigeria & Rwanda Become 1st African Nations to Sign Artemis Accords: US-Africa Leaders Summit

Nigeria and **Rwanda** became the **first African nations** to sign the **Artemis Accords** during the first-ever **US-Africa Space Forum**, which was held on 13th December 2022 on the sidelineof the US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington DC, United States (US).

Key points:

Nigeria & Rwanda have become the 22nd and 23rd signatories of the Artemis Accords. Signatories:
 Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim, Minister of Communications and Digital Economy signed the Artemis Accords on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while Francis Ngabo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rwanda Space Agency, signed the Accords on behalf of the Republic of Rwanda.



• Participants – It was signed in the presence of Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs MonicaMedina, and U.S. National Space Council Executive Secretary Chirag Parikh.

India's First SCO-IBC Meeting Held with Focus On Climate Finance, Sdgs, Creation of Data Bank

The **19th meeting** of the Experts and Coordinators of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization InterbankConsortium (SCO-IBC)**, the first to be held under India's presidency, came to an end in New Delhi, Delhi. The SCO IBC will be led by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) from October 26 to October 25, 2023.

The SCO-IBC is presided over by Pawan Kumar, Deputy Managing Director of IIFCL.

- During the summit, it was determined to establish a data bank, work toward the Sustainable DevelopmentGoals (SDGs), and undertake climate financing initiatives.
- The meeting was attended by delegates from themember banks of 8 member countries.
- The discussion mainly focused on the SCO IBC member banks' personnel training, the creation of a database for the consortium's 20th aniversary, and other areas of cooperation between member banks toimprove their partnership.





• The next meeting will be on capacity building on February 8, 2023, followed by a meeting of the heads of the council of the SCO member banks in April 2023.

WRI & GEF to form Secretariat for preservation of 30% land, ocean by 2030

The **High Ambition Coalition (HAC)** for Nature and People has announced the establishment of a new permanent secretariat, which will be co-hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

HAC will lead a historic endeavour to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030 ("30×30") under the new Secretariat.

Currently, about 17% of all land and a little over 8% of the ocean are covered by protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Key Points:

- At the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a formal agreement was reached to protect and conserve 30% of the planet's landand oceans by 2030.
- To accomplish this, the world must now double its land protections andmore than quadruple existing ocean protections by the end of 2030.
- The Secretariat will maintain political engagement and commitment to the 30×30 target as the coalition gears up to enter its second phase (HAC 2.0).
- By mapping, matching, and mobilising financial resources and technical assistance to support country implementation initiatives, it will further enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing for nationalimplementation.
- The HAC members have agreed to work together to develop an operational instrument that will aid inachieving the "30×30" target of the Global Biodiversity Framework.



United Nations Security Council(UNSC) adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners, including former leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Key Points:

- Myanmar has been in crisis since the army seized Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1, 2021, detaining herand other officials.
- In the 15-member UNSC council for the Myanmar crisis, China, Russia and India denied the vote. The remaining 12 members voted in favor.



• The resolution urges the junta to release detained prisoners, including Suu Kyi and former

Myanmarpresident Win Myint.

BANKING AND FINANCE

BoB's Launches Foreign Currency Loan against INRDeposits

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched Foreign Currency Loan againstINR Deposits of Indian Companies for their Overseas Subsidiaries/ Joint Ventures (VS) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) branch in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

It provides an alternative facility for the Indian companies to raisefunds for their international businesses.

BoB is the **first bank** to offer this facility at GIFT City.

Key Points:

• Under the new loan scheme, BoB's
International Financial Services Centre
(IFSC) Banking Unit(IBU) in GIFT City will provide financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/JVs
of Indian corporates by leveraging their INR deposits.

Bank of Baroda

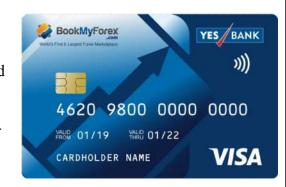
• This helps Indian companies to meet the cash flow requirements for their international operations.

BookMyForex launches "Interbank Rate Forex Card", India's first true ZeroMarkup Travel Card

Online foreign exchange marketplace BookMyForex.com launched Interbank Rate Multi-Currency Forex Card which is India's first true zero markup travel card. It is co-branded multi-currency card developed in association with Yes Bank, and M2P Fintech. It is powered by Visa.BookMyForex.com, a MakeMyTrip Group Company is India's very first tech initiative in theforeign exchange domain and the market leader in the online retail forex space.

Key Points:

- During regular banking hours, International travellers will be able to buy Forex Cards at Interbank Rates with zero added markup i.e. the live & actual rates as seen on search engines at which banks deal with each other for major currencies. The card is accepted globally at over 35 million stores, 1 million ecommerce websites, and over 2 million ATMs
- Earlier, BookMyForex charged a markup of about 0.25 paiseper dollar, which has now been waived with the introduction of interbank rate multi-currency forex card
- The card can be loaded with 14 different currencies, and the exchange rates on forex cards remainfixed,
- BookMyForex will also provide a FREE international SIM withunlimited incoming calls and WhatsApp chats for 30 days post activation along with the Interbank rate Forex Card



RBI launches 'Digital Rupee – Retail segment (e-R)' in Four Cities



- On December 1, 2022, the Reserve bank of India (RBI) launched its pilot on retail digital currency/rupee called 'Digital Rupee Retail segment (e-R)', a Central
- Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) which is an electronic form ofsovereign currency.
- In this regard, RBI issued **Rs 1.71 crore** to four participatingbanks based on their indents.
- In the retail pilot of the digital rupee, 8 banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in four cities of **Mumbai** (Maharashtra), **New Delhi** (Delhi), **Bengaluru** (Karnataka), and **Bhubaneswar** (Odisha).
- It will cover select locations in closed user groups (CUG) which will include both the



Razorpay Enables Merchants to Accept Credit Card Payments on UPI

Fintech platform Razorpay announced a first-of-its-kind move, in partnership with Axis Bank, to enable merchants to accept credit card transactions via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with minimal changes to the existing setup.

This facility has been enabled for the customers of HDFC Bank, PunjabNational Bank (PNB), Union Bank and Indian Bank.

At present, UPI enables customers to make transactions through theirbank accounts.

Key Points:

This offering is in line with the National Payments
 Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Reserve Bank of India
 (RBI)'s innovation in digital space. In October 2022, the
 NPCI allowed the linking of RuPaycredit cards with the
 BHIM UPI app.



• Around 250 million Indians use UPI for their day-to-day transactions, and nearly 50 million users haveone or more credit cards.

PNB HFC launched Home Loan Scheme Roshni for Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities

PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing), a Housing Finance Company(HFC) introduced a low-cost home loan programme namely 'Roshni' enabling individuals from Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities to apply for loan ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.

Through this scheme PNB HFC is committed towards the 'Housing for All' mission of the Central Government.



- This launch is in line with PNB HFC's long-term goal of enabling and assisting an individual to purchase a home.
- Recently, the Company opened branch offices focused on Roshni in the following cities:
- Chennai, Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad (Telangana), Indore/ Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), and Mumbai,

Nagpur, Pune in Maharashtra.

- The program offers a variety of loans for self-building, home expansions and renovations, plot purchases combined with construction, loans against property, and the purchase of property investment.
- Loan applicants eligible for this are first-time credit borrowers, self-employed without a professional role and salaried from a low-income group with a family income as low as Rs. 10,000 to middle-income groupcategory.

ADB approves \$250 mn policy-based loan to Strengthen Logistics Sector in India

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to strengthen the Logistics Sector in India. This funding will support the Indian Government's reforms to strengthen and modernize it's logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, reduce Greenhouse Gas(GHG) emission, and lowering cost in the logistics sector.

Key Points:

- The loan will finance the first subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE), which supports the Indian government's efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city levels for multimodal logistics projects(MMLPs).
- It will also strengthen supply chains by simplifying external trade logistics and domestic cargo movements, modernizing warehouses, improving business processes with integrated digital platforms, and private investments.



• The subprogram also supports the India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry's initiatives to issue standards for warehousing, which would encourage operational efficiency and private sector investment

HDFC Bank Partners with Startup India to Launch Sixth Parivartan SmartUp Grants

HDFC Bank in partnership with the Government of India (GoI)'s flagship initiative 'Startup India', launched the 6th 'Parivartan SmartUp Grants', the annual grants program for social startups. This program aims to identify startups that are working towards social impact and to support them through

monetary grants to their incubators.



The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the HDFC Bank's social initiatives.

- •The bank has been enabling startups through its state-of-the-art **SmartUp program**, by providing specialised banking and value-added services to entrepreneurs.
- •The Bank is offering grants under the aegis of Parivartan, theumbrella name for the HDFC bank's social initiatives.
- Until now, the HDFC bank has disbursed over Rs. 30 crore tomore than 45 incubators which supported around 165 startups working in the areas of environment, agri-business, ed-tech, waste management, healthcare, and skill development sectors.
- In 2022, the HDFC bank will also focus on building capacities of incubators and startups working in **tier- II** and **III cities**.



• It will fund social impact startups developing solutions in the field of environmental conservation, affordable healthcare, sustainable rural economy, technologies for better governance, economic growth of Small, Medium Enterprises (SMEs), gender diversity and inclusion space.

RBI imposes curbs on RazorPay, Cashfree Payments foron-boarding New Merchants

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed curbs on RazorPay andCashfree Payments for on-boarding new merchants till they get the final **Payment Aggregator** (PA) licence.

Key Points

- RazorPay was one of the first three firms to receive the RBI's inprincipal approval licence along withPine Labs and US-based Stripe.
- Cashfree Payments received its in-principal approval in September 2022.
- As part of the payment aggregator framework formed by the RBI in March 2022, only entities approved BBI can facilitate payments for merchants and other e-commerce sites.



<u>HDFC Securities Launches Google Search-Driven</u> <u>Education Platform – Roots</u>

HDFC Securities Limited, a stock brokerage firm, has launched "Roots", a dedicated **search-driven Education platform** that provides comprehensive investor education andmarket analysis.



- The Unique Selling Point (USP) of the platform is that it produces content which is being searched on **Google** by current and prospective investors and traders.
- The portal offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets.
- It also includes an User Generated Content (UGC) section where investors and traders can suggest topics they want to learn and can also explore exclusive live webinars by registering themselves through the portal.

IDFC First Bank Introduces Zero-fee Banking on savings accounts

On the occasion of its foundation day, **IDFC First Bank** has introduced **zero-fee banking** for savings accounts, as it waives off charges for a range of **25 frequently** used customer-focused banking services that are connected to savings accounts.

- This service is provided to customers, who maintain Average MonthlyBalance (AMB) between 10,000 and 25,000 in their savings accounts.
- The customers with basic financial literacy will benefit from the zero-feebanking.







Data by 1Lattice: SBI Continues to Lead in Debit Cards, While HDFC Bank Leads in **Credit Cards**

- According to 1Lattice (previously PGA Labs) data, State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sectorbank, and HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, continued to lead the debit card and credit cardmarkets, respectively.
- With a de-growth of 4%, SBI continues to hold the top position in the Debit Card Segment with a whopping 30% share.
- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, continued to leadthe credit Card Segment, with 21% share, registering a growth of 9%.
- It also recorded the most growth in the debit card segment.

Key points:

- Debit Card Segment
- SBI is followed by Bank of Baroda (BoB) with 10% growth, Bank of India (BoI) with 4% growth, and Canara Bank with 7% growth, with BoB owning an 8% market share and the latter two holding 5%each.
- India now has 1 billion debit cards in use as issuance of new debit cards resumed.
- According to a **Worldline research report**, the number of credit cards climbed by 25% from 62.81million in June 2021 to 78.7 million in June 2022.
- The number of debit cards increased by 2% over the same time period, from 906 million to 921.75 million.
- Credit Card Segment
- HDFC bank continued to lead the Credit Card segment with 21% share, registering a growth of 9%.
- Following SBI Cards which recorded 19% growth with 19% share, ICICI Bank reported 13% growth with 17% share, while Axis Bank recorded 17% growth with 11% share.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank recorded the most growth in this segment, with a 78% YoY (year-over-year) growth and a 6% market share, and was followed by RBL Bank with a 28% YoY growth.
- In the second quarter (Q2) of the current fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23), outstanding cards-in-force fell by
- 2.55 million to 77.7 million.
- Global giants underperformed in the credit card market, with Citibank and American Express reporting declines of 4% and 9%, respectively.
- Citibank had a 3% market share, while American Express had a 2% share.

HDFC signs MoU with Kerala Startup Mission to provide Financial Services to **Startups**

HDFC Bank Limited signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) to assist startups with financial and banking services. The period for MoU is 1 year.

The bank will utilize its banking solution

'SmartUp' to aidstartups.

This MoU is a part of the bank's ongoing effort to supportstartup culture in Kerala.

Key Points:

• Under this MoU, KSUM will refer startups to

SmartUp which will provide smart financial tools, advisoryservices and technology to aid







in achieving their goals.

• Bank will provide opportunities for startups to pitch theirofferings to capital firms, and also extend its support incubation and acceleration of all startups enrolled in the Smart Up programme.

Punjab & Sind Bank Partners with SBI Card to Launch Co-branded Credit Card

Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB), a public sector bank, has partnered with SBI Card to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers. This marks the entry of PSB into 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.

Punjab & Sind Bank

Key Points:

- The card members will have an access to a wide range of exclusive privileges and caters to spending needs of the Bank's customers.
- SBI Card ELITE and PSB SBI Card PRIME have been designed to offer lifestyle privileges and best in class experience to premium and mass premium customers, respectively.
- PSB SBI Card ELITE will be offered at a joining fee of Rs. 4,999 plus taxes while PSB SBI Card PRIMEwill be offered at Rs. 2,999 plus taxes.
- PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card offers rewarding experience to value conscious customers through accelerated rewards and benefits on their spending. The car is offered at Rs. 499 plus taxes.
- Both PSB SBI Card ELITE and PSB SBI Card PRIME will be available on VISA platform and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card on RuPay platform.

IDBI Bank signs agreement to transfer schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund to LIC MF

IDBI Bank has signed a Scheme Transfer Agreement (STA) with LIC Mutual Fund(MF) for the transfer of Schemes of IDBI Mutual Funds(MF) to LIC MF to comply with regulations 7B of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Mutual and Regulations.

Key Points:

- Following this proposed scheme acquisition transaction the like-to-like schemes will be merged and the unique schemes of IDBI MF will continue on a stand-alone basis with the acquiring entity.
- The merger is expected to be completed in this quarter.



(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Bank of Baroda Wins EAG Laureate Award on Financial Security

Bank of Baroda, the second largest public sector bank in India after State Bank of India (SBI), won EAG Laureateaward in the International Olympiad of Financial Security held at Sochi, Russia on 10 October 2022.

- India is one of the nine members of the Eurasian groupon combating money laundering and terrorism (EAG), a regional organisation similar to the Financial ActionTask Force (FATF). The EAG was established in 2004 and is currently an associate member of the FATF.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the globalantimoney laundering and anti-terrorist financing body.



ECONOMY

Kerala Green Start-up Tree Tag bags award in 'Climathon-2022'

Tree Tag, a green start-up founded by climate-conscious individuals from Kerala, striving to reducecarbon emissions through tech-integrated afforestation projects, has won the **Climathon 2022**, the hackathon held at Kerala Technology Innovation Zone (KTIZ),

Kochi, Kerala from 26 to 27th November 2022.

Key Points:

- The Tree Tag team won the award under the category of **Life OnLand**, addressing the problem statement such as 'monitoring and protecting existing forest eco-systems'.
- Tree Tag team including Abhijith Kumar Meenakumari, Chief

Executive Officer(CEO), Aashutosh B Sai, Chief

Technology Officer(CTO), Mohamed Wazeer Chief Operating Officer(COO) and Anoop Babu Chief Strategy Officer(CSO) received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.



ADB & ABIS Signs USD 16 Million Agreement to Support Fish Farming in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ABIS Exports India Private Limited (ABIS) entered into an agreement on sustainability-linked and blue-debt facility, a non-convertible debenture worth USD16 million(in equivalent Indian rupee).

This is to enhance food security in India by supporting the construction of a micro fish feed plant and by training up to 6,000farmers in climate-resilient fish

farming practices as well as financial literacy.

Key Points:

- This is ADB's first private sector sustainabilitylinked financing, with adjustments in pricing when pre-defined sustainability targets are met.
- Targets include emissions reductions, water conservation, and farmer training. The sustainability-linked financing received an independent second-party opinion, consistent with industry principles.
 - Through the partnership, both ADB and ABIS commits towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, water conservation, ocean health, and the promotion of farmers' capacity building.



NIHR Global Health Research Centre Grants EURO 10 million Grant for LongTerm Research in India & Nepal



DIVINE CURRENT AFFAIRS

Researchers from the Public Health Foundation of India and University of Leicester have been awarded a prestigious grant ofnearly EURO 10 million by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Centre, UnitedKingdom (UK).

This grants help to improve the health outcomes and re-orient health systems to effectively addressmultiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) or multimorbidity in India and Nepal.

Key Points:

- The researchers will collaborate with the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Jodhpur, Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth (HRIDAY), Delhi, India and Kathmandu Medical College (KMC), Kathmandu, Nepal.
- As part of the project, 17 places on master's degrees, 19 PhDs and 14 post-doctoral placements will be available in the University of Leicester, Birmingham or Brunel.
- It covers applied health research, implementation science, medical statistics, quality and safety in healthcare, health data science and diabetes.

Airtel partners with Meta to develop Undersea Cable Infrastructure for High-Speed Internet

Bharti Airtel (Airtel) announced a collaboration with Meta Platforms, Inc., the parent company of Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, to support the growth of India's digital ecosystem.

Airtel and Meta will invest collaboratively in global connectivity infrastructure and new-age digital solutions

based on Communications Platform as a Service

(CPaaS) to support the evolving requirements of users and enterprises in India.

Subsea cable infrastructure is required to digitally connect the world since data flows between countries over the internet arenot possible without it.

Key Points:

- As India prepares to bring out **5G networks** later this year (2022), foundational connectivity infrastructure such as subsea cable systems is crucial for supporting increased demand for high-speed data and digital services.
- Airtel will partner with Meta and Saudi Telecom Company (STC) to extend 2Africa Pearls, a subsea
- cable system, to India.
- Airtel and Meta will extend the cable to Airtel's landing station in Mumbai, Maharashtra, and acquire thededicated capacity to expand its submarine network portfolio.

Global Trade Growth to slowdown in 2023: WTO **Barometer**

According to the recent World Trade Organisation Goods Trade Barometer, global trade growth is expected to slow down in the last quarter of 2022 and in 2023 as countries experience significant challenges to their economies amid Ukraine-Russia war, high energy prices, and monetary tightening.



Goods trade barometer Index value, September 2022 = 96.2

962



Key Points:

- The barometer index is projected to decline due to the negative readings in sub-indices representing exports (91.7), air freight (93.3) and electronic components (91.0).
- The main exception is the automotive products index (103.8), whichrose above trend due to stronger vehicle sales in the United States (US) and increased exports from Japan as supply conditions improved and as the yen continued todepreciate.
- The Goods Trade Barometer is a composite leading indicator for world trade, providing real-time information on the trajectory of merchandise trade relative to recent trends. Values greater than 100 signalabove-trend expansion while values less than 100 indicate below-trend growth.

ADB Partners with GoI to Provide USD 3 Million PRF Facility

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India (GoI) inked a USD 3 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) agreement to assist preparatory operations for designing the "Agartala"

Municipal Infrastructure Development Project," which aims to strengthen municipal infrastructure inpriority areas of Agartala, Tripura.

Key Points:

- The proposed project is consistent with the findings of the North East Economic Corridor (NEEC) study by the ADB.
- The study acknowledges Agartala's crucial position as akey growth and border centre in fostering affluence and economic growth in the northeastern region.
- The ADB's recent collaboration with Tripura to build urban infrastructure has shown significant infrastructureshortfalls in the city of Agartala.
- During the implementation of the PRF, measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation would be incorporated into the project design to guarantee compliance with India's climate commitments.



Walmart and Flipkart partnered with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to accelerate capacity building for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

The MoU was signed at the Walmart Vriddhi Seller Summit, an event marking the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs having completed their training under the Walmart

Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme(Walmart Vriddhi) in New Delhi.

Swasti is a programme partner for the Walmart Vriddhi programme.

Key Points:

- This partnership helps MSME to unlock export potential and also supports them in becoming a part of retail supply chains locally and globally.
- It will also enhance access to schemes offered by the NSIC and can



also make use of learning resources provided by Vriddhi to MSMEs that are registered with the NSIC.

• The Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme included training, seminars and mentoring sessions which will be conducted regularly for MSMEs.





ADB: Approves USD 780 million Loan to Expand Chennai's Metro Rail Network

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 780million to build new lines for Chennai metro rail and improve itsnetwork connectivity with bus and feeder services.

Key Points:

- It is part of the bilateral initiative to improve diplomatic relations between India and Saudi Arabia.
- Under this MoU, both sides will explore and collaborate on mattersof common interest.
- Collaboration will also be done between the MSME institutions of the both countries.
- SIDBI will also offer its expertise to the newly launched SME Bank of Saudi Arabia.



ADB and IIFL Home Finance Ltd organised 'Kutumb' Event in Delhi

Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and India Infoline Limited- Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) organised '**Kutumb**' event in Delhi discussing scope around green affordable housing in India. The 'Kutumb' was launched on 2nd December 2022 with an event titled 'GreenAffordable Housing Ecosystem' in Delhi.



Key Points:

- •Kutumb actively collaborates and consults with developers, architects, and rating agencies to promote green, sustainable, future-ready, and affordable housing.
- •The event focuses on mainstreaming green and affordable housing in India.

•In February 2022, IIFL HFL signed a USD 68 million financing agreement with ADB to expand financial access to affordable green housing for India's economically disadvantaged and lower-income populations.

<u>Indian Government allows Sri Lankans to hold USD 10,000 worth of Indian Rupees in cash</u>

Indian Government has allowed Sri Lankan citizens to hold up to USD10,000 (8.14 lakh Indian rupees) in Indian rupees in cash, though the Indian Rupees would not be legal tender in Sri Lanka.

- To enable this, Sri Lankan banks must enter into an agreement with an Indian bank to open INR Nostro accounts held in another bank in a foreign currency.
- This will provide much-needed monetary support to Sri Lanka, which is experiencing an economic crisis due to a lack of dollar liquidity.
- All current account transactions including exports, imports, and





remittances can be undertakenbetween Lankan residents and non-residents.

• Sri Lankan banks' Offshore Banking Units (OBU) have been granted permission to accept non-resident savings, time, and demand deposits.

Microsoft & Viasat Partners to Deliver Satellite Internet Globally by 2025

Viasat, a global satellite communications company and also the first satellite partner to joined hand with Microsoft Inc, a tech giant to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by

2025, including five million across Africa.



Key Points:

- According to the International Telecommunication Union at the United Nations (UN), around one-third of the world's population, that is, 2.7 billion people, have still never used the internet.
- Microsoft will use Viasat satellite to reach remote areas for conventional connectivity and shall rapidly scale and expand Airband'sreach, exploring a wider pipeline of projects.
- •Both the companies will provide and pilot technologies including, satellites (both geostationary orbit and low earth orbit) and fixed wireless.
- They will also combine their expertise and assets to enable telehealth, distance learning and education, precision agriculture, clean power and other services to reach new and also remote areas through the transformational provision of power and connectivity

SIDBI Collaborates with M1xchange as A Financier to Boost Liquidity for MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) has teamed with **M1xchange** as the financier to provide liquidity to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at low interest rates. SIDBI is the apex financial institution dedicated to the promotion, funding, and development of MSMEs. M1xchange, India's leading **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform, provides MSMEs with early financing within 24 hours via its online bidding platform and an end-to-end digital process. M1xchange is one of three TReDS platforms; the other two are RXIL and InvoiceMart.

Kev Points:



- With this exclusive offering from M1xchange TReDS, MSMEs will be able to use TReDS to discount receivables from corporate buyers.
- The discounting of bills of MSMEs is facilitated through TReDS, which is governed by the RBI. This enhances cash flow, liquidity, and the overall efficiency of MSMEs.
- This partnership is regarded as a highly effective and efficient option for solving the problem of delayed payment for MSMEs.
- The MSME sector accounts for the majority of enterprises inIndia and is regarded as the second largest employer after agriculture.

Reliance group launches FMCG brand 'Independence' in Gujarat

Reliance Consumer Products, a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures





Ltd (RRVL), launched its made-for-India Fast-MovingConsumer Goods (FMCG) brand "**Independence**" in Gujarat.

Key Points:

- The company will provide a selection of goods under the "Independence" brand in a number of categories, including staples, processed foods, and other daily essentials.
- As it gets ready for the brand's national rollout, it also intends tomake Gujarat a "go-to-market" state by fostering excellence in execution for its FMCG sector.

PTC India Signs Pact with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation to Export 600MW Power

On 19th December 2022 PTC India Limited (PTC) entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with **Druk Green Power Corporation Limited**, an electricity utility firm in Bhutan for the purchase of powerfrom the Indian power market in order to meet

its power requirementduring the winter season. Under the partnership, Bhutan will procure up to 600 MW of powerfrom the Indian market during the winter season.

Key points:

- Bhutan has also executed an agreement with the settlement nodalagency for the settlement of grid operation related charges.
- Bhutan has been exporting hydro power to India over the years andnow due to its increasing domestic demand, Bhutan is in need to import electricity from India.



• This PPA will address the energy requirements and also strengthen the regional power markets for energy security and sustainability in South Asia.

IRDAI to Introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to Expand Insurance Force

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon introduce "Bima Vahaks" in each Gram Panchayat in order to strengthen the insurance force in India. Rakesh Joshi, an IRDAI member, made the announcement during the Business Standard BFSI InsightSummit 2022 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- A "Bima Vahak" will be assigned to each Gram Panchayat, to sell and service the 'Bima Vistar' line of basic parametric bundled insurance policies, which provide protection against health, property, life, and personal accident.
- This bundled product could be purchased in unitsof the sum insured, and app-based infrastructure will be made to ensure a seamless policyholder experience.
- Insurance companies are working with state governments to create state-level insurance policies that would boost penetration in areas thatdo not receive much attention from the major players.



• This measure will address the vast protection gap, in which 50% of vehicles are uninsured, property insurance coverage is miniscule, and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are uninsured.



Tata Projects Signs MoU with CSIR-IIP for Clean Energy Solutions

Tata Projects Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (**CSIR-IIP**),

Dehradun, Uttarakhand, to jointly work towards cleanenergy solutions.

This MoU is in line with the CSIR-IIP's mandate to reduce India's energy imports and enhance national self-reliance byrepurposing waste and under-utilised local renewable carbonresources.

Key Points:

- The MoU will help in reducing India's energy imports and also enhance India's self-reliance by repurposing waste andunder-utilised local renewable carbon resources.
- The Tata Project will use **clean energy solutions** such asroom temperature biodiesel produced from CSIR-IIP forsome of its ongoing sites.
- The Partnership will further allows to actively explore the utilisation of by-product green diesel from the existing Drop-In Liquid Sustainable Aviation Fuel and Automotive fuel (DILSAAF) pilot plant at CSIR-IIP's campus in Dehradun and the proposed commercial scale demonstration unit in Tata Projects' fleet.

GAIL Signs Charter with Japan's Mitsui OSK for LNG Carrier

State-owned **Gail (India) Limited** and Japanese transport firm **Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL),** signed a **timecharter contract** through its wholly owned subsidiary, for a new-build Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

carrier, and also for joint ownership of an existing **LNG carrier**. The vessel will be built by South Korean shipbuilderDaewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering with a charter period from 2023.



Key Points:

- This is the 2nd agreement for a LNG carrier signed between MOL and GAIL.
- The 1st carrier, under the agreement signed in 2019, shipsLNG from the United States of America Gulf Coast to India.

Tata Power Receives Rs. 450 Crore Credit Facility from Japan's MUFG Bank

Tata Power Company Limited (**Tata Power**) has acquired a Rs. 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility" from **MUFG** (**Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group**) **Bank of Japan** to fund two solar projects under TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL). The two solar power projects are:

A 100 MW (megawatt) renewable energy project in Parthur, Maharashtra





A 120 MW green energy project in Mesanka, Gujarat

Key Points:

- It is MUFG's first sustainable trade finance facility in India, and TPKL will use the funds to create renewable energy capacity.
- As Tata Power expands its clean energy portfolio and contributes to India's net-zero targets, the collaboration willopen up potential avenues for green financing.
- The credit facility will assist Tata Power in attaining net-zero emissions by 2045.
- This agreement further establishes MUFG as a prominent **ESG** (environmental, social, and governance) financier in the Asia-Pacific region.
- With this agreement, MUFG and Tata Power are able to support their shared commitment to renewable energy and give India a sustainable source of green energy.
- MUFG has committed to achieving net-zero emissions in its finance portfolio by 2050 and in its own operations by the end 2030.
- MUFG extended a USD 163 million syndicated finance credit for Azure Power's 300 MW solar project inRajasthan.
- Previously, MUFG and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation acted as major lenders for an almost USD 205.31 million project loan facility for Adani Green Energy's subsidiary to help refinance its debt.

NTPC Ltd & GE Power Sign MoU to Reduce Carbon Intensity from Coal-Based PowerPlants

NTPC Ltd. (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), India's largest power generating utility, and GE Power India Limited (GE Power), a listed entity of GE Steam Power in India, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the feasibility of reducing the

Key Points:

• With the help of this agreement, NTPC will gradually replace the coal that is fired at its units with co-firing of **carboneous** and **non-carboneous** fuels while also reducing the amount of coal fired at units.

carbon footprint of NTPC's existing coal-fired power plants.

- Carboneous elements include methanol, carbon-neutral fuel, agri-waste, and biomass, whereas non-carboneous elements include ammonia.
- The primary objective of this collaboration is to enable and support NTPC in co-firing methanol and biomass pellets at levels greater than 20% and up to 100%.
- Additionally, it will explore the possibility of adding **ammonia** as a co-firing fuel and develop, test, and demonstrate technology that enables complete co-firing with lower carbon fuels in coal-fired power plants.
- Furthermore, since coal is India's only baseload alternative, it will help lower carbon footprint from a consistent source of power for decades to come.
- NTPC plans to reduce the carbon footprint of its 57 GW (gigawatts) of coal-fired units.
- It aspires to reduce its carbon footprint from coal-fired power plants by co-firing alternative fuels such as carbon-neutral fuel, green methanol, and green ammonia.
- This is a part of 'The Brighter Plan 2032' of NTPC, which intends to set new standards for sustainabilityacross India's entire energy value chain.



IOCL selects Reliance Jio to manage Network Services for its Retail Outlets

• Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, JioBusiness, has won the IndianOil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) order for providing an **SD- WAN** (Software Defined Wide Area Network) solution that will power IOCL's retail automation and critical business processes.

Reliance Jio will be deploying and managing SD-WAN for IOCL across its **7,200** retail outlets for a period of 5 years.

• The retail outlets are payment processing, daily price updates, Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) software and network monitoring with enterprise-grade connectivity,

Quality of Service (QOS) and 24×7 support across 28 states and 8 Union Territories (UT).



Launch of

RESPECT

Senior Care Rider

<u>Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Launches 'Respect Senior Care Rider' for Senior</u> Citizens

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Limited launched the 'Respect Senior Care Rider', a unique and first-of-its-kindhealth insurance riders, which will offer 360-degree assistance for senior citizens.

The company has tied up with a wide network of service providers to assist the insured.

The company collaborates with Strategic Partners to provideseamless services experience for customers by providing them a 24×7 direct connection in under 30 seconds with the medical support and emergency platform which activates rapid response within 10 minutes.

Key Points:

• The main aim of the rider product is to minimise the worries of senior citizens and of their familymembers who are living in different cities.

The Respect Senior Care Rider is available in 3 plans:

- Plan 1 provides planned and emergency road ambulance service, home assistance/daily care, cyber and travel legal assistance.
- Plan 2 offers home care services including physiotherapy & nursing care, concierge services, psychological assistance and medical tele-consultation services.
- Plan 3 provides smart watches with fall detection technology, which tracks and records Oxygen Saturation(SP02), Body Temperature, Medicine Reminder, Heart Rate and SOS.
- The product cost starts from **INR 700 and ranges up to INR 7,500** excluding Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- Any individual who is insured with Bajaj Allianz Health Insurance (base policy) can add this rider for themselves or their family members with 50 years of age or above.

SEBI expands Committees on Cyber Security and Information System

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) expanded its High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee(ISSC) to strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyberresilience requirements.





• High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security(HPSC-CS)

This committee has been expanded to 8 members from 6 members. It will continue to be chaired by **Navin Kumar Singh**, Director General (DG) at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC).

• Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)

SEBI also expanded its panel on Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) to 7 members whichwill continue to be chaired by **Prof H. Krishnamurthy**, IISc, Bengaluru.

ADB Approves USD 125 Million Loan to Improve Urban Services in TN

Asian Development Bank **(ADB)** signed a **USD 125 million** (about Rs 1,025 crore) loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment along with the drainage and water supply

Coimbatore, Madurai and **Thoothukudi** of Tamil Nadu (TN). **Key Points:**

systems in three cities,

- This is the **third and the last tranche** (tranche3 loan) of the USD 500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Flagship Program approved by ADB in **2018** for building priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across 10 cities in TN.
- The 3rd tranche of the loan covers projects inCoimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi.
- Through these projects, the ADB will support development and improve the urban services in Tamil Nadu by developing new approaches like building and operating modality, automaticmetres for bulk water users, and real time monitoring through supervisory control and data acquisition systems.



The **Mahametro Corporation** has finalised its debt arrangement and raised a loan of Rs. **3,586 crore** from Asian Development Bank **(ADB)** and the European

Investment Bank (EIB) for the second phase of its Metro project in Nagpur.

Around 630 million Euros was arranged during the first phase of the project and was funded by France's AFD and KFW, a German agency. **Key Points:**

 The Phase II of the project will extend the existing 4 corridors of

Phase-I covering a total distance of 43.8 km. The second phase will be completed by 2026.

The 43.8 km of the corridor will extend to Kanhan in North, Butibori MIDC in South, Transport Nagar(Kapsi) in East and Hingna in West.

- MIHAN – MIDC ESR (18.6 km)





- Automotive Square Kanhan River (13.0 km)
- Prajapati Nagar Kapsi (5.5 km)
- Lokmanya Nagar Hingna (6.7 km)
- It comprises 1.2 km at-grade with 2 stations and 42.6 km elevated with 30 stations and will also connect the satellite cities like Transport Hub at Kapsi, Industrial areas of Hingna and Butibori and Mining areas at Kanhan, with only one interchange at Sitabuldi.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ DEFENCE

ICG commissioned new ALH Mk-III squadron, 840 squadron, in Chennai

Director General of Indian Coast Guard(ICG), VS Pathania, commissioned **840 Squadron(840 Sqn(CG))**, an ICG Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, at ICG Air Station, **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.

The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) highlights the achievements towards self-reliance in the field ofhelicopter manufacturing, in line with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" vision.

Key Points:

- This would support strengthening the Coast Guard Region East and boost the abilities of the Indian CoastGuard in the securitysensitive waters off Tamil Naduand Andhra region.
- Since its induction, the squadron has flown over 430hours and conducted numerous operational missions.
- ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously manufacturedby Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ALH Mk-III features state-of-the-art
 equipment including advanced RADAR as well
 as Electro optical
 sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced
 communicationsystems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue
 homer.
- It can undertake maritime reconnaissance, and carry out search and rescue at extended rangeswhile operating from ships, both by day and night.
- It can switch roles from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to one carrying a MedicalIntensive Care Unit to facilitate the transfer of critically ill patients.

<u>Israeli Navy successful test fired long-range interceptor missile against cruisemissile</u>

Israeli Navy successfully tested the first-of-its-kind long-range interceptor missile against an "advanced" cruise missile LRAD, part of the Barak MX defense system.

LRAD was launched from a Sa'ar 6-class corvette INS Magen, after detecting a target that resembled an advanced ruise missile and destroyed it.

LARD was developed by the Israeli Aerospace



Industries and the Defense Ministry's research and development division, known by the Hebrew acronym MAFAT.

Key Points:

- The BARAK LRAD interceptor is part of the BARAKMX System that is an advanced Air & Missile DefenseSystem.
- The interceptor system includes advanced radar, a weapon system, and a long-range interceptor.
- It deals with a wide range of aerial threats, including fighters, drones, cruise missiles, surface-to-surface missiles and rockets, anti-ship missiles and unarmed aerial vehicles (UAVs).

China launches three astronauts to Tiangong space station

China launched a spacecraft with a 3-person crew to its under-construction Tiangong space stationamid intensifying competition with the United States. It landed about 6 hours after the launch.

Key Points:

- The Shenzhou-15 spaceship carrying the aircraft was launchedfrom the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Northwest China.
- The crew will spend six months in orbit and conduct a number of science experiments.
- The team for the six-month mission is led by veteran Fei Junlong and two first-time astronauts Deng Qingming andZhang Lu.



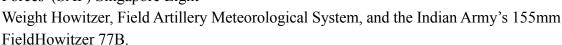
Ex Agni Warrior 2022 between Armed Forces of Singapore & India Concludes at Maharashtra

The 12th edition of Agni Warrior (XAW) 2022, a bilateral exercise between the **Singapore ArmedForces** (SAF) & **Indian Army** (IA) was held at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali in Maharashtra from November 13 – 30, 2022.

The closing event was witnessed by Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India & Lieutenant General S Harimohan Iyer, Commandant, School of Artillery along with other dignitaries from Singapore & serving officers from botharmies.

Key Points:

 The exercise culminated in a joint live-firing exercise involving the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Singapore Light
 Weight Howitzer Field Artillery Meteorologic



• XAW comprises joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment





by the Artillery arm of both armies.

- Expert academic discussions were also conducted on modern trends in Artillery and refinement of Artillery planning process.
- A joint computer war-game was also held as a part of the joint planning process.

B-21 Raider: US unveils 6th generation Nuclear Bomber

United States (US) Airforce has unveiled its newest nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider,

whichis world's first Sixth-Generation Aircraft.

The technology behind this is developed and deliveredby the **Northrop Grumman.** It will cost nearly \$700m (£569m) each and can carrynuclear and conventional weapons.

Key Points:

It is named in honour of the **Doolittle Raids** of WorldWar II when 80 men, led by Lt. Col. James Jimmy" Doolittle, and 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers set off on a mission that changed the course of World War II.



- The designation B-21 recognizes the Raider as the first bomber of the 21st century.
- US Air Force plans to buy at least 100 B-21 Raider stealth bombers which will replace the B-1 and B-2 models.
- It is estimated to cost \$203bn (£165bn) to develop, buy and operate over 30 years.
- B-21 is part of the Pentagon's efforts to modernize all three legs of its nuclear triad, which includessilo-launched nuclear ballistic missiles and submarine-launched warheads.
- It is capable of networking across the battlespace to multiple systems, and into all domains.
- It is expected tomake its first flight in 2023, and will enter operations in 2026 or 2027.

IIT Madras develops Sindhuja-I or 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' to Generate Electricity from Sea Waves

The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have developed a devicecalled **Sindhuja-I** or '**Ocean Wave Energy Converter**', that can generate electricity from sea waves. Sindhuja means "created from the ocean" in Sanskrit.

The device trials were completed during the second week of November 2022.

- According to the IIT Madras statement, The device was deployed approximately 6 kilometres (km) off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, at a location with a depth of 20 metres.
- The Ocean Wave Energy Converter targets



generating 1 megawatt (MW) of power from ocean waves in the next 3 years.

- The success of this initiative will contribute to the achievement of various goals, including the UNOcean Decade and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- India's goals: deep water missions, clean energy and achieving a blue economy.
- It could assist India in meeting its climate change-related goals of generating 500 GW of electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

DRDO hands over Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of Akash Weapon System to Missile Systems Quality Assurance Agency

Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) handed over the Authority HoldingSealed Particulars (**AHSP**) of the Akash Weapon System (Indian Army Version) to Missile Systems Quality AssuranceAgency (**MSQAA**) in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Key Points:

- The Akash missile system was developed by a group of DRDO laboratories, including 3 from Pune.
- Akash is the 1st indigenous state-of-the-art surfaceto-airmissile system that has been in service with the armed forces for nearly a decade.
- According to the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the system has been inducted by the Indian Armyand Indian Air Force with an order value worth Rs 30,000 crore.



ISRO Signs MoU with Vyom Space to Build Private Space Capsules

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with



Gurugram, Haryana-based private space firm, Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited (Vyom Space), for its 'human and cargo transportation capsule program'. The MoU has been facilitated by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (INSPACe), India's nodalspace authorization body and an autonomous agency under the Department of Space, Government of India (GoI).

Key Points:

• This MoU is intended for joint development of strategic technology in the field of space, with special focus on a human

and cargo transportation capsule programme.



- A 'capsule' in a space mission is the module, in which any cargo is placed for being carried to space whilethe capsule in manned missions will host the astronauts.
- The capsules are generally single-use in nature, whereas the Crew Dragon capsule of SpaceX, ElonMusk's US-based private space firm, is a reusable human and cargo module.
- The new capsule by Vyom Space will be **reusable** and would be an evolution of the capsule in ISRO'smanned mission, Gaganyaan, which are all single-use.

<u>ISRO & Social Alpha Sign MoU to establish SpIN – SpaceTech Innovation Platform</u>

Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Social Alpha**, a Non-profit Organization based in Bengaluru,

Karnataka, to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (**SpIN**), India's first dedicated platform for innovation curation and venture development for the flourishing space entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Key Points:

 The government of Ladakh(Union Territory) and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of the Indian SpaceResearch Organisation (ISRO), has partnered to develop a "Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal – Geo-Ladakh" for Ladakh.



 Ladakh government and IIRS-ISRO signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the above development on 1st January 2022.

INS Kochi, INS Kavaratti & INS Sumedha Participates in BN IFR-22

Indian Navy ships (INS) Kochi, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha participated in BN IFR-22, the maidenInternational Fleet Review (IFR) conducted by the Bangladesh

Navy (BN) between 6th and 9th December 2022 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was the chiefguest for BN IFR -22.

Key Points:

• IFR – 22 was conducted by BN to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman, the country's father of the nation(Bangladesh) and also to celebratethe Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh.



 All three ships including INS Kochi, a guided missile stealth destroyer; INS Kavaratti, an antisubmarinecorvette and INS Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel were designed and developed indigenously.



• INS Kochi is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha

Japan To Jointly Develop 'Next-Generation' Fighter Jet With UK, Italy

Japan has signed a deal with the United Kingdom (UK) and Italy to develop a next-generation fighteraircraft together by 2035. This enables Japan to work with countries other than the United States (US) for the first time to meet a major defencerequirement.

Key Points:

- The move entails integrating Japan's F-X and Britain's Tempest, a successor to the Eurofighter Typhoon, into the next-generation combat aircraft, which will be deployed in 2035.
- The outdated F-2 fighter jets that Japan had co-developed with the US will be replaced by the Mitsubishi F-X.
- The agreement will enable the UK to have a stronger presence in the Indo-Pacific area and provide Japanwith more assistance in defending against China's growing aggression.
- Japan has been enlarging its defence alliances with nations in the Indo-Pacific, including Australia, Southeast Asian nations, and Europe, to offset the rising threats from China and North Korea.



SpaceX Launches 40 OneWeb Satellites into Polar Orbit

SpaceX successfully launched **40 OneWeb** broadband relay satellites onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, tosupport London-based OneWeb (legally Network

Access Associates Ltd) to expand its fleet in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Falcon 9rocket was launched from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, United States of America(USA).

Key Points:

- This marks SpaceX's 55th launch of 2022, its 188th Falcon 9 flight overall, and its 154th successful booster recovery. This is OneWeb's 15th launch till date.
- These 40 satellites, released into an initial 373mile-high orbit tilted 87 degrees to the equator





will use onboard xenon ion thrusters to reach their operational altitude of about 745 miles.

• This was the **first** of three planned missions and the next two dedicated launches with SpaceX are planned for 2023, in addition to another launch with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

ISRO Successfully Completes Joint 'Hypersonic Vehicle Trials' & Conducted Hot Testof Scramjet Engine in TN

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a joint hypersonic vehicle trial along

with the Headquarters of Integrated DefenceStaff (**HQ IDS**).

The trial matched the predetermined targets and achieved all requiredparameters and demonstrated hypersonic vehicle capability.

Key Points:

- A hypersonic vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft that has the ability to travel five times faster than the speed of sound, or greater than Mach 5.
- It is regarded as cutting-edge technology, and countries like China, India,
- Russia, and the United States of America(USA) have been trying to further enhance the ability of their hypersonic weapons.
- ISRO has been developing hypersonic missiles in collaboration with Russia.



CELLINK, the global leader in developing 3D bioprinters and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) inaugurated India's 1st 3D bioprinting Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc's Bengaluru campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Key Points:

- The CoE was inaugurated by Dr Ashwath Narayan
 C N, Minister of Electronics, Information
 Technology- Biotechnology, Science and Technology,
 Government of Karnataka; Prof Govindan
 Rangarajan, the Director of IISc; and Tomoko
 Bylund, CELLINK's Head of Sales Asia-Pacific
 (APAC).
- The CoE will provide researchers with access to 3D bioprinting systems, allowing them to accelerate their workacross critical applications and ultimately improve health outcomes.
- It will store several cutting-edge CELLINK 3D bioprinters
- CoE will also contribute towards exploring new pathways in 3D bioprinting research and technology





development.

Navies of India & Indonesia Take Part in the 39th Edition of IND-INDO CORPAT

39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (**IND-INDO CORPAT**) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted between **8th December** and 19th December 2022.

The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from

The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from 15thDecember 2022 to 16th December 2022.

The CORPAT will conclude with a debrief at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Key Points:

- The IND-INDO CORPAT between India and Indonesia has been carried out **twice a year** since 2002, with an aim of keeping the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and also to conduct legitimate maritime activities.
- The exercise helps in enhancing understanding and interoperability between the two navies in facilitating measures to prevent Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.
- It also helps in enhancing operational synergy between two navies bythe exchange of information for the prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and for the conduct of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea.



SpaceX Launches Private Mission to Moon

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (**SpaceX**) launched a mission to carry a Japanese lander named '**HAKUTO**', the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Rover named '**Rashid**', and NASA's Jet PropulsionLaboratory's Lunar Flashlight by its Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States.

Key Points:

- The **HAKUTO** lander, which translates to **white rabbit**, is also the part of the Mission 1 by the Japanese lunar exploration company **ispace**. A second lunar landing by the private companyispace is planned for 2024 and a third in 2025.
- The Rashid Rover, a first Arab-built lunar spacecraft was built byDubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and is being delivered by the



HAKUTO-R lander, engineered by Japanese lunar exploration company ispace.



Godi India Begins Production of India's 1st 5.2 Ah 21700 Cylindrical Lithium-ion Cells

Godi India Private Limited (Godi India) has begun the production of India's first-ever 5.2 amp-hour (Ah) 21700 cylindrical lithium-ion cells with an energy density of 275 watt-hours per kilogram (Wh/kg), based onsilicon anode technology, in its Hyderabad facility,

Telangana.

Godi India is the first Indian Company to get Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) certification to sell homegrown lithium-ion cells. **Key points:**

- Godi India has delivered 5.0Ah cells to the top 6 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in India and it is planning todeliver 5.2Ah cells to them in future.
- The company also plans to establish a 100 MWh pilot production facility for 5.0-5.2Ah cells followed by a GWh plant to provide therequirements of the demanding electric 2-wheeler needs.
- The demand for the electric 2-wheeler battery segment is set to reach 50MWh by 2030.
- Godi India will also export its lithium-ion cells made using its technology to major international marketslike Norway, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom(UK), and the United States of America(USA).

Dept. Of Space & Agriculture Department Sign MoU to Develop Krishi-DSS

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), and the Department of Space (DOS) to develop the **Krishi-Decision Support System** (Krishi-DSS).

The MoU was signed at the official release of the data products and services of the **Radar Imaging Satellite** (**RISAT)-1A** satellite for the user community in New Delhi, Delhi.

It was jointly released by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, MoA&FW, and Union Minister of State (MoS), Dr.Jitendra Singh, DOS.

Key points:

• The MoA&FW is developing Krishi-DSS, a decision supportsystem modelled after Gati Shakti, using **RISAT-1A** and the



- Visualization of Earth Observation Data and Archival System (VEDAS) of DOS.
- RISAT-1A, India's first radar imaging satellite, was launched on February 14, 2022.
- It is an all-weather satellite that can take high-resolution geospatial images regardless of lightingconditions and can penetrate deeper into vegetation.

Geographical Indication Tag

'Gamocha', a symbol of Assamese culture and identity, has been granted the Geographical Indication



(GI) tag by the Central Government, 5 years after the initial application in 2017.

A GI is primarily a product that originates in a certain geographical location, whether it is a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods), a natural product, or an agricultural product.

Key points:

•According to the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, the GI tag has been registered in favour of the Directorate of Handloom and Textiles, Government of Assam.

- The certificate for "Gamocha" has been granted as of October 16, 2017 inaccordance with the application by the directorate.
- The procedure began in 2017 when the Institute of Handicraft Development of the Golaghat district of Assam submitted an application for a GI tag.

Maruti Suzuki showcased Wagon R, India's First Mass Segment Flex Fuel PrototypeCar

Maruti Suzuki India Limited (Maruti Suzuki) showcased the Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model, India's first mass segment Flex Fuel prototype car in the presence of Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.



Key points:

- The Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype is aligned with the Government of India (GoI)'s clean and green initiatives and hasbeen designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20 percent (E20) and 85 percent (E85) fuel.
- The car is designed and developed locally by engineers of Maruti Suzuki, with necessary support from Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan.
- It comprises a specifically upgraded engine designed to usehigher ethanol-blended petrol to make the engine compatible with higher ethanol blends (E20-E85).
- It also contains new fuel system technologies like heated fuel rail for cold start assist and ethanol sensorfor ethanol percentage detection have been built.
- Other components like engine management system, upgraded fuel pump and fuel injector, have been developed along with other upgraded mechanical components to ensure engine and vehicle durability.

India to Be the First Country to Auction Satellite Spectrum

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), announced at the "India SatCom 2022", the 8th international summit of the Broadband India Forum (BIF), that India will be the first country in the world to



auction satellite communications (SatCom) spectrum. It will be aimed at attracting investments in the SatCom sector.

Key points:

- •To improve the ease of doing business in the sector, the TRAI willshortly offer suggestions to streamline the approvals needed for satellite communication from several ministries/departments.
- •It includes the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB),Department of Space (DOS), and

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.

- The DoT has referred TRAI to the spectrum that must be auctioned and related aspects of satellite-based communication.
- TRAI will develop a model for the auction of space spectrum and is yet to issue a consultation paper on the spectrum auction as part of the standard SatCom process.

IAF Conducts Annual Air Exercise in Eastern Sector

Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts a 2-day exercise in the Eastern Sector on 15 & 16 December 2022. Itinvolves practically all of its frontline fighter jets and other assets stationed in the region, following therecent clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.



Key Points:

- The exercise is intended to assess the IAF's overallcombat capability and military preparedness in the region.
- It is likely to see the activation of IAF bases in the areasaround Tezpur, Chabua, Jorhat in Assam and Hasimara in West Bengal.
- The exercise will include the IAF's frontline fighter jets, including Sukhoi-30MKIs and Rafale jets, and many additional platforms deployed in the region.
- The exercise will also include all frontline air bases

andcertain critical Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) in the Northeast.

SIPRI Report: India's HAL, BEL Rise in Rankings Among Top 100 Global ArmsManufacturers

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedishthink-tank, released a report titled 'Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies 2021', which lists companies making arms, weapons, military planes and



equipment.

Key Points:

- India's military equipment manufacturing companies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and BharatElectronics Limited (BEL) have been listed in the top 100.
- HAL has improved to **42nd** position in **2021** ranking, compared to 43rd in 2020 and BEL has secured **63rd** position, showing improvement from 69th position in 2020.
- The United States (US) has topped the list followed by China, for the second successive year.

NASAAstronauts successfully Install Roll-Out SolarArray on ISS

The two NASA astronauts, **Josh Cassada** and **Frank Rubio** have successfully installed a Roll-Out Solar Array (ROSA) on the starboardtruss structure of the International Space Station (ISS).

Key Points:

- After being installed on the station's Starboard-4 truss segment, the roll-out solar array successfully extended to its full length of **60**
- On 27th November 2022, the array was delivered by Space X's Dragon cargo plane and will provide up to 30% more power to the ISS, totalling 120,000 watts ofelectricity during orbital daytime.
- On December 3, 2022, they installed their 1st ROSA on the station's Starboard-4 truss segment opposite P4 (Port 4).
- The 2nd ROSA is expected to be installed on 19th December 2022.



6th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' initiated at Umroi Military Stationin Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya. It will culminate on December 28, 2022.



Key Points:

- •The exercise will improve military relations, utilizes each other'sbest practices, and promote the ability to collaborate while undertaking counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban or jungle scenarios under a UN (United Nations) Peace Enforcement mandate.
- •Both armies will train, plan and execute a series of combinedtactical drills for neutralizing threats.
- •In 2016, the two countries instituted 'Exercise Prabal Dostyk', ajoint annual training exercise which was later





upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed 'Exercise Kazind' in 2018.

India successfully carries out Night Trials of nuclear-capable Agni-V Missile

India successfully conducted night trials of nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni V from APJ Abdul KalamIsland off the

Odisha coast.

This was the 9th flight of the Agni V as a part of routine test. It was first tested in 2012. It will be inducted into the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Key Points:

- The test was carried out to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile. It proved the capability to enhancethe range of the Agni-V missile, if required.
- It was on the lines of India's stated policy to have credible minimum deterrence by committing to **No First-Use** (NFU).
- It is an ingeniously built advanced **surface-to-surface** ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptormissile.
- This 17 metres long and capable of carrying a 1.5-tonne warhead can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000kilometers with a very high degree of accuracy. It uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.
- IGMDP is the brain-child of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam which include five missiles P-A-T-N-A i.e. Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.
- The Agni-V project is aimed at boosting India's nuclear deterrence against China which has missiles like Dongfeng-41 having ranges between 12,000-15,000 km. It can bring almost the entire Asia including thenorthernmost part of China, and some regions in Europe under its striking range.

India receives its final 36th Rafale jet from France

India received its final 36th Rafale aircraft with RB tail number from France that is equipped with all 13 India specific enhancements.

These include powerful radio altimeter, radar warning receiver, low band jammer, flight data recorder, high- altitude engine start-up, synthetic aperture radar, ground moving target indicator and tracking, infrared search and track, helmet-mounted display, missile

approach warning systems and very high-frequency range decoys.

Key Points:





- Its all spares and other parts are replaced as it was being used for developmental activities.
- The 35 of these planes are stationed at Ambala, Haryana and Hashimara in West Bengal.
- The Rafale is a 4.5-generation aircraft with long range air toair and air to ground missiles along with advanced radar and electronic warfare capabilities.
- India and France had signed the Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) in 2016, under which Paris agreed toprovide 36 Rafale fighter jets for around Rs 60,000 crore to India. The cost of each jet was estimated to bearound Rs 670 crore (7.87 billion Euro).
- The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived on July 29, 2020 in Ambala, Haryana and became part of the 17 Squadron, the 'Golden Arrows'.
- These were manufactured by **Dassault Aviation**.

India-Nepal joint Training Exercise Suya Kiran XVI begins at Saljhandi, Nepal

16th Edition of **Indo-Nepal** joint training Exercise 'Surya Kiran-XVI' between India and Nepal began at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi in the Rupandehi district of Lumbini Zone, Nepal. The exercise will beconducted till 29th December 2022.

Participants – Nepal Army soldiers of Shree BhawaniBaksh Battalion and Indian Army soldiers from the 5thGorkha Rifles (5 GR) will participate in the exercise. **Kev Points**

- The exercise would mainly focus on evolution of combined drills for planning and conduct of tactical perations at unit level in counter terrorism operations and disaster response mechanism and also role of armed forces in management of disaster.
- During the exercise, participants will be trained together to develop inter-operability and share their experience in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations as well as humanitarian relief operations.
- Both the armies would familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics and procedures while operating in a Counter Insurgency environment, especially in mountainous terrain.
- Also, the participating contingents will be exposed to scenarios dealing with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, high altitude warfare and jungle warfare operations for further enhancing the scope and scale of the exercise.

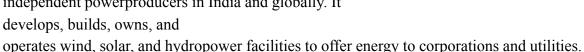


ReNew signs pact with Microsoft India to supply 150 MW Green Energy

ReNew Power (ReNew) has signed an agreement with MicrosoftIndia to supply 150 megawatts (MW) of green energy from a recently commissioned solar site near Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Key Points

- This venture will assist Microsoft in achieving its goal of switching to a 100% renewable energy supply by 2025 and turningcarbon negative by 2030.
- ReNew is one of the largest renewable energyindependent powerproducers in India and globally. It develops, builds, owns, and





US-France satellite SWOT launched successfully to map world's Oceans, Rivers, Lakes

United States (US)-France satellite 'SWOT aka Surface Water and Ocean' was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, US. It will map all of the world's oceans, lakes and rivers.

This **USD 1.2 billion** project is developed by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in collaboration with the French Space Agency Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES) in partnership with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the United Kingdom (UK) Space Agency.

The SWOT mission lifetime is 3

vears.

Key Points

- The satellite will measure the height of water on more than 90% of Earth's surface, allowing scientists to trackthe flow and identify potential high-risk areas
- It will also survey millions of lakes as well as 1.3 million miles (2.1 million kilometres) of rivers, fromheadwater to mouth.
- It will shoot radar pulses at Earth, with the signals bouncing back to be received by a pair of antennas, oneon each end of a 33-foot (10-metre) boom.





Google partners DigiLocker to bring On-Device Storing of Government IDs

Google for India 2022 (8th edition) conference, Google announced a partnership with **DigiLocker**, agovernment-authorised identification storage system, to bring local storage of government-issued IDs onAndroid devices.

Key Points:

- Over 137 million people are registered users of DigiLocker. More than 2,300 issuers have produced more than 5.6 billion documents using the programme to date.
- In March 2022, DigiLocker's user base topped 100 million. To retrieve, digitize, and store government-issued papers, it makes use of an Application Programming Interface (API).



- The application was developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).
- DigiLocker will soon be pre-installed on Android devices and is authorised to function as the equivalent ofan official document
- The AI system would be able to locally recognise documents provided by the government, such as Aadhaar and PAN.

'INS Mormugao': Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer Commissioned into Indian Navy

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D67), the second of four "Visakhapatnam"-class destroyers, alsoknown as the "Project 15B" class of stealth guided- missile destroyers, was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

It underwent sea trials on December 19, 2021, when Goa commemorated 60 years of independence fromPortuguese rule.

Key Points:

- The INS Mormugao is named after Mormugao, a
 - historic port city in Goa on the west coast.
- It was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders was indigenously designed by the Warship DesignBureau, an in-house organisation of the Indian Navy.
- Limited (MDL), a Mumbai-based company, and



• It is an embodiment of India's growing indigenous defence production capabilities, with over



75% indigenous components.

E2S Power signs agreement with IPCL for a 250 KWh pilot thermal energy storage



Switzerland-based **E2S Power**, aleading developer of thermal energy storage solutions, and **India Power Corporation Limited**(**IPCL**), one of the leading

power utilities in India, have signed an agreement for a **250** kilowatt-hour (**kWh**) pilot

thermal energy storage unit to be operated in India.

The Pilot unit was engineered, built, and tested at the E2S Power facility in less than 9 months. The pilot thermal energy storage unit passed the Factory Acceptance Tests and is to be delivered in the 1st quarter of 2023. This is the 1st step to implementing the E2S solution globally.

Key Points:

- This partnership will help in transforming thermal power assets into clean energy storage facilities, making a significant contribution to the growth of India's renewable energy sector.
- It is because the solution can be implemented quickly to provide urgently needed energy storage whileusing most of the infrastructure in thermal power plants being retired and safeguarding jobs.
- Long Duration Energy Storage System (**LDESS**) is the ideal solution given the fast-increasing production frenewable energy in the overall energy mix.
- It will also provide a solution for meeting the requirement of flexibilization of Thermal Power Plants.
- Through this partnership, E2S Power expects to cater for an estimated demand of 10 GW of LongDuration Energy Storage Systems (LDESS) within the next 8-10 years.
- IPCL and E2S Power will work jointly with major companies in India's power and renewable energy sectors to identify, evaluate and offer optimized integrated thermal energy solutions for existing plants and facilities being phased out.
- A reliable power system faces new challenges and opportunities in operating and maintaining the evolvingpower generation mix and growing demand.

Indian Navy Gets 5th Scorpene Class Submarine 'Vagir'

Fifth Scorpene-class conventional submarine, "Vagir", of "Project 75", Kalvari Class submarines, Yard 11879, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, Maharashtra.

It will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2023 as "Indian Naval"



Ship (INS)Vagir," a fully combat-worthy submarine capable of operation in all modes and deployment regimes.

Key Points:

- Six Scorpene-class submarines are to be builtindigenously under Project-75.
- •The first submarine, "INS Kalvari," was commissioned in December 2017, followed by 2nd submarine"INS Khanderi" in September 2019, 3rd submarine "INS Karanj" in March 2021, and 4th submarine "INS Vela" in November 2021.
- •Vagir was launched into the water on November 12, 2020, and began sea trials on February 1, 2022.

Indian Navy launches its first anti-submarine warfare ship "INS Arnala"

Indian Navy launched the Indian Naval Ship (INS) "Arnala," the first of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow WaterCraft (ASW-SWC) [Yard 3029], at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T)in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal.

Key Points:

- The ship's name, "Arnala," honours the strategic maritime significance that Marathawarrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj bestowed on the island of Arnala, which is situated about 13 kilometres north of Vasai, Maharashtra.
- "INS Arnala" had its maiden contact with Bay of Bengal water during a launch ceremony presided over by Rasika Chaube, Financial Adviser (Defence Services) of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

NASA retires Mars InSight Lander After 4 year Mission

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

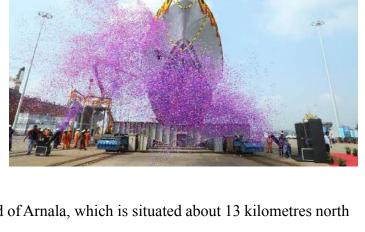
(NASA) formally retired its Mars

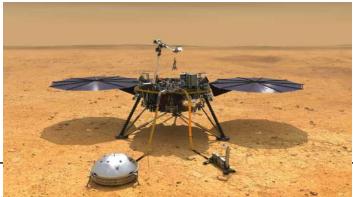
InSight lander after more than 4 years of

collecting unique science on Mars. The last timeInSight communicated with Earth was on 15th December 2022.

Key Points:

• InSight was the first robotic probe that was







DIVINE CURRENT AFFAIRS

specially designed to study the interior of Mars, the red planet. **NASA** declared the mission overwhen InSight missed 2 consecutive communication sessions with the spacecraft orbiting Mars.

 InSight was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on 5th May 2018 and landed on Marson 26th November 2018.



ISRO to carry US Instruments on Board the Forthcoming Chandrayaan-3 Mission

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) forthcoming Chandrayaan-3 mission will carry scientific instruments of the UnitedStates of America (USA).

Key Points:

- In the last 5-years, India has signed 4 cooperative agreements to collaborate on space exploration.
- Apart from the USA, India has also signed an agreement with Japanto conduct a feasibility study for a joint lunar polar exploration mission, while the United Kingdom (UK) has an agreement to conduct a feasibility study for collaboration in future space science missions.



ISRO's Long Duration CE-20 Engine Hot Test successful

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully operated CE-20, a cryogenic rocket engine with a thrust level of 22t for a long duration of 650 seconds.

The activity was carried out at the Cryogenic Main Engine & Stage Test Facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu (TN).

The CE20 engine is designed and developed by

Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC),

Valiamala, Kerala.

Key Points:

- The engine was operated with a 20.2t thrust level for the first 40s, followed by an operation at 20t off-nominal zones) before operating it at 22.2 t for a duration of 435 s, by moving the thrust control valve.
- The engine used for this hot test had undergone 11 hot tests with a cumulative duration of 2720 s earlier. Thus, It has undergone 3370 s cumulative burn duration at different thrust & mixture ratio levels.
- During the test, the engine and the facility performed normally and the required engine performanceparameters were achieved.



DIVINE CURRENT AFFAIRS

NTPC and Tecnimont sign MOU to develop Green Methanol Production Facility

NTPC Limited (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has signed a non-bindingMemorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mumbai

(Maharashtra) headquartered Tecnimont Private Limited (TCMPL), an Indian Subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont

Group, Italy. **Key points:**

- The scope of the Green Methanol Project includes capturing the carbon emission from the NTPC Power plantsand converting them into green fuel.
- Green Methanol has a wide range of applications, includingserving as a base material for the chemical industry, storing renewable electricity, and even as a transportation fuel. It isalso considered as a substitute fuel for maritime fuel applications.
- This project along with NTPCs under execution pilot scale
 Green Methanol project are in line with NTPC's commitment to sustainability and renewable energy.
 These will contribute to India's energy transition.



Tata Steel and **TuTr Hyperloop** signed an agreement to jointly work on the development and deployment of hyperloop technology. The partnership seeks to design, develop, and scale up the technology for commercialization that focuses on key challenges of design and materials selection.

Key points:

- The Phase-I work will take place on the 50-metre test trackat IIT Madras and subsequently, the work to achieve a 10- km track will be completed in Phase-II and Phase-III
 - involving a consortium of other industry partners from the automotive, construction and engineering sectors.
- Hyperloop is a future option for high-speed, low cost, sustainable transport system for both passengers and cargo, having key elements that includes tubes, pods, propulsion systems, and track.

IIT Guwahati, IIT Bombay & European Universities Partners to build Sensor for Water Ouality

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and IIT Bombay in collaboration with European







universities work towards building a low-cost technology to check the quality of potable and other water inIndia.

Key points:

- A core element of the project is a novelwater quality sensor that builds on the previous work done at Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France.
- Further developments have been made to the sensor during the project by researchers at Université Gustave Eiffelin collaboration with IIT Guwahati and the SME EGM, Sophia Antipolis, France.
- The lotus sensors are expected to meet the needs of the Indian Water Industriessince the LOTUS water quality sensor



- requirements were established after collecting information from Indian water utility owners, operators, endusers, and research and development experts.
- This project is in line with the vision of the Jal Jeevan Mission of the government of India and its Make- in-India initiative and it shall provide a low-cost water quality monitoring and safe drinking water supplysolution to the Indian citizens.
- IIT Guwahati collaborates with Linxens India Private Limited and Hydroscope Technology PrivateLimited, for the commercial production of the sensor for the Indian market.

<u>Piyush Goyal Launches Right to Repair Portal & New Premise of National Consumer Helpline</u>

- On the occasion of the National Consumer Day 2022 (24th December 2022), Piyush Goyal, UnionMinister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, launched newinitiatives, including the right to repairportal, an NTH mobile app and also opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre
- A Memorandum of
 Understanding (MoU) was also
 signed between theConsumer
 Affairs Department and Indian
 Institute of Technology(IIT)
 (BHU), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 and launched a capacity building
 programme of consumer
 commissions.

in New Delhi.



IIT Roorkee & AIIMS Delhi develops 'SwasthGarbh' mobile app for pregnant women

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee (Uttarakhand) researchers, in collaboration with All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, have developed a mobile application named 'SwasthGarbh' to provide antenatal care and real-time medical support to pregnant women. SwasthGarbh is the 1st pregnancy App that provides immediate access to doctor's advice and is clinically endorsed and credible.

This can be a vital tool for women in rural areas and those who do not have easy access to doctors.

Key Points:

- Both patients and doctors can profit from the features of the App free of cost as it is available on the Google Play Store.
- This app will provide real-time medical support all pregnant women and improve maternal- foetal health.
- The app enables 2-way communication betweendoctor and patient to improve pregnancy outcomes.



- The pilot study showed that the App was well accepted by pregnant women and doctors.
- The app also keeps track of recommended clinical tests and automatically sends customised notifications to patients.

IAF conducts trial run on emergency landingfacility on AP Highway

Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a trial run of the

4.1 km Emergency Landing Runway (ELR) constructed on the National Highway-16(NH-16) at Pichukalagudipadu village in Korisapadu mandal in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Key Points:

- During the trial run, the aircraft flew at a height of 100 metresabove the ground.
- The IAF fighter and transport aircraft carried out practice flying including circuit, approach and overshoot on the newfacility.



Army Inaugurates 1st 3D-printed Dwelling Unit for Soldiers in Ahmedabad

The Indian Army has inaugurated the 1st 3D-printed dwelling unit for the

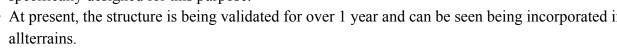


soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantonment in Gujarat.

The unit was constructed by the MilitaryEngineering Services (MES) in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd incorporating the latest 3D rapid construction technology.

Key Points:

- This uses a concrete 3D printer which accepts a three-dimensional (3D) design and fabricates a 3D structure in a layer-by-layer manner.
- This uses a specialised type of concrete specifically designed for this purpose.
- At present, the structure is being validated for over 1 year and can be seen being incorporated in



Tata Power Renewable to set up a 255 MW hybrid project in Karnataka

Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power has received the "Letter of Award" (LoA) from Tata Power Delhi Distribution

Limited (Tata Power -DDL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Govt. of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, for setting up a 255 megawatt (MW) hybrid (wind and solar) power project in Karnataka. **Key Points:**

• The project will be commissioned within 24 months from the Project

- Process Agreement (PPA)execution date. The letter was awardedthrough an e-reverse auction.
- The power produced by the project would be given to Tata Power-DDL, which provides electricity to nearly 7 million people in North Delhi, Delhi.
- LoA indicates the current capacity split as 85MW solar and 170MW wind power with the greenshoeoption of additional capacity of 85MW solar and 170MW wind.



IAF successfully test-fires extended range version of BrahMos air missile

Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired the extended range version of BrahMos air launched missile against a ship target from a SU-30MKI aircraft.

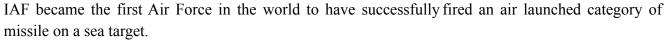
The missile achieved the desired objectives in the Bay ofBengal region.

This successful test firing was a joint effort by the Air

Force, Indian Navy, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and the BrahMos Aerospace (BAPL).

Key Points:

- The range of the missile is ~450-km, and travels at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost thrice the speed of sound.
- In 2017 the first live launch of the aerial version of this missile was tested successfully from the frontline **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft**. With this,





Home Minister Launches Mobile App 'Prahari' and Manual of Border Security Force

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the **Mobile App 'Prahari'** and **Manual** of Border Security Force (**BSF**) in New Delhi.

Key Points:

• The BSF 'Prahari' app is a great example of Proactive Governance. Jawans can get personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushmann-CAPF andleaves on their mobiles.





India Assumes UN Security Council Presidency for December

On 1st December 2022 **India** assumed the **Presidency** of the United Nation Security Council (**UNSC**) for the month of December, the **second time** in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.

Key Points:

- India had earlier assumed the UNSC Presidency in August 2021.
- UNSC: India's permanent representative to UN Ruchira Kamboj; HQ New York, United States; Establishment 1945



India to Assume Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement on 1st January

India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1st January 2023, for a period of one year.

Key Points:

- Ireland's ambassador **Eoin O'Leary** handed over the chairmanship to India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, permanent representative to the UN and international organisations in Vienna at the 26th annual plenary of the WA held in Vienna between 30th November and 1st December 2022.
- Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export control regime established in 1996, monitors the transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods.



Mahua Acharya resigns as MD & CEO of state-owned CESL

Mahua Acharya, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of state-owned Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) has resigned from the top post.

Senior Nuclear Scientist K V Suresh Kumar is New BHAVINI CMD

K.V. Suresh Kumar, a renowned Scientist of the Department of Atomic Energy assumed charge as Chairman & Managing Director (**CMD**) of Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (**BHAVINI**) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu for a tenure of 3-years.



TTFI Elections: Meghna Ahlawat Becomes First Woman President of TTFI; Kamlesh Mehta Becomes Secretary General

Meghna Ahlawat was elected as the **first female President** of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and former Indian Table Tennis player **Kamlesh Mehta**, an eight-time national champion and Arjuna awardee (1985) took over as the new **secretary general** of the TTFI.

Key Points:

• Meghna Ahlawat is the wife of the outgoing President of TTFI, Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister(CM) of Haryana.



<u>Uttarakhand Appoints Padma Shri Awar dee Prasoon Joshi as its Brand Ambassador</u>

The **Uttarakhand government** has appointed Padma Shri awardee **Prasoon Joshi**, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of McCann Worldgroup India as its brand ambassador.

- Prasoon Joshi is a lyricist, writer and artist native of Almora, Uttarakhand. He is currently serving as the **Chairman** of the Central Board of Film Certification (Censor Board).
- He has written the script for Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, the 2013 award- winning film and has also written the lyrics for songs in Bollywood movies including Rang De Basanti, Fanaa and Taare Zameen Par.
- The Uttarakhand government has signed a twoyear agreement with McKinsey, a global management consultancy, under Shashakt (empowered) Uttarakhand mission for achieving the target of doubling its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 2027.



Peru's VP Dina Boluarte sworn in as the 1st Female President of Peru

Vice President of Peru, **Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra**, was sworn in as the **first Female President of Peru** after Pedro Castillo, President of Peru, was ousted by Congress and arrested on a charge of rebellion.

Republic of Peru: Prime Minister- Betssy Chávez; Capital- Lima; Currency- Sol



N Chandrasekaran appointed as Chair of B20 India & CII to be B20 Secretariat

The Government of India has appointed **N Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited, as the Chair of Business 20 (B20) India to lead the business agenda during India's G20 Presidency.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the **B20** India Secretariat by the government to lead the B20 India process. CII assumed charge on 1st December 20



IDF Named Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina as 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh, has been named the "**Global Ambassador for Diabetes**" by the International Diabetic Federation (**IDF**) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal. PM Sheikh Hasina is the 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes.

• Sheikh Hasina served as Prime Minister of Bangladesh 3 times: 1996-2001, 2009-2014, and 2014-Present. She is the longest- serving PM in the history of Bangladesh.



New York Fed appoints Sushmita Shukla as First Vice President & COO

Sushmita Shukla, an Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, has been appointed as 1st Vice President (VP) and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ((New York Fed), with effect from March 2023.

- The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- Sushmita Shukla will be the New York Fed's 2nd-ranking officer as First Vice President.



<u>Indian-Origin Nihar Malaviya Named Interim CEO of</u> Publishing Giant Penguin Random House

Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of New York-based international publishing group **Penguin Random House** after Markus Dohle, current CEO, announced his resignation.

• Nihar Malaviya will assume the role of interim CEO from 1st January 2023



<u>Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu took oath as the 15th CM of Himachal Pradesh</u>

Former Congress State Chief Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu took oath as the 15th Chief Minister(CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) at a ceremony held in Shimla, HP while **Mukesh Agnihotri** took oath as the Deputy CM of the state.

• Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will succeed CM Jai Ram Thakur.



Bhupendra Patel Takes Oath for 2nd Consecutive Time as CM of Gujarat

- Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) member **Bhupendra Patel** was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat as the **18th Chief Minister** (CM) of Gujarat during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. In the recently completed **Gujarat**
- **Assembly Election 2022**, Patel won the Ghatlodia seat with the largest margin of 1.92 lakh votes.
- He will serve as the CM of Gujarat for the second year in a row. He was sworn in as CM for the first time on September 13, 2021, replacing the Vijay Rupani-led state government.



PT Usah elected as 1st Women President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).



- Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha (58 years) aka P.T.
 Usha, a retired Indian track and field athlete, has been named as the First Woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- She also became the First Olympian and First International Medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year-old history.
- She is also the first sportsperson after Maharaja Yadavindra Singh to serve as president of the IOA. He served as IOA President from 1938 to 1960.



Prasar Bharati ADG Sunil Elected Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union

- Prasar Bharati Additional Director General (ADG) Sunil has been unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for a 3-year term.
- The ABU is a non-profit, professional association of broadcasters from Asia and Pacific regions. Prasar Bharati hosted the 59th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in November 2022 in New Delhi.
- **ABU**: **President** Masagaki Satoru;
- **HQ** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; **Establishment** 1964.



Shaji K V Assumes Charge as Chairman of NABARD

- Shaji K V has taken the charge as Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from 7th December 2022.
- He succeeded Suchindra Misra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance (MoF), who was holding additional charge.
- NABARD: HQ Mumbai, Maharashtra; Establishment 1982



WHO Appoints Dr Jeremy Farrar as Chief Scientist; Replacing Soumya Swaminathan

• World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed **Dr Jeremy Farrar** as its new Chief Scientist with effect from the 2nd quarter of 2023. He will be replacing **Soumya Swaminathan**, who resigned from the post after a 5-year stint.



• Soumya Swaminathan(63 years old), who has been serving as the Chief Scientist at WHO from 2019 to 2022 resigned her post. She is 2 years short of WHO's mandatory retirement age.

Cindy Hook Appointed as CEO of 2032 Olympic Organising Committee

- American executive **Cindy Hook** was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer **(CEO)** of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Brisbane was confirmed as host of the 2032 Summer Olympics at the 138th IOC Session on 21 July 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Brisbane became the first host city to be selected to host the Olympics through the new bid process.



Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi took over additional charge as CMD of NHPC

- Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi has taken over the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited, an Indian Hydropower generation company, with effect from 13th December 2022.
 - Prior to his appointment, **Yamuna Kumar Chaubey** NHPC's Director (Technical) was holding the additional charge of CMD of NHPC.
- NHPC: CMD Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi;
 HQ- Faridabad, Haryana; Establishment- 1975



Mette Frederiksen re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark

- **Mette Frederiksen**, Head of the Social Democratic Party, was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2nd Term.
- Mette Frederiksen was elected Prime Minister of Denmark in June 2019 and became the youngest PM in Danish history, succeeding Lars Løkke Rasmussen (former PM from 2009-2011; 2015-2019).
- She became the 2nd woman to hold this office, after Helle Thorning-Schmidt (2011-2015).
- Denmark: Capital- Copenhagen; Currency- Danish Krone



<u>Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar Elected as Ireland's Prime</u> <u>Minister for 2nd time</u>

- Indian origin Leo Varadkar, Irish Deputy Prime Minister (Tánaiste) and leader of the Fine Gael party, has been elected by the Dáil Éireann as the Prime Minister of Ireland (Taoiseach) for the second
 - time in December 2022.
- Leo Varadkar takes over from Micheal Martin as Taoiseach, while Martin takes on Varadkar's role as tánaiste (deputy prime minister).
- Leo Varadkar was appointed as new Prime Minister by Irish President Michael D. Higgins





Nuclear Scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla appointed as Chairperson of AERB

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Senior Nuclear Scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla to the post of Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). He has been appointed to the post for a period of 3 years.
- Dinesh Kumar Shukla, who has been the Executive Director of the AERB, succeeds G Nageswara Rao to the post of Chairperson.
- AERB: Chairman- Dinesh Kumar Shukla; HQ- Mumbai, Maharashtra; Establishment- 1983



Puma India ropes in Anushka Sharma as Brand Ambassador

- Sports brand **Puma India** announced Bollywood Actress and entrepreneur **Anushka Sharma** as its new Brand Ambassador, part of its ongoing commitment towards the women's business in India.
- Anushka Sharma is a well-known brand ambassador for several companies, such as TVS Scooty, Nivea, Elle 18 cosmetics, Bru coffee, and Pantene.



Former Supreme Court Judge Hemant Gupta Appointed as Chief of NDIAC

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Justice Hemant Gupta, retired Supreme Court Judge, as the Chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration
- Centre (NDIAC) and **Ganesh Chandru** and **Anant Vijay Palli** as part-time members of NDIAC.
- The NDIAC, under the Ministry of Law and Justice, was established for creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.
- NDIAC: HQ New Delhi, Delhi; Establishment 1961.



Sitiveni Rabuka Returns as New Prime Minister of Fiji

- Sitiveni Rabuka, a former military commander, has been chosen as Fiji's 12th Prime Minister (PM), replacing Frank Bainimarama, who has been in office for 16 years.Mr. Rabuka, who served as PM of Fiji from 1992 to 1999, is being elected to the post for the second term.Frank Bainimarama of the Fiji First Party overthrew the government in a coup in 2006 and became Prime Minister in 2007.
- Fijis's Capital Suva & Currency Fiji Dollar (FJD).



Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointed as New PM of Nepal

- On 25th December 2022, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, appointed 68-year-old Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal as new Prime Minister of Nepal.
- He was sworn in for the 3rd time as the PM of Nepal succeeding Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party. Pushpa Kamal Dahal is also known as Prachanda meaning "terrible" or "fierce".
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal now has the support of 169 Members of Parliament.





• Nepal's Capital – Kathmandu & Currency – Nepalese Rupee

Anil Kumar Lahoti Appointed as CEO & Chairman of Railway Board

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Lahoti as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and
- Chairman of the Railway board succeeding the incumbent Vinay Kumar Tripathi, who is set to retire on 31st December 2022. Anil Kumar Lahoti will assume the charge of the new role from 1st January 2023.
- This is the 1St appointment of the Railway Board chief after the government notified the integrated railway service, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).



Benjamin Netanyahu Sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister

- On 29th December 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israel's 25th Prime Minister (PM) for the 6th time, leading the right-wing Likud party, and Israel is set to get its 37th government. Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in following his presentation to the Knesset (Israeli parliament) coalition 6 parties on 28th December.
- Benjamin Netanyahu succeeds Yair Lapid, who served briefly as PM (July 2022-December 2022).
- Israel's Capital- Jerusalem & Currency-Israeli Shekel.



Ex-ITDC MD G Kamala Vardhana Rao takes charge as CEO of FSSAI

On 29th December 2022, Ganji Kamala Vardhana Rao, a 1990 batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Kamala Vardhana Rao was previously the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Tourism Department Corporation (ITDC), a Miniratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Tourism. Prior to Kamala Vardhana Rao, Arun Singhal was the CEO of FSSAI (2020-2022).





AWARDS AND HONOURS

Book on Chipko Movement Wins KamaladeviChattopadhyay NIF Prize 2022

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022 was awarded to 'The Chipko Movement: A People's

Movement', a book on the popular forest

conservation campaign Chipko Movement written by a historian and an activist Shekhar Pathak.

The book, 'The Chipko Movement: A People's Movement', has been translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry.

The 2022 was the 5th edition of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize.

Key Points:

- The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize was established in **2018** and is given for non-fiction on contemporary India by writers of any nationality, carrying a cash award of **15 lakhs**, **atrophy** and **a citation**.
- This prize has been named after **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay**, the institution-builder who had contributed significantly to the freedom struggle, women's movement, refugee rehabilitation andrenewal of handicrafts..
- **Previous winners** of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (jointly, 2020), and Dinyar Patel (2021).

Manthan Platform Wins the Best Tech Initiative Awardat D&B Business Excellence Awards 2022

Manthan platform won NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022during an event in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- Manthan platform promotes collaboration between industry andthe scientific research and development ecosystem.
- Manthan was launched on India's 76th Independence Day.
- Manthan enables multiple stakeholders to collaborate to co- create solutions that are compatible with the United Nations'

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national scientific missions.



The Earthshot Prize 2022

William, Prince of Wales, announced the winners of the Earthshot Prize2022, the 2nd edition of the annual awards, at the awards ceremony heldat the MGM Music Hall in Boston, the United States of America(USA).

Fields:

- to Protect and Restore Nature
- to Clean Our Air
- to Revive Our Oceans
- to Build A Waste-Free World
- to Fix Our Climate



<u>Canara Bank Wins Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for India at GlobalBanking Summit</u>

Canara Bank received the Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for the India segment (Under AsiaPacific Region) at the Global Banking Summit, held in London, United Kingdom (UK) from 29th November 2022to 1st December 2022.

Key Points:

- The Bankers' Bank of the year awards are considered tobe on par with Oscar awards for the banking sector.
- The winners of the award are judged on their ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology and product and services in their respective geographies in thelast 12 months.



India to Assume Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement on 1st January

India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1st January 2023, for a period

of one year.

Ireland's ambassador **Eoin O'Leary** handed over the chairmanship to India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, permanent representative to the UN and international organisations in Vienna at the 26thannual plenary of the WA held in Vienna between 30th November and 1st December 2022.

Key Points:

• The WA is a multilateral export control regime established in 1996, monitors the transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods. It has 42



members and operates on a voluntary basis, wheredecisions are made by consensus.

- The primary goal of the organisation is to restrict access to sensitive technologies for terrorist outfits.
- According to the Arms Control Association, every sixmonths, members exchange information on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar members that fall under eight weapon categories.
- The categories include battle tanks, armoured combat

vehicles (ACVs), large-calibre artillery, military aircraft/unmanned aerial vehicles, military andattack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, and small arms and light weapons.

• The WA also maintains lists of technologies which are of interest. It includes tier 1 that denotes alist of basic items while tier 2 denotes sensitive or very sensitive technologies.

Indian-origin Teacher Veena Nair receives the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize in Australia

Veena Nair, an Indian-origin teacher in Melbourne, Australia, has received the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science 2022 under the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools category.

Key Points:

- Veena Nair, a leading educator in STEAM began her teaching career in Mumbai, Maharashtra (India), where she provided computers to low socio-economic schools and taught students how to code.
- She has more than 20 years of experience teaching science-based subjects across three different countries:India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia.
- In 2018, she won the **Educator of the Year Award** from the Design and Technology Teachers' Association of Australia.
- She has helped increase the number of students studying STEAM subjects at Viewbank College, notably the number of female students.
- She has led the development of curricular and extracurricular STEAMprojects, including several new electives (3D printing, emerging technologies, engineering, etc.).

'Goblin mode': Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2022

The Oxford English Dictionary has chosen 'Goblin mode' as the word of the year 2022 by an online vote.

Goblin Mode received 93% of the votes against contenders "metaverse"

(2nd) and "#IStandWith" (3rd).

Key Points:

- 'Goblin mode' is a slang term, that refers to the type of behaviourwhich is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.
- It is often used in the expressions 'in goblin mode' or 'to go goblinmode'.
- The term was 1st seen on Twitter in 2009 and gained popularity in

popularity in 2022 as people across the globe emerged uncertainly from pandemic lockdowns.



<u>Swayam Shikshan Prayog Wins Local Adaptation Champions Award at COP27Climate Summit</u>

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), a Pune (Maharashtra) based Non-Government Organisation (NGO) won the Local Adaptation Champions Award under the "capacity and knowledge" category for its work in supporting women farmers to adopt more resilient and sustainable agricultural practices in Marathwada in Maharashtra.

The award was announced by the Global Centre on Adaptation(GCA), at the Conference of Parties (COP) 27 climatesummit held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The award constitutes a cash award of EURO 15,000, a certificate and a memento.

Key Points:

- The award to SSP offers recognition to the women farmers andhelps to get more adopters of the women-led climate resilient farming model (or one-acre model).
- SSP has trained more than 3 lakh rural women across India to adapt climate change with this model which is being implemented in 8 districts in Maharashtra(Osmanabad, Solapur, Latur, Landed, Washim, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar and Jalna).
- SSP has worked mostly with the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, Tamil Nadu tsunami in 2004, floods in Biharin 2007 and Kerala in 2018 and is working extensively in three states of India including Kerala, Bihar and Maharashtra



South Korea's **Mina Sue Choi**, 24 years old, was crowned Miss Earth 2022 at the Okada Manila in Parañaque, Metro Manila, Philippines.

It is the 1st significant pageant victory for South Koreaafter 20 years of participation in the Miss Earth competition.

Miss Earth 2022 is the **22nd** edition of the Miss Earthpageant. Mina Sue Choi succeeded **Destiny Wagner** of Belize, Miss Earth 2021.

Key Points:

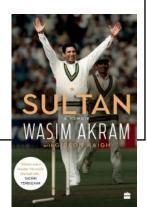
- Miss Earth 2022 was hosted by Filipino-Britishtelevision host and automotive journalist JamesDeakin for the 6th consecutive time.
- The event was anchored by Miss Earth 2015 Angelia Ong, Miss Earth 2017 Karen Ibasco and Miss Earth2019 Nellys Pimentel.
- Among the 86 Eco-Warriors, 3 other queens were awarded the pageant's 3 elemental titles.
- Miss Fire 2022–Andrea Aguilera of Colombia,
- Miss Water 2022 Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine,
- Miss Air 2022 Sheridan Mortlock of Australia.
- In addition, Mina Sue Choi won a few medals in the pre-pageant competitions for resort wear, long gowns, beach wear, and swimsuits.

HarperCollins to release autobiography of Pakistani Cricketer Wasim Akram: "Sultan:a memoir"

HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd. has announced to release of the







autobiographyof Pakistani Cricketer Wasim Akram titled "**Sultan: A Memoir**". the book was writtenby Wasim Akram along with veteran cricket writer from Australia, Gideon Haigh.

Key Points:

- The book was published by Hardie Grant Books, an imprint of Hardie Grant Publishing, one of Australia's largest privately owned media companies.
- The book is set to be translated into many languages including Urdu.
- 'Sultan' tells the story of Wasim Akram, the 'sultan of swing', one of the greatest fastbowlers in the history of cricket.
- The book was about the cricketer who was groomed by Imran Khan to become world champion and Man of the Match in Pakistan's World Cup victory in 1992.

IDF Named Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina as 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh, has been named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held inLisbon, Portugal. PM Sheikh Hasina is the 1st Global Ambassador for Diabetes.

Key Points:

- On 5th December 2022, the title was received by the Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Tarik Ahsan on behalf of PM Sheikh Hasina from IDF president-elect Prof. Akhtar Hussain.
- The title was conferred in recognition of her contribution to improving the lives of people living with diabetes.
- For the next 2 years, the global diabetes ambassador will be the voice of people living with diabetes all over the world.

Meghalaya received Award for Best Practice in Tuberculosis ACSM

Meghalaya received an award for 'Best Practice in Tuberculosis (TB) Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization(ACSM)' at the National Workshop on ACSM to end TB in India, held in New Delhi, Delhi from 7th to 8th December 2022.

The award was given to recognise the effort by the Meghalaya Government for initiating 'Jan Andolan' (people's movement) or 'TB Mukt Bharat campaign' against Tuberculosis.

The award was presented to representatives of the State Health Department.

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Key Points:

- According to TB reports from the pre-epidemic phase, Meghalayahad the highest number of TB cases in 2021, with 4,189.
- In the first quarter of 2022, 1,075 patients were admitted fortreatment against the disease.
- A National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (2017-2025) has also been launched reorienting the programme's focus to ensure greater community engagement.
- 'Jan Andolan' aims to raise awareness, eliminate stigma, and enhance demand for services across Meghalaya.

Former VP Venkaiah Naidu received 25th SIES Award for Public Leadership



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Former Vice President (VP) of India **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu** has been conferred with the 25thSouth Indian Education Society(SIES) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence

Award for

Public Leadership. The award was presented during the event held at Shanmukhananda auditorium, King's Circle in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- Venkaiah Naidu was the 13th Vice President of India from 11th August 2017 to 11th August 2022.
- Prior to joining Modi's Cabinet, he was the minister of housing, urban poverty alleviation, urban development, and information.
- He was a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and ts National President from 2002 to 2004.
- He served as Minister for Rural Development in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government from 1996 to 2002.



Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha (58 years) aka P.T. Usha, a retired Indian track and field athlete, hasbeen named as the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She also became the First Olympian and First International Medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year-old history.



She is also the first sportsperson after Maharaja Yadavindra Singhto serve as president of the IOA. He served as IOA President from 1938 to 1960.

Key Points:

- PT Usha fondly known as the 'Payyoli Express' hails from Payyoli, Kerala. She is the winner of 4 Asian gold medals and 7Silver medals, and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Los AngelesOlympics 400m hurdles final.
- At the age of just 16 years, she became the youngest sprinter toever represent India at the biggest stage for track and field
- athletes.
- PT Usha was awarded the Arjuna Award and the Padma Shri Award in 1983 and 1985.
- In July 2022, she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Singapore & New York Becomes 'Most Expensive City in the World'

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index, Singapore New York (United States of America) has been declared as joint most expensive cities in the world to live in.

Key points:





- New York has topped the rankings for the first time along with Singapore which has topped the list 8 times in 10 years.
- Tel Aviv of Israel which topped the list in 2021 has secured the 3rdrank in the 2022 index.
- The top 10 cities on the index include Zurich(Switzerland) on the 6th, Geneva (Switzerland) on the 7th, San Francisco (USA) on the8th, Paris (France) on the 9th, and Copenhagen (Denmark) and Sydney (Australia) on the 10th.
- Indian cities like Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru are among the Bottom 10 positions of the index, ranked 165th, 164th and 161st respectively.

European Union agrees to grant Bosnia & Herzegovina Membership Candidate Status

European Union's (EU) general affairs ministers from the 27 EU nations agreed to give Bosnia and Herzegovina "candidate status" to join the union during the meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

The decision to grant candidate status is to be formalised on 15th December 2022 when EU leaders descendon Brussels for a meeting.

Key points:

- The negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Bosnia and Herzegovina began in September 2005.
- On 16th June 2008, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the EU signed the SAA in Luxembourg.



- The Country applied for membership in 2016, but its application has been delayed due to enlargement fatigue, which has stalled EU aspirations across the Western Balkans.
- However, Russia's war in Ukraine has refreshed the EU's desireto expand into the area, with capitals eager to prevent losing thecountries to Moscow's power.
- In 2019, the European Commission (EC) adopted its Opinion on the EU membership application of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SpiceJet awarded 'Safety Performer of the Year' award during GMR Delhi Airport Awards 2022

GMR Delhi Airport Awards 2022 awarded SpiceJetwith the 'Safety Performer of the Year'. This awardacknowledged its top performance among the self- handling airlines and its efforts to reduce ground safety violations significantly.

Key points:

- Recently, the airline was audited by the International Civil Aviation
 Organization (ICAO), and its operations, safety processes, and systems
 were found to be strong and at par with the global best practices and
 safety standards.
- GMR-Delhi Airport Awards are an annual ceremony since 2012 which is organized by the DelhiInternational Airport Ltd, in collaboration with KPMG.







India's Sargam Koushal crowned as Mrs World 2022

India's **Sargam Koushal** was crowned Mrs World 2022 held at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino,

Nevada, United States of America(USA). She brought crown back to India, 21 years after **Aditi Govitrikar** (Mrs World 2001). Key Points:

- Sargam Koushal, 32, is an Indian teacher and modelbased in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born on 17th September 1990 in Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir(J&K).
- Apart from being a model, she is a painter and content writer.
- She got married to an Indian Navy Officer in 2018.
- She was crowned Mrs India World 2022 on 15th June

2022, by Navdeep Kaur, the National Costume Winner in Mrs India World 2021 and Mrs World 2022



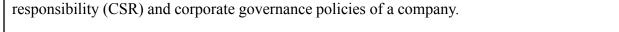
NMDC wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022

NMDC Limited (formerly known as National Mineral Development Corporation), under the Ministry of Steel, won the coveted Institution of Engineers, India (**IEI**) **Industry Excellence Award 2022** at the **37th** Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Key Points:

- N R K Prasad, Chief General Manager (CGM) of IndustrialEngineering & Management Sciences (IE & MS), accepted the honour on behalf of NMDC from Dr K Ponmudy, Minister of Higher Education for the Tamil Nadu government.
- The award was given after reviewing the business operations, financial performance, environmental performance, research and development, Corporate social

Shah Rukh Khan only Indian to feature on British magazine's list of 50 greatest Actors



Indian Actor and Bollywood superstar, **Shah Rukh Khan**(57 years old) has become the only Indian to be named on the 50 Greatest Actors Of All Time List of **Empire Magazine**, a Britishmonthly film magazine.

Key Points:

- Shah Rukh Khan made his film debut with the commercially successful Deewana (1992). His career lasted for over 4 decades with unbroken hits.
- Shah Rukh Khan's notable works include, "Devdas", "My
 Name Is Khan", "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Jab Tak Hai Jaan"



<u>Winners of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022; Anuradha Roy; M. Rajendran; Badri Narayan among winners</u>

Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022, the annual awards that recognises the literature works in 24 Indian languages (including English).

Key Points:

- Novelist Anuradha Roy, Tamil author M. Rajendran, Telugu writer Madhuranthakam Narendra and SanskritPoet Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' were among 23 litterateurs awarded the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2022.
- The executive board of the Sahitya Akademi under the Chairmanship of Dr Chandrashekhar has also approved the winners of
- 1. Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation 2022,
- 2. Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022
- 3. Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2022
- 4. Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022



<u>UIDAI HQ Building wins top Green Building Award Declared winner of the GRIHA</u> <u>Exemplary Performance Award 2022</u>

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter in New Delhi (Delhi) has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022, a top nationallevel Green Building Award.
- GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is anational rating system for green buildings in India.
- The assessment was based upon 100 point rating system wasconsidered across 34 criteria.
- The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research(PGIMER) satellite centre at Sangrur, Punjab has also been declared winner in the GRIHA Exemplary Performance competition in the category of energy management.



Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the Silver medal, under 49 kg Women category, at the 2022 IWF World Championships held in Bogota, Colombia from 5th to 16th December 2022.

Key Points:

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu was born on 8th August 1994 atNongpok Kakching, Imphal, Manipur.
- She was the 1st Indian Weightlifter to win a Silver at theOlympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and the 2nd Indian Weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympicmedal.
- She won the Gold at the World Weightlifting
 Championships held in Anaheim, the United States
 (US)in 2017 and secured multiple medals at the Commonwealth Games.
- She won India's 1st gold medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, breaking the event's weightlifting records in the process.





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• In April 2021, she has set a new world record for clean & jerk by lifting 119kg at the 2020 AsianWeightlifting Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

<u>Indian Scientist Prof. Thalappil Pradeep Receives</u> <u>Vinfuture Special Prize 2022</u>

Professor Thalappil Pradeep, an Indian scientist from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT-M**)in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was awarded the "**VinFuture Special Prize 2022**" in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.

He received the "Special Prize for Innovators from DevelopingCountries" for developing a low-cost filtration system to removearsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.

Key Points:

- Professor (Prof.) Thalappil Pradeep has identified the most suitable and advanced materials for removing certain contaminants from water in the most cost-effective and sustainable manner.
- He was previously awarded the 'Padma Shri Award 2020' for his work in developing affordable and safedrinking water solutions utilizing nanomaterials.
- He was also conferred with the 25th Nikkei Asia Prizes (2020) in Science and Technology (S&T) categoryin recognition of his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification.

<u>UIDAI gets DSCI Excellence Award for 'Best Security Practices in Government Sector'</u>

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has been honoured with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Excellence Award 2022 under 'Best Security Practices in Government Sector' category.

Key Points:

- The award recognises UDAO's contribution in securing national critical 'Aadhaar' infrastructure whichprovides digital identity based welfare services to residents.
- The award was given during the 3-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) of Data Security Council of India (DSCI) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- UIDAI was the first Government organisation to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701).
- It is also one of the leading government institutions that is ahead in innovation and incubation of indigenized technology implementation.

Sudeep Sen & Shobhana Kumar won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize2021-2022

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly wonby **Sudeep Sen** for his genre and form bender "Anthropocene: ClimateChange, Contagion, Consolation" published by Pippa Rann Books & Media in 2021and **Shobhana Kumar** for her haibun collection "A SkyFull of





Bucket Lists" published by Red River in 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

The award carries a cash prize of USD 10,000 each.

A Rabindranath Tagore statuette was chosen from a shortlist of 11.

The Tagore Prize for social achievement was awarded to **Sanjoy K Roy**, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Key Points:

- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was instituted in 2018 which annually recognises and honours literary and social accomplishments.
- This award was initiated by Peter Bundalo of the United States (US)- based independent and non-profit publishing house Maitreya Publishing Foundation (MPF) to honour the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore.
- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was split into 2 folds in 2019, they are,
- Literary Prize—awarded to the finest in Indian Literature.
- Social Achievements Prize—to recognise a person who has made a positive and lasting impact on society.

Cyclist Swasti Singh gets 30th Ekalabya Puraskar

International cyclist Swasti Singh hailing from Odisha has been honouredwith the 30th Ekalabya

Puraskar for the year **2022** during a programme organized by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (**IMPaCT**), the charitable wing of **IMFA**.

Key Points:

- She received a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a trophy.
- She was honoured for her performance from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2022 at both national andinternational levels.
- Swasti Singh has won 2 gold and several silver medals at the national level representing Odisha and wascredited with the best individual brilliance from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2022.



Cricket Australia Renames Test Player of the Year Award in Honour of Shane Warne

Cricket Australia (CA) chief executive **Nick Hockley** and AustralianCricketers' Association Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Todd Greenber** renamed the Australia's men's Test Player of the

Year award to honour the legendary spinner 'Shane Warne' during the Boxing Day Test against South Africa.

The **Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award** will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards.

Shane Warne won Australia's men's Test player of the Year Award in 2006, when he recorded 40 wickets in the famous 2005 Ashes series in England.

- **Shane Warne** made his international debut representing Australia against India in 1991 in Sydney.
- After his retirement from all forms of cricket in 2013, he took up cricket commentary and coaching roles.





• He has won 145 Test matches and 194 One Day International (ODI)'s, and was the Player of the Match in the semi-final and the final of Australia's victorious 1999 World Cup campaign.

 He has picked up 708 wickets in Test matches which is the second-highest after Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and 293 in ODIs to take 1001 international wickets.



IIT Madras' BS In Data Science & NPTEL Win Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Chennai, Tamil Nadu has won key recognition in Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022, referred to as 'the Oscars of Education'during the event held at the Wharton Campus, Philadelphia, UnitedStates of America (USA).

Key Points:

- IIT Madras' BS (Bachelor's Degree) in Data Science and Applications won **Silver** in the '**Best Online Program**' category.NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, wonthe **Gold** in the '**Lifelong Learning category**'.
- Educational Initiatives' Mindspark: Leveraging AI to Enhance Learning Outcomes won **Silver** in the '**AIin Education Award**' category.
- The award categories are designed to reflect the diversity and breadth of the education sector. An expertpanel chooses the winners.

Tata Steel has been certified as a 'Great Place to Work' for 2023

Tata Steel India Limited has been certified as a 'GreatPlace to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute for 2023. It has been certified for the 6th consecutive year.

Key Points:

- The Company has received recognition for its effortstowards building an inclusive and sustainable organisation.
- Tata Steel has introduced several policies and practices for employee welfare and well-being sinceits inception.
- According to the Great Place to Work assessment, Tata Steel excelled in all 5 dimensions of a High-Trust, High-Performance Culture: Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride and Camaraderie.

<u>Prabhu Chandra Mishra Honoured with Atal</u> SammanAward in NewDelhi

Prabhu Chandra Mishra received the **Atal Samman Award** (Atal Anveshi Shikhara Samman) during the 9th Atal Samman Samaroh, on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister (PM) Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. He was honoured with the award for his excellence in the field ofscience and research.

Key points:

• He has worked in areas of stem cell and regenerative medicines in infertility, especially when In Vitro Fertilisation





(IVF) also fails.

- Under his work, diseases such as premature ovarian failure, thin endometrium and Asherman syndrome have shown good results through one's own body cells.
- He is the president of the international Association of stem cell & regenerative medicine (IASRM) and aceRegenerative Medicine scientist.
- IASRM also conducts training programmes in Regenerative Medicines to create awareness to community and health care providers.
- He has written book on stem cells, name "Stem and Regenerative Medicines in Infertility

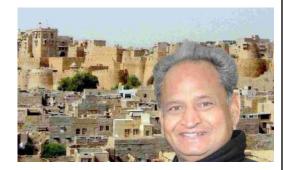
Rajasthan Government's DIPR receives Award for 'Effective Government Communication'

Department of Information and Public Relations (**DIPR**), Government of Rajasthan, has been honoured with "**Effective Government Communication Award**"

for taking public welfare schemes through digitalmedia to the general public and the beneficiaries. The award was given by the Public Relations Society of India (**PRSI**) during the 44th Annual Convention of PSRI held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The award was presented by **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**, Governor of Madhya Pradeshto **Arun Joshi**, Additional Director of DIPR.

Uday Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), National President of PRSI Ajit Pathak, and publicrelations professionals from different states were present on the occasion.



Key Points:

- Daily publicity materials are being distributed through WhatsApp groups, with nearly 20 lakh people connected in WhatsApp groups at all ram panchayat and ward levels throughout Rajasthan. DIPR Innovations: The Information e-Bulletin, Sujus Video Bulletin, and Sujus Awaaz (Podcast) are mediums via which information regarding daily news, beneficiary interviews, and significant government decisions are made available.
- DIPR launched a **Sujus Mobile App** in which all press notes, special articles, success stories, important photographs, e-bulletin, video bulletin, Sujus Awaz, and live programs of welfare schemes are displayed on mobile

<u>Indian Scientist Mahima Swamy Honoured as One of Europe's Top Talents in Immunology</u>

Mahima Swamy, an Indian scientist hailing from Bengaluru, Karnataka, has been chosen to join the prestigious European Molecular Biology Organization

(EMBO) Young Investigator network, recognising her as one of the top talents in biology – Immunology in Europe.

Mahima Swamy's membership is between 2023-2026 and hersubject area is Immunology.

She is one among the **24 researchers** in the EMBO YoungInvestigator network.



- Dr Mahima Swamy is affiliated with the University of Dundee, Dundee, the United Kingdom(UK) and a most revered expert within their School of Life Sciences where sheheads a research group that investigates immune responses inthe intestine.
- The 24 researchers will become a part of the network of 135 current and 390 former members of the EMBO programme, based within the University's Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit (MRC-PPU).
- Mahima will be a part of the study about inflammatory bowel diseases and how these can be prompted bythe body's immune system attacking the gut lining in the absence of infection.



Vishal Mittal, an Indian student at the University of Canberra (UC), Australia, was recognised as an Ambassador of Change Award, for his outstanding work as a Student Mentor and contribution to the UC community.

Vishal Mittal is one of the 9 Ambassadors of Change, who were recognised for their work in various areas.

Key Points:

- The award was presented at the official awards night hostedby the University's Equity and Participation team, which coincides with World Access to Higher Education Day (17thNovember 2022).
- Vishal Mittal has just completed his final year of a Master of Data Science and was recognised as an Ambassador of Change for his volunteer work with the UC Mentor Program through UC Thrive.

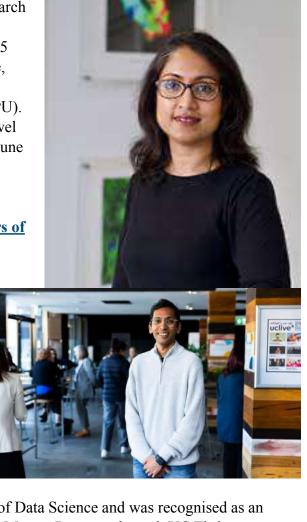


ACC Limited (formerly The Associated Cement Companies Limited), the cement and building materials

company of Adani Cement, has won the **National Award for Safety Excellence** (FY2021-22) at the 10thGlobal Safety Summit (GSS) in the Large Enterprise-Cement

Manufacturing sector.

- ACC Limited is a part of Adani Cement and one of India's leading producers of cement and ready-mix concrete.
- It has 17 cement manufacturing sites, over 83 concrete plants and a nationwide network of channel partners to serve its customers.
- ACC is regarded as one of India's "Most Sustainable
 Companies" and is honoured for its best practices in environmental management and environmental
 managementmethods.



• ACC is the first Indian cement company to sign the Net Zero Pledge with Science-based targets, placing sustainability at the centre of its business strategy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Day 2022 – December 1

United Nations(UN)'s World Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st December to create awareness about AIDS and to unite peopleacross the globe to show support the people living with AIDS and affected by HIV(Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

Key Points:

- United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS leads the campaigning for World AIDS Day since its creation in **2004**.
- The theme of World AIDS Day 2022 is "Equalize". Background:
- World AIDS Day, the first-ever international day for globalhealth, was founded in 1988.
- The idea of World AIDS day was first formulated in August 1987 by James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter, Public information officers for the "Global Programme on AIDS" at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland.



PUTTING OURSELVES TO THE TEST Achieving Equity to End HIV

World Computer Literacy Day 2022 – December 2

• World Computer Literacy Day is annually observed on December 2 to raise public knowledge of computers and encourage the development of technological

skills, particularly among children and women in India.

- The day aims to promote digital literacy and raise awareness in underserved communities across the globe.
- 2022 marks the 22nd World Computer Literacy Day.
- World Computer Literacy Day was established by an Indian computer company, the **National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT)**, in 2001 to mark NIIT's 20th anniversary.
- The 1st World Computer Literacy Day was observed on 2ndDecember 2001.

World Computer Literacy Day 2nd December



National Pollution Control Day 2022 - December 2

National Pollution Control Day is annually observed across India on **December 2** to honour and commemorate the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on the 2nd and 3rd of December 1984.

Note: 2nd December 2022 marks the **38th** anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

- In India, air pollution is responsible for 7 million annual deaths, of which 4 million are caused by indoor air pollution.
- Nine out of ten people on the earth are believed to lack accessto clean air.
- The 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy:
- India's 1st major industrial disaster, the Bhopal Gas



- **Tragedy**, was a gas leak from the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on December2nd and 3rd, 1984.
- The insecticide plant owned by Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL), the Indian division of the American company Union Carbide Corporation, released about 45 tonnes of the hazardous chemical Methyl isocyanate (MIC).
- Nearly 25000 people were killed and around 6 lakh victims sustained injuries.

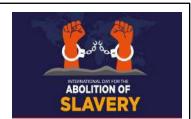
<u>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2022 – December 2</u>

United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is annually observed acrossthe globe on December 2 to raise public awareness of the need to combat modern forms of slavery such as child labour, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

The day aims to abolish modern-day forms of slavery.

Key Points:

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/317(IV) on 2nd December 1949.
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was declared to be observed on December 2 to mark the UNGA's adoption of the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022- December 3

United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) or International Day of Disabled Persons is annually observed across the globe on December 3 to raise awarenessabout the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

- The day aims to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities at all levels.
- The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 is 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development:
- the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world'.
- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/47/3 on 14th October 1992 and declared December 3 of every year as International Day of Disabled Persons.
- The 1st observance of International Day of Disabled Persons was on 3rd December 1992.
- On 18 December 2007, the UN renamed the International Day of Disabled Persons as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the 'Convention on the Rights of Persons withDisabilities(CRPD) The 1st observance of the new name, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, was on 3rd December 2008.

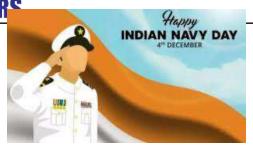






DIVINE CURRENT AFFAIRS

Navy Day is annually observed across India on the 4th of December to recognise the role of the Indian Navy, the maritime arm of the Indian Armed Forces, in ensuring the safety of the nation. Theday also commemorates the achievements of "Operation Trident", an offensive operation launched by the Indian Navyduring the India-Pakistan war of 1971.



Key Points

- Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle known as the "Father of the Indian Navy", is the creator of India's navalforce.
- As a part of the celebration of Navy Day 2022, the Indian Navy demonstrated India's combat prowess and capability through an 'Operational Demonstration' at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- For the first time, the Navy Day Celebrations are being conducted outside the National Capital, New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Indian Navy Week is annually observed across India from 1st to 7th December during which various activities and events will be organised.
- Indian Navy Week 2022 is observed from 1st to 7th December 2022

International Day of Banks 2022 – December 4

United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Banks is annually observed across the globe on December 4 to recognise the vitalrole of banking systems in the Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living.

Key Points:

- 4th December 2022 marks the observance of the **3rd** International Day of Banks.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/245 on 19th
 December 2019 and proclaimed December 4 of every year as International Day of Banks.
- The **1st** International Day of Banks was observed on 4th December 2020.



World Soil Day 2022 – December 5

United Nations(UN)'s World Soil Day(WSD) is annually observed across the globeon 5th December to create awareness about the importance of healthy soil and to advocate the sustainable management of soil resources.

The theme of World Soil Day 2022 is "Soils: where food begins".

- The observance of an international day dedicated to soil was recommended bythe International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002
- On 20th December 2013, the UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/68/232and proclaimed the 5th



December of every year as World Soil Day.

- The resolution also declared the year 2015 as the International Year of Soils.
- The first ever official World Soil Day was observed on 5th December 2014.

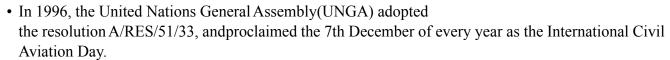
International Civil Aviation Day 2022 – December 7

United Nations(UN)'s International Civil Aviation Day is annually observed across the globe on 7th

December to create awareness about the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of the nations. The day also highlights the unique role of International CivilAviation Organization(**ICAO**), a UN Specialized agency, insupporting the member states to cooperate and realize the global rapid transit network.



- The theme of International Civil Aviation Day 2022 is "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
- International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 aspart of ICAO's 50th anniversary activities.





Armed Forces Flag Day is annually observed across India on **December 7** to honour the martyrs and the men in the armed force who bravely fought on the borders to safeguard the country's honour.

Key Points:

- Flag Day emphasises the dedication to caring for the war-disabled soldiers (**Veer Naris**) and the families of Martyrs who died in the line of duty.
- On 28th August 1949, a committee established by then-Defence Minister Baldev Singh decided to observe December 7 of every year as Flag Day.
- The 1st Armed Forces Flag Day was observed on 7th December 1949.



<u>Indian Navy's 55th Submarine Day – 8th December 2022</u>

Indian Navy annually Observes Submarine Day on 8th December to commemorate the induction of the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari,into the Indian Navy on 8th December 1967.

- 8th December 2022 marks the observance of the 55th Submarine Day.
- The submarine arm of the Indian Navy was born on 8th December 1967 with the induction of INS Kalvari, the first Scorpene class submarine in India, at Riga in Latvia, the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- To mark this occasion 8th December is observed as the Indian Navy's Submarine Day.



International Anti-Corruption Day 2022 – December 9

- United Nations(UN)'s International Anti-Corruption Day(IACD) is annually observed across the globe on 9th December to create awareness about the negative impacts of corruption and the role of the UN Convention on combating and preventing corruption.
- The day highlights the role of everyone including, Individuals, non-governmental organisations, law enforcement, and media persons intackling the issues of corruption.
- The theme of IACD 2022 is "UNCAC at 20: Uniting the WorldAgainst Corruption".

Human Rights Day 2022 – 10th December

United Nations(UN)'s Human Rights Day(International Human Rights Day or World Human Rights **Day)** is annually observed across the globe on 10th December to create awareness and mobilize political will to promote respect for rights and freedoms.

Key Points:

- The observance commemorates the anniversary of the day on which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted in 1948. The UDHR enshrines the rights of all human
- The theme of Human Rights Day 2022 is "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All".
- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolutionA/RES/423 (V) on 4th
- December 1950 proclaiming the 10th December of every year as Human Rights Day.
- The formal inception of Human Rights Day dates from 1950. The firstUN Human Rights Day was observed on 10th December 1950.

International Mountain Day 2022 – December 11

United Nations (UN)'s International Mountain Day is annually observed across the globe on December 11 to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.

Key Points:

- The theme of International Mountain Day 2022 is 'Women move mountains'.
- On 16 December 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development (IYM2022) at the proposal of the KyrgyzGovernment
- The idea of International Mountain Days began in 1992, with theadoption of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 titled "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development" at the United Nations Conference on Environmentand Development.





ANTI-CORRUPTION





- The UNGA has declared the year 2002 as the "International Year of Mountains" and adopted the resolution A/RES/57/245 and declared December 11 as International Mountain Day.
- The 1st ever International Mountain Day was observed on 11 December 2003.

<u>UNICEF Day 2022 – December 11</u>

United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF) day is annually observed across the globe on 11th December to mark the creation of UNICEF by United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) on 11th December 1946. 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the foundation of UNICEF.

Key Points:

- The UNGA adopted resolution 57(I) on 11th December 1946 creating UNICEF to provide supplies and assistance to children after World War II.
- UNICEF originally known as the "United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund" was started as a temporary relief fund of the United Nations (UN).
- Later, The mandate of UNICEF was broadened to address the long-termneeds of children and women in developing countries.



• UNICEF became a permanent part of the UN system in 1953, and was renamed as United Nations Children's Fund but retained its acronym "UNICEF".

National Energy Conservation Day 2022 - December 14

- National Energy Conservation Day is annually celebrated acrossIndia on December 14 to raise awareness on limiting energy loss and showcase the achievements of India in energyefficiency and conservation.
- The day is organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) which operates under the Ministry of Power (MoP). It has been organising National Energy Conservation Day since 1991.
- The 1st National Energy Conservation Day was observed on 14th December 1991.
- **Note:** The BEE executed the Energy Conservation Act in Indiain 2001.



<u>51st Vijay Diwas – 16th December 2022</u>

Vijay Diwas, known as Bijoy Dibos(in Bangladesh) is annually observed across India and Bangladesh on 16th December to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces against the Pakistan forces in the 1971 Indo-Pak war (India – Pakistan war of 1971) also known as Bangladesh Liberation war.

Key Points:

• The 1971 Indo-Pak War is a confrontation between India and



Pakistan that occurred during the

Bangladesh Liberation War in East Pakistan.

- The war took place from 3rd December 1971 until the Pakistani capitulation in Dhaka, East Pakistan(now Bangladesh)on 16 December 1971.
- Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, Army general of Pakistan along with his 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered before the IndianArmy and Mukti-Bahini led by Lieutenant General Jagit SinghAurora.
- The Eastern Command of the Pakistan military signed the instrument of surrender on 16 December 1971 in Dhaka, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

International Migrants Day 2022 - December 1

United Nations(UN)'s **International Migrants Day** is annually observed across the globe on **18th December** tocreate awareness about the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face.

Key Points:

- On the occasion of International Migrants Day, The UNMigration agency International Organization for Migration(IOM) reaffirms its commitment to promoting humane and orderly management of migration for the benefit of all, including the communities of origin, transit, and destination.
- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/55/93 on 4th December **2000** and proclaimed the 18th December of every year as International Migrants Day.
- The day(18th December) marks the day on which the UNGA adopted the International Convention on the
- Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990.

Minority Rights Day 2022 – 18th December

Minority Rights Day, also known as Minorities Day, is annually observed across India on 18th December to create awareness about the Constitutionally-assured rights of religious minorities

The observance of the day aims to uphold the rightto freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.

Key Points:

- The day marks the day on which the United Nations (UN) adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities in 1992.
- The celebration of the Minority Rights Day or Minorities Day 2022 was held on 16th December 2022 at National Commission for Minorities

<u>International Human Solidarity Day 2022 – December 20</u>

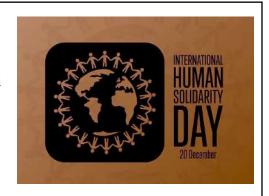
United Nations (UN)'s **International Human Solidarity Day** is annually observed across the globe on **December 20** to raise public awareness of the value of solidarity, stimulate new efforts for the eradication of poverty, and remind governments of all countries of their



responsibilities under international agreements.

Key points:

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/60/209 on 22nd December 2005 and proclaimed December 20 of each year as International HumanSolidarity Day.
- The day marks the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund resolution (A/RES/57/265) on 20th December 2002.
- The 1st ever International Human Solidarity Day was observed on 20th December 2006.



2nd Good Governance Week - 19th to 25th December 2022

- The 2nd Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) is being observed from 19th to 25th December 2022 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Good Governance Week 2021 was celebrated as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, from 20th to 26th December 2021.
- The theme of Good Governance Week 2021 was "PrashasanGaon Ki Aur".
- On 19th December 2022, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions inaugurated the 5 days Prashasan Gaon ki Ore campaign, Nationwide campaign for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery during the event held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.



National Mathematics Day 2022 – December 22

National Mathematics Day is annually celebrated across India on December 22 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian Mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, who was born on 22nd December 1887 in Erode, Madras Presidency, British India (now Tamil Nadu, India).

Key Points:

- The day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan and highlight the importance of Mathematics.
- 22nd December 2022 marks the **135th** birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- On 26th February 2012, during the ceremony in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, then Prime Minister (PM)
 Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as the National Mathematics Day to mark the birthanniversary of the legendary Indian
- Mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, to honour his life andachievements.
- He also declared the year 2012 as the National Mathematics Year.

Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day 2022 – December 23

Kisan Diwas, also known as **National Farmers Day**, is annually observed across India on December 23 to recognise and honour the major role of farmers in the growth and development of India.

The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, a farmers' leader who became India's 5th PrimeMinister (PM) (1979-1980).

Key Points:

- National Farmers Day 2022 marks the 120th birthanniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- In 2001, the Government of India (GoI) declared December 23 as Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day to honour Chaudhary Charan Singh's contribution towards the development of the agriculture sector.
- The 1st Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day was observed n December 2001.



National Consumer Day 2022 – December 24

National Consumer Day or Bhartiya Grahak Diwas is annually observed across India on December 24 tocreate awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities. The day also aims to protect consumers from market exploitation likedefective products or expensive pricing.

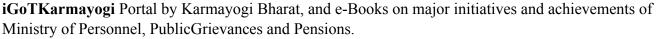
Key Points:

- The Day commemorates the enactment of the Consumer ProtectionAct of 1986, which received assent from the President of India on 24th December 1986.
- The 1st National Consumer Day was observed on 24th December 1986.



National Good Governance Day 2022 – December 25

- Good Governance Day, also known as Sushasan Diwas in Hindi, is annually observed across India on
- **25th December** to mark the birth anniversary of the formerPrime Minister (PM) Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. **25th December 2022** marks the **98th birth anniversary** of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- This day also ensures that residents are treated fairly by the government and they receive advantages of various government services.
- In 2014, The Government of India declared the 25th December of every year, the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as Good Governance Day.
- To mark this occasion, Minister of State (MoS) for Personnel,
- Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh launched the revamped Probity Portal, e-HRMS (Human Resource Management System) 2.0 Portal, Mobile Application of





<u>Veer Bal Diwas 2022 – December 26</u>

Veer Bal Diwas is observed across India on December 26 to markthe martyrdom of the Sahibzadas- Sri Guru Gobind Singh's 4 sonsof the 10th Sikh guru- Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the 17th century. 26th December 2022 marks the 1st observance of Veer Bal Diwas. On 9th January 2022, on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, PM Narendra Modi announced 'Veer Bal Diwas'.

Kev Points:

• On 26th December 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi

attended the 'Veer Bal Diwas' programme held at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi, as a tribute to the martyrdom.

- The PM attended a 'Shabad Kirtan' performed by about 300 Baal Kirtanis.
- India's 1st, Resolution of 'Rastra Pratham', was the unshakable resolve of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. PMbacked up his point by recounting his family's immense personal sacrifice.



10th Edition of the North East Festival begins in Delhi

10th Edition of the North East Festival began 2022 (from 23rd -26th December 2022) was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi, to promote the culture and tourism of the region.

Narayan Rane, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), inaugurated the 4-day Festival at the stadium in Delhi. The festival aims to promote the diverse life, culture, traditions and tourism of the North East region.

Key points:

- The origin of the North East Festival 1st came up in the year 2013-2014 when therewere a lot of racial assaults committed against residents of North East India in Delhi.
- North East Festival Delhi launched itsinaugural event in 2013.
- The first 7 editions of the festival were organised from 2013 to 2019 respectively at the Indira GandhiNational Centre for Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi, Delhi.
- The last 2 editions were held in Guwahati, Assam, virtually due to the spike in COVID cases in Delhi.



United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is annually observed across the globe

on December 27 to raise awareness of the importance of prevention of, preparedness for, and collaboration against epidemics.

27th December 2022 marks the observance of the 3rd International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/75/27 on 7th December 2020 and declared December 27 of every year as International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.
- The 1st International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was observed on 27th December 2020.





UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'One District One Sport' scheme

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister(CM) of Uttar Pradesh(UP) launched the "One District One Sport" (ODOS) to promote indigenous sports in UP. The scheme aims to revive the indigenous sports that are losing their presence in the field.

The Department of Sports, Uttar Pradesh is set to prepare the blueprint of the scheme and identifypopular sports for each district.

The ODOS scheme is started in line with the OneDistrict one product(ODOP) scheme, which promoted local items of each of the 75 districts of UP.

Key Points:

- The scheme aims to encourage the youths of the state to take up sports and hone their skills.
- Water sports will be an integral part of the ODOS scheme for districts situated on the banks of major rivers.
- At present, 57 districts have been taken up and divided across 13 sports and the sports department working on appointing coaches.



Disabled- Friendly ramp was inaugurated in Chennai's Marina Beach

- India's **1st** permanent ramp for persons with disability was inaugurated at Marina beach, Chennai(Tamil Nadu).
- This facility has been developed with funding from Singara Chennai 2.0 at an estimated cost of Rs 1.14 crore.
- The facility was established by the Greater ChennaiCorporation (GCC).
- It was inaugurated by Municipal Administration and Water Supply Minister K N Nehru, Health Minister Ma Subramanian and Hindu Religious (HR) and Charitable Endowments (CE) Department Minister P K Sekar Babu inthe presence of Member of Parliament (MP) Dayanidhi
- Maran and Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Udhayanidhi



Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act Amendment Bill gets Presidentnod

President of India Draupadi Murmu approved the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act Amendment Bill. This amendment will pave the way for redevelopment of dangerous or dilapidated Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) ownedresidential buildings, or Cess buildings.

- With this, MHADA has been empowered to directly takeover such cess buildings, where redevelopment is stalled, and redevelop them.
- Redevelopment of several buildings gets stalled due todisputes between tenants and landowners.





- If any cess building is declared dilapidated by the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation** (BMC), the owner of the building is given a chance to submit a redevelopment proposal within sixmonths.
- If the owner fails to do so, the residents are given another six months' time to submit a redevelopment proposal, and if this is not done either, MHADA can take possession of the building for redevelopment.
- In such a case, the owner is provided compensation of a certain portion of value of the built-uparea by ready reckoner rate.
- Presently, there are 56 cess buildings in Mumbai city, where redevelopment has been stalled or is incomplete.
- In 2020, the Maharashtra government had passed the bill amending the MHADA Act 1976, and ithad been awaiting the final nod from the President.

Gol Names 21 Uninhabited A&N Islands after Decorated Soldiers

Government of India (GoI) has named 21 uninhabited islands in the union territory (UT) of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) after recipients of Param Vir Chakra, India's highest wartime gallantry award with the support of Andaman administration and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Out of the 21 islands, 16 are located in North and Middle Andaman district, while the remaining 5 islands are in South Andaman.

Among the islands, some fall under reserved forest while others have great potential for water sports, creek tourism and fishing.

Key Points:

- The first uninhabited island numbered 'INAN370' in Northand Middle Andaman was named after Major Somnath Sharma and henceforth it will be known as 'Somnath Dweep'.
- He was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra. He losthis life in the line of duty in 1947 while handling Pakistaniinfiltrators near Srinagar Airport.
- He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for hisgallantry and sacrifice during the Battle of Badgam.
- Another uninhabited island numbered 'INAN308' has been named after Subedar and HonoraryCaptain Karam Singh as 'Karam Singh Dweep'.
- He fought in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 and has been awarded the Param Vir Chakra forsaving a forward post at Richmar Gali, south of Tithwal (a small border-village in Jammu andKashmir).

Maharashtra Becomes First State to Set up Separate Divyang department

On the occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons, Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) Eknath Shinde announced the formation of a separate Divyang Welfare

Department for the welfare of differently-abled people with afinancial outlay of **Rs 1,143 crore.** Maharashtra Becomes the first State in India to launch aseparate department for the welfare of differently-abled people.

- The Maharashtra government has created **2,063 posts** forthis new department which will formulate policies for the
- welfare of the disabled with the consideration of the stakeholders views.
- The sections that are taking care of issues related to Divyang (differently-abled) people under the Social Justice and Special







Assistance department will now be put together to form this new Divyang Welfare Department.

• Until now, the welfare activities of Divyang people including education, training, and rehabilitationwere taken care of by the state social justice department.

J&K's 1st FASTag-enabled Parking System Launched

Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), **Dheeraj Gupta** inaugurated J&K's 1st FASTag- enabled Parking Management System at Multi-

Level Car

Parking General Bus Stand Jammu.

Key Points:

- The smart parking was launched as part of UT of J&K's MyTown My Pride
- The state-of-the-art smart parking FASTag enables cashless while the initiative is the 1st of its kindin J&K and 2nd across India.
- The parking would be managed by an app called Park+, which allows Jammu residents to discover, book, and prepay for a parking spot.



'Make in Odisha Conclave 2022' (3rd edition) held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha – November 30 to December 04, 2022

The **Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 (3rd edition)**, a biennial globalinvestors' meet and the flagship investor summit of the Government of Odisha, took place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from November 30 toDecember 4, 2022.

Key Points:

- The largest part of the total investment received—Rs. 5.50 trillion went to the metals, ancillary, and downstream sectors.
- Besides that, Rs. 2.38 trillion for power, renewable energy, and green energy; Rs. 1.2 trillion went to logistics and infrastructure; Rs. 76,000 crore went to chemicals, petrochemicals, and plastics.

Assam Cabinet Approves Bill to Create Safai Karamchari Commission

Assam Cabinet led by Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma approved a bill to establish a **Safai Karamchari Commission** for the first time in the state's history, at a meeting held at the historic Gandhi Mandap inGuwahati, Assam.

- The Dergaon Police Academy was renamed as the **'LachitBarphukan Police Academy'** by the Assam Cabinet.
- The Assam Cabinet has resolved to transfer Rs. 700 to the bank accounts of all pregnant women in the state, benefiting about 5 lakh pregnant women.
- The Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium, Assam's first 3D and fourth planetarium, was formally inaugurated by Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM of Assam. It was constructed in Milanpur, Nalbari, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores and 50 lakhs.



Kerala to become 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040

Chief Minister(CM) of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated the India Climate and Development

Partners'Meet hosted by the Kerala Governemnt and the World Bank and stated that the State aspires to become 100% renewable Energy based state by 2040 and and net carbon neutral by 2050.

Key Points:

 During the event, Government of Kerala has also signed agreement withthe Agence Française de Développement (AFD

 French Development Agency) for a performance based loan of 100 million Euros(Rs 865.8 crore) agreement.



- The agreement was signed by Bishwanath Sinha, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) and Bruno Bosle, AFD CountryDirector.
- This aims to enhance the Kerala's resilience against impacts of climatechange.

NIIFL Signs MoU with Tamil Nadu Govt for Infra Projects

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in

Tamil Nadu, under the public-private project (PPP)model.

Key Points:

- Currently, 7 projects across departments have been identified, with potential investments ranging from **Rs5,000 to 6,000 crore**.
- Work on these projects has already begun.
- The Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisory (SIPA)team at NIIFL provide high-level strategic advice toentities in the Central and State Governments.
- Among the various initiatives outlined in the MoU, NIIFL
 intends to assist the state government in identifying potential
 private sector opportunities in asset recycling and developing
 greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects in sectors
 (renewable energy, roads, waste management, water, tourism,
 and others).



Airbnb Signs MoU with DoT, Government of Goa to Promote Inclusive Tourism

Airbnb signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Department of Tourism (**DoT**), Government of Goa, to jointly promote Goa as one of the high potential tourism destinations in India and around the world.

Key points:

 This partnership aims at encouraging travel to unique and lesser known destinations and enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism.





- This also scales up homestay capacity across Goa, enables capacity building of hospitality entrepreneurs and promotes the local homestay ecosystem through targeted domestic and international destination promotion campaigns.
- The partnership will enhance the potential of tourism by hosting knowledge sharing and training workshops for homestay hosts to create jobs and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the local communities.

Assam CM Launches Orunodoi 2.0 DBT Scheme toBenefit over 10 Lakh People

Assam Chief Minister (CM) **Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched **'Orunodoi 2.0'**, the flagship scheme of the Assam governmentwith a financial outlay of Rs.4142 crore per annum, in a virtualmeet in Guwahati, Assam.

This financial outlay of **Rs 4142 crore**, makes it one of the largest direct beneficiary transfer (DBT) schemes in India. The scheme aims at providing financial security to financially disadvantaged families.

Key Points:

- During the 1st phase of Orunodoi, around 17 lakh women have been receiving a guaranteed cash flow ofRs 1,250 each on the 10th of every month through DBT.
- With the addition of another 10.54 lakh new beneficiaries, the scheme would reach a total of 27 lakh-plus beneficiaries.



- From April 2023, all the existing beneficiaries of the Deen Dayal Divyangan Pension Yojana and Indira Miri Widow Pension Scheme would be subsumed under Orunodoi 2.0. The beneficiaries of Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme will get Rs. 1,200 per month under Orunodoi.
- Also, Divyangans, transgenders and the households having members who are a dwarf or suffering from conditions such as cerebral palsy, thalassemia and hemophilia will be included under Orunodoi scheme.

UP Govt Signs MoU with Singapore Ahead of UP Global Investors Summit

Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has signed a number of agreements with investors in Singapore ahead of the UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS), for a 50 billion investment commitments target. UPGIS will be held among countries in Lucknow, between 10th February and 12th February 2023.

- The UP Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) at the Singapore roadshow, to set the pace for Singapore investors to participate in the prosperity of UP.
- SICCI will act as a bridge between Singapore's investment companies and the UP Government.
- SICCI will also act as a knowledge partner, provide avenues for growth, and also define a trajectory for investors.
- In Order to achieve the target of becoming a **USD 1 trillion** economy in line with the central government's





vision to create a USD 5 trillion national economy in future, the UP government will still need around USD 50 billion.

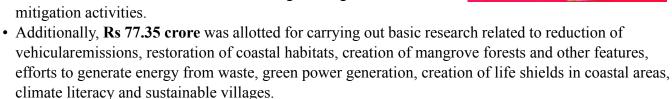
• Projects worth Rs 380,000 crore were raised from the 2018 UP Investors Summit, which are presently invarious phases of implementation.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin Launches Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) M K Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission atthe 'TN Climate Summit 2022' to protect the natural resources and restore them on a long-term basis. Tamil Nadu is the **first state** to launch its own ClimateChange Mission to make it a climate smart state.

Key Points:

- Through this initiative, Tamil Nadu would achieve carbon neutrality ahead of the 2070 target set by PrimeMinister Narendra Modi, as the state prioritises the climate agenda with district missions and climate officers already in place.
- The Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission was announced during the 2021-2022 budget for an outlay
- of Rs 500 crore to undertake climate change management and mitigation activities.



• Following this, the TN government had established India's first 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company", a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to implement three major nature conservation projects including Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands and Tamil Nadu Climate Change.

Tamil Nadu Introduces "Friends of Library" Scheme to Promote Reading

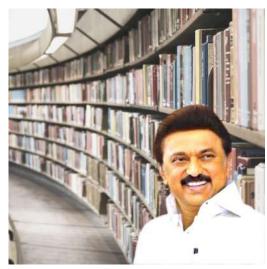
Minister of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu (TN), has introduced the "Friends of **Library**"scheme, which would personally deliver books to people who are unable to visit state-run libraries.

Key Points

- The scheme will benefit differently abled people, senior citizens, children, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library, and the help of volunteers will be employed for this objective.
- Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (M.K. Stalin), Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN), inaugurated the "Sanitation

Workers' Development Scheme" to protect the welfare of conservancy workers in TN during aceremony held at the Arignar Anna Complex, headquarters of Madurai Corporation, in TN

• The CM also introduced a sanitation worker logo and launched a mobile app called SHWAS (Sanitation Workers Health Welfare and Safety) to assist in the identification and collection of sanitation worker census data.





Mangaluru International Airport received ACI accreditation

- Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI) for level 2 of the airport customer experience accreditation programme.
- The accreditation was issued on 14th December 2022, and it isvalid for a year.
- The certificate recognises the commitment of MIA to continue with its customer experience improvement.
- It aims to further strengthen the continued endeavour of thisGateway To Goodness' to enhance customer experience enhancement.



<u>UP Govt & Austin University Signs MoU to Build Austin Smart City of Knowledge</u> Project in UP

On 18th December 2022, The **Uttar Pradesh (UP) government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding **(MoU)** with the **Austin University, Texas,** United States of America(USA) for the construction of

'Austin Smart City of Knowledge Project in UP' at a cost of USD 42 billion.

The MoU was signed by the officials of Uttar Pradesh (UP finance minister Suresh Khanna and additional chief secretary (Infrastructureand Industrial Development) Arvind Kumar, and Austin University, which included Austin University President Ashraf Al Moustafa. The MoU was signed during the visit of the UP government delegation to the United States of America (USA) as part of efforts to attract investment ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) – 2023.



Key points:

- The project built on 5000 acres of land in UP will have the best universities of the world coming up inside the project.
- The investment of USD 42 billion will be provided over time in instalments, with the first instalment of USD 7 billion being issued initially and then, the rest will be increased accordingly.
- In addition, an investment target of Rs. 10 lakh crore has been fixed to attract through UPGIS that is to beheld in Lucknow, UP between 10th February and 12th February 2022.
- Around eight teams of ministers and officials are on tour to 18 countries to attract investments through road shows and trade shows.
- Further, the Star consortium will provide a data centre and logistics services, while the SLG Group willbuild the Capital Data Centre.
- With this proposal, a number of employment opportunities will be made available to the people of UP.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Drink from Tap' facility in 19 Cities & Towns

• Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, launched the 24-Hour Drink from Tap project in 19 cities and towns of Odisha, which would benefit over 5.5 lakh people.



- The project was officially launched in Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela, Sundargarh, Biramitrapur, Rajgangpur, Keonjhar, Bhubaneswar, Nimapada, Joda, Badbil,
- Champua, Anandpur, Baripada, Rairangpur, Udala, Karanjia, and Vyasanagar.
- It was launched virtually under the 5T initiative (Teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit).

Key Points:

- In 2021, Odisha's Puri was the 1st city in the state to have a drink-from-tap facility. Gopalpur is the 2nd city in Odisha to facilitate the project.
- Drinking water will be supplied around through taps installed in households under the project.
- According to CM Naveen Patnaik, the initiative would help at least 5.55 lakh people in 19 cities and towns.

Assam CM inaugurates Partial Commissioning of JICA-assisted Guwahati Water **Supply project**

Chief Minister (CM) of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the partial commissioning of the

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project at an event held on the

premises of its water treatment plant at Kharghuli, Guwahati, Assam.

The project which was launched in 2009 is scheduled to be ready for full commissioning by March 2024. **Key Points:**

- The 'Guwahati Water Supply Project' aims to provide clean potable water to the residents of Guwahati,
- The project has the capacity to provide 1.25 lakh families in parts of Guwahati with a 24-hours water
- Currently, the partial commissioning will allow Guwahati Jal Board to supply water to about 13,000 households in Guwahati's multiple localities.



- M.B. Rajesh, Minister for Local Self-Government, inaugurated Kerala's 1st smart mobile compostingunit, which was jointly launched by Suchitwa Mission and the Kerala Mission in Pallithottam, Kerala.
- The innovative idea of smart mobile composting that scientifically treatswaste from auditoriums and large catering centres and turns it into manure.
- Up to 500 kilogrammes (Kg) of garbage can be processed and turned intomanure each hour using the device.





Manipur CM N. Biren Singh Launches Upgraded Inner Line Permit System Portal

Manipur Chief Minister (CM) N. Biren Singh launched an upgradedInner Line Permit (ILP) System portal, for saving the indigenous population of Manipur.

The portal also makes it convenient for visitors from outside Manipurto apply for ILP.

This portal had been launched with new development added to theearlier ILP system.

Key Points:

- ILPs were earlier issued manually at Mao gate bordering Myanmar, the
- Imphal airport and Jiribam bordering Assam and this can now be issued by the Deputy Commissioners and Labour Commissioners of Manipur through online.
- The bar code has also been put in the ILP, through which the identity of the possessor can be identified by simply scanning. Also, duplicity and fraud in ILP could be checked.
- The temporary permits will be issued for 30-days; regular permits for 3-months and labour permits for ayear.



MoD gives nod to procure Pralay Ballistic Missiles for Armed Forces

Ministry of Defence (MoD), during a high-level meeting, has given its nod for the procurement of 120 Pralay ballistic missiles for the armed forces. These are indigenously developed new generation quasiballistic **surface-to-surface** missiles.

They are likely to be deployed along India's border areas along Pakistan and China.

The missile would be provided to the Air Force and the Navy.

Key Points:

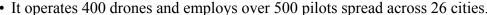
- Developed by the Defence Research and DevelopmentOrganisation (DRDO), it's system is road mobile.
- It can hit targets in the range of 150-500 km and the missile has anaccuracy of 10 metres(capable of hitting within 10 metres of the target).
- It can carry 350-700 kg high grade explosive, Penetration-Cum-Blast explosive, and Runway Denial Penetration Submunition.
- The missile has a speed of around **2,000 km per hour**, and is equipped with an infrared or thermal scanner. It can be used in thenight to attack enemy's targets.
- Pralay is powered with solid propellant rocket motor, missile guidance system including state-of-theartnavigation system, and integrated avionics.
- It has a capacity to tackle interceptor missiles as well.
- It is also capable of changing its route after travelling a certain distance in the air.

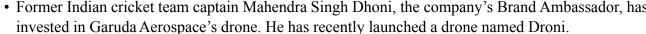
<u>Garuda Aerospace becomes 1st Drone Company to get DGCA's double certification</u> for 'Kisan Drones'

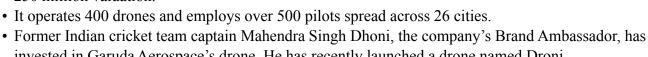
Garuda Aerospace, a Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based drone manufacturer, has become India's 1st drone startup to receive both Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) approvals by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for their indigenously designed 'Kisan Drones'.

Key Points:

- The approvals will now lead to the creation of job opportunities for youth soon, and a goal of training 1 lakh drone pilots in the next 2 years.
- Garuda Aerospace is powered and blessed with strong demands of manufacturing 5000 drones in the next5 months catering to many opportunities.
- It recently began its USD 30 million Series A round at a USD 250 million valuation.







Ladakh Celebrates Losar Festival to Mark Ladakhi New Year

Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) celebrated the Losar Festival to mark the Ladakhi New Year, a majorsocio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated in winter.

Losar festival is a 15-day long festival that falls during the winter solstice, any time between 8th and 30thDecember.

The term 'Losar' means New year in the Tibetan language. 'Lo' meansyear and 'Sar' means new.

Key Points:

- The Losar festival 2022 will continue for 9 more days from the new year with the offering of prayers in the name of God and Goddess along with dances and songs in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.
- As a part of Losar festival, Ladakh will be lit in lights by the lighting of prayer lamps, illumination of buildings, houses, religious places like monasteries, stupas, and otherbusiness establishments.



J&K Organises 'Nowshera Folk Festival' to Boost Tourism

Directorate of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri organised the 'Nowshera Folk Festival' at

Nowshera to promote tourism.

Attendees:

- The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal and DDC Chairman Naseem LiaquatChoudhury.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) members from Nowshera, Seri, Lamberi, Qila Darhal and adjoining areas also attended the event.

Key Points:

• The festival started with a **Dogri dance** followed by a Gojri and Pahari dance by prominent artists. Thestar



performances in the show included brilliant singing performances by Shoaib Kandoo, Shivam Shiva and Sandeep Brar.

• About 2500 people participated in the event and there were also displays of local art, handloom, and handicraft products along with a display of mannequins in Pahari and Gojri attire.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates the new Zuari bridge in Goa

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways ofIndia, inaugurated the new **Zuari bridge** in Goa, which linksNorth and South Goa.

Zuari bridge is India's 2nd largest Cable Stayed bridge, locatedon NH-17/NH-66 on the Panjim (Goa)-Mangaluru (Karnataka)section in the state of Goa.

Key Points:

- The 13.20-kilometre cost 2530 Crores and the 8-lane bridge connecting **Bambolim and Verna** over the Zuari River will greatly improve transportation between North and South Goa.
- Strengthening the connection for Mormugao Port Trust will cut the travel time between North Goa and South Goa by **30** minutes.



Assam Cabinet Grants Industry Status to the Tourism Sector in Assam

- Cabinet of Assam headed by Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister (CM) of Assam approved the proposal for the grant of industrial status to the tourism sector in Assam.
- With industry status, restaurants, cafeterias, health clubs, spas and wellness centres among others are eligible for incentives under the industrial policy. This will encourage and boost private investment in the above areas of the tourism sector
- With industry status, fresh investments in tourism infrastructures will contribute to rapid employmentgeneration, public-private partnership and infrastructure development.
- This aims for sustainable and environmentally friendly investment besides capital formation and the creation of gainful employment.



OBITUARY

Former President of China Jiang Zemin Passed Away

- Jiang Zemin, former President of China who presided over more than a decade of economic growth after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown against pro-democracy protester, passed away at the age of 96 in Shanghai, China. He was born in 1926 in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, China.
- He served as the President of China from 1993 to 2003.



Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice Chairperson Vikram Kirloskar Passed Away

- Vikram S Kirloskar, Vice Chairperson of Toyota Kirloskar Motor passed away at the age of 64 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ He is a fourth-generation member of the Kirloskar Group, which was founded in 1888.
- ✓ He played an important role in bringing Japan's Toyota Motor Corp to India in the late 1990s.



Veteran Odia Actress Jharana Das Passes Away

Veteran Odia film actress Jharana Das passed away in Cuttack, Odisha at the age of 77. She was born in 1945 and started her acting career in the 1960s.

- ✓ She directed a biographical documentary film on the former chief minister of Odisha, Harekrushna Mahatab.
- ✓ In 1997, Jharana Das received the state government's prestigious 'Jaydev Puraskar' for her lifelong contribution to the Odia cinema industry.



<u>Padma Bhushan Awardee & Renowned French Author Dominique Lapierre Passes</u> <u>Away</u>

- Renowned French author and Padma Bhushan awardee, **Dominique Lapierre**, passed away at the age of 91. He was born on 30th July 1931, in Chatelaillon, France.
- The Government of India honoured him with Padma Bhushan for Social Works in 2008.
- His Books/Novels: 'City of Joy'; 'Is Paris Burning' (1964); "Or I'll Dress You in Mourning" (1968), "O Jerusalem" (1972), "Freedom at Midnight" (1975), "The Fifth Horseman" (1980), and the thriller "Is New York Burning?"



Eminent Economist & Former Union Minister Y. K. Alagh Passes Away



- Noted economist and former Union Minister **Yoginder Kumar Alagh** (Y. K. Alagh), an emeritus professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR) in Ahmedabad, passed away at the age of 83 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ He was born in 1939 in Chakwal, Punjab, British India (now in Pakistan).
- ✓ He served as the Advisor, Perspective Planning, Planning Commission of India from 1974 to 1980 and also served as a member of the Planning Commission of India from 1987 to 1990.



Senior Yakshagana Artiste & Former MLA Kumble Sundar Rao Passed Away

- Kumble Sundar Rao, Senior Yakshagana Artiste and former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Surathkal (Karnataka) passed away in Mangaluru, Karnataka. He was a native of the Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka. He was also a well-known Talamaddale artiste.
- ✓ He was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1994 from the erstwhile Surathkal Assembly constituency in Dakshina Kannada from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).





Padma Shri awardee Manohar Devadoss Passed Away

- On 7th December 2022, renowned artist and writer, Padma Shri Awardee Manohar Devadoss passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 85. He was born in 1936 in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He was awarded the **Padma Shri (2020)**, India's 4th-highest civilian award, for his inspirational work in Art and Charity.
- **V Books**: 'A Poem to Courage', 'Dreams, Seasons and Promises' and 'Mahe and Mano: Challenges, Resilience and Triumphs' are works about his life with his wife, Mahema Michael. 'Madras Inked: Impressions of an Artist and an Architect' was his last book, which was co-authored by Sujatha Shankar.



Indian Olympian & Arjuna Awardee Kenneth Powell Passed away

- **Kenneth Powell**, Olympian and India's 1970 Asian Games 4x100m relay bronze-winning team member passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on April 20, 1940, in Kolar, Karnataka.
- ✓ After missing out on the 1962 Asian Games, he played a key role in the Indian 4x100m relay team reaching the semifinals of the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.
- ✓ He received the Arjuna Award from the Government of India in 1965,

 Powell became the first sportsperson from Karnataka to win the Arjuna Award



Oscar-Winning American Documentary filmmaker Julia Reichert Passed Away





- American documentary filmmaker **Julia Bell Reichert**, who won an **Oscar in 2020**, passed away at the age of 76 in Ohio, United States (US). She was born on 16th June 1946 in New Jersey, US.
- ✓ Julia Reichert has been called a 'godmother' of the US independent film movement.
- ✓ Julia Reichert along with Steven Bognar and Jeff Reichert won Best Documentary Feature for 'American Factory' at the 92nd Oscars (2020).

Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, "last Hawaiian princess" Passed Away

- Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, a Hawaiian princess whose lineage included the royal family that once ruled the islands, passed away at the age of 96 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was born on 23rd April 1926 in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.
- ✓ Her great-grandfather, James Campbell, an Irish businessman who owned a sugar plantation, was the source of her enormous wealth, which was kept in trust and is estimated to be worth USD 215 million (175 million in a pound).
- Veteran Telugu Actor Kaikala Satyanarayana Passes Away
- Legendary Telugu actor Kaikala
 Satyanarayana, known for his villain and other character roles, passed away at the age of 87 years in Hyderabad, Telangana.
 - ✓ Kaikala Satyanarayana, known as Navarasa Natana Sarvabhouma, was born on 25th July 1935, in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.



England's 1966 Football World Cup Winner George Cohen Passes Away

- England's legendary footballer George Cohen, who was a part of England's 1966 Football World winning team, passed away at the age of 83. He was born in Kensington, London (England), in 1939. He was one of only three surviving members of that World Cup-winning squad, along with Bobby
- Charlton and Geoff Hurst. He joined Fulham Football Club (FC) in 1956 and made his debut in 1957. He has made 459 appearances representing Fulham FC between 1956 and 1969.



Brazilian Footballer Legend & 3 Time FIFA World Cup Winner Pelé Passed Away

- Former Brazilian Footballer and 3 time FIFA(Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup Winner Pelé(real name:
- Edson Arantes do Nascimento), passed away at the age of the age of 82 in State of São Paulo, Brazil.
 - He was nicknamed O Rei (The King) and fondly known as "The King of Football". Pelé was born as "Edson Arantes do Nascimento" in city of Tres Coracoes in Minas Gerais state, Brazil.



CURRENT ISSUES

India Inequality Report 2022

As per a report titled \$India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide", Women constitute only one third of internet users in India. The report has been released by NGO Oxfam India. Details -

- The report analyses primary data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy"s (CMIE) household survey from January 2018 to December 2021.
 - CMIE is a leading business information company. It functions as both an economic think

tankand a provider of business intelligence information.

- It looks at CMIE"s data on internet access, mobile ownership, computer, and broadband availability to assess the inclusivity of digital initiatives to deliver public services and entitlements.
 - Highlights of the report -
- Digital divide based on gender
 - While 61 per cent of men owned mobile phones in 2021, their access remained limited to just 31 per cent women.
 - Indian women are 15 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone and 33 per cent less likely to use mobile internet services than men.
 - As per the report, in Asia-Pacific, India fares the worst with the widest gender gap of 40.4 per cent
- Digital divide based on employment status and caste
 - 95 per cent of the salaried permanent workers have a phone whereas only 50 per cent of the unemployed (willing and looking for a job) have a phone in 2021.
 - While 8 per cent of the general caste have access to a computer or a laptop, less than 1 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 2 per cent of the Scheduled Castes (SC) afford it.
- Rural-urban digital divide
 - Despite registering a significant digital growth rate of 13 per cent in a year, only 31 per cent of the rural population uses Internet compared to 67 percent of their urban counterparts.
 - The report pointed out that contrary to popular belief, the use of computer devices has decreased in rural areas.
- Uneven distribution among states Among states, Maharashtra has the highest internet penetration, followed by Goa and Kerala, while Bihar has the lowest, followed by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- India"s growing inequality is accentuated due to the digital divide —

- The use of digital technologies in delivering essential services such as education and health is further increasing the inequalities in India.
 - During Covid-19 lockdown, many parents faced challenges in supporting their children"s
 - access digital education, with signal and internet speed becoming the biggest issues in private schools.
 - In government schools, many parents reported that education was not delivered during the lockdown.
- The report highlights how digital technologies are accessible to the rich and privileged.
- As a result, people without devices and the internet get further marginalised due to difficulties in accessing education, health, and public services.
- India"s rank in UN"s e-participation index (2022)
 - The report highlighted that India ranked 105 out of 193 nations in UN"s e-participation index(2022).
 - The index is a composite measure of three important dimensions of e-government, namelyprovision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity. Suggestions -
 - The report urged the Union and state governments to ensure universal access to internet connectivity by investing in digital infrastructure to not only make the internet affordable but also push for greater accessibility to smartphones.
 - The report also recommended that digital literacy camps be conducted, especially in rural
 - India, to teach the use of technology in schools, and digitise panchayats.
 - It further urged the govt to establish a responsive and accountable grievance redressal mechanism to handle edtech and healthtech-related complaints by parents, children, and
 - otherconsumers
 - Tech-based solutions do not always present the right answers, and governments need to consider low- or no-tech solutions, even in crises like a pandemic.

Social Hostilities Index

The Washington-based think tank Pew Research Centre has recently come out with a study that puts India at the top of its index of social hostilities involving religion in 2020 in the context of the impact of Covid restrictions.

Details -

• US think-tank Pew Research Center released the Social Hostilities Index (SHI). AT 9.4 out of a maximum possible score of 10, India"s SHI in 2020 was worse than neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan, and a further increase in its own index value for



2019. A higher scoreis worse. The report covered 198 countries.

- The SHI measures acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups. The index comprises 13 metrics, including religion-related armed conflict or terrorism and mob or sectarian violence.
- Questions used to compute the SHI included whether the country saw violence motivated by religious hatred or bias, whether individuals faced harassment or intimidation motivated by religious hatred or bias and whether there was mob violence against those of particular religiousgroups.
- Among the most populous countries, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Egypt and Bangladesh had very high" social hostilities involving religion.

Personality rights

Delhi High Court has recently passed an interim order to prevent the unlawful use of Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan's name, image and voice. The court, through its order, restrained persons at large from infringing the personality rights of the actor.

What are 'personality rights'?

- Personality rights refer to the right of a person to protect his/her personality under the rightto privacy or property.
 - These rights are important to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can easily be misused in various advertisements by different companies to boost their sales.
 - Therefore, it is necessary for renowned personalities/celebrities to register their names tosave their personality rights.
 - A large list of unique personal attributes contribute to the making of a celebrity.

All of these attributes need to be protected, such as name, nickname, stage name, picture, likeness, image and any identifiable personal property, such as a distinctive race car. Personality rights and Publicity rights -

- Personality rights are different from publicity rights. Personality rights consist of two types of rights —
- Firstly, the right of publicity, or the right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation, which is similar (butnot identical) to the use of a trademark; and
- Secondly, the right to privacy or the right to not have one's personality represented publicly without permission.
- However, under common law jurisdictions, publicity rights fall into the realm of the 'tort of passing off'.
- Passing off takes place when someone intentionally or unintentionally passes off their goodsor services as those belonging to another party.
- Often, this type of misrepresentation damages the goodwill of a person or business, resultingin financial or reputational damage.
- Publicity rights are governed by statutes like the Trade marks Act 1999 and the Copyright Act1957.
- Court judgements —

- Shivaji Rao Gaikwad (aka Rajinikanth) v. Varsha Production Though there is no definition for the personality right under any statute in India, the Courts in India have recognised the personality right in various judgments.
- ICC Development (International) Ltd., Vs. Arvee Enterprises The right of publicity has evolved from the right of privacy and any effort to take away this right from the individuals would be violative of Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

National Anti-Doping Agency

National Anti-Doping Agency will host an Inclusion Conclave to sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities.

About National Anti-Doping Agency -

- NADA was established by the Government of India, with the objective of acting as the independent Anti-Doping Organisation for India having a vision of dope-free sports.
 - It was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 on November 2005.
 - The primary functions of NADA are as under
 - To implement the Anti-Doping Code to achieve compliance by all sports organizations in the Country.
 - To coordinate dope testing program through all participating stakeholders.
- To promote anti-doping research and education to inculcate the value of dope free sports. To adopt best practice standards and quality systems to enable effective implementationand continual improvement of the program.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) -

- Athletes may have illnesses or conditions that require them to take medications or undergo procedures. If the medication or method is prohibited as per the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List, a TUE may give that athlete the authorisation to use that substance or method while competing without invoking an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) and applicable sanction.
- Applications for TUEs are evaluated by a panel of physicians the TUE Committee (TUEC). NADO TUEs are only valid for national-level Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing. About the World Anti-Doping Agency -
- •The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
 - The agency's key activities include monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code, whose provisions are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.
 - Headquarters Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Established in — November 1999



Right of prisoners

The State of Punjab has recently furthered the cause of right to life and personal liberty of prisoners by allowing conjugal visits for inmates.

About the 'conjugal rights' -

- Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, that is, the right of the husband or the wife tothe company of their spouse.
 - In the context of prisons, however, conjugal visits refer to the concept of allowing a prisoner to spend some time in privacy with his spouse within the precincts of a jail.
 - Impact It is often argued that conjugal visits can have positive impacts in the form of psychological health benefits for prisoners, preservation of marital ties and, reduction in the rates of homosexuality and sexual aggression within prisons. Aside from the above, it is also argued that conjugal visits are a fundamental right of the spouses of the prisoners.
 Prisoner rights are internationally recognised through the United Nations Standard MinimumRules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights etc.
 - Through such instruments, prisoners are guaranteed the right to life and inherent dignity.
 - The right to maintain family relations including conjugal visits are included in these treaties.

Most prison Acts and Rules across the country accept the importance of maintenance of continuity in family and social relations.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on December 3, 2022. About the day -

- International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) is a United Nations sanctioned day celebrated internationally on 3 December each year.
- The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.
- Its objective is to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.
 Definition of disability in India Until the 2011 census, the questionnaire to identify people with disabilities, included questions on seven kinds of disabilities. This list of disabilities was expanded to 21 when the Rights of People with Disabilities Act, 2016 was introduced.

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities -

- It is being organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - The Ministry confers these Awards for outstanding achievements and work done towards the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities every year.
 - The National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022, are being given under various categories including Sarvshresth Divyangjan, Shresth Divyangjan and Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika.

Acid attacks in India

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has sought explanation from e-commerce player Flipkart regarding sale of acid on its online platform.

Background -

- A 17-year-old girl was attacked with acid, on her way to school in the Dwarka area of West Delhi.
 - Three people were arrested in connection with the matter. According to reports, the main accused bought the acid through an e-commerce portal.
 - Questions have been raised on the availability and retail sale of acid in markets despite aban.

Intervention of CCPA -

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has sought explanation from ecommerce player Flipkart regarding sale of acid on its online platform.
- CCPA was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to promote, protect and

enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

- • It is empowered to
 - conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution,
 - order recall of unsafe goods and services,
 - order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements,
 - impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.
- • CCPA has pointed out that the easy availability of acid on e-commerce platform can be dangerous, hazardous and unsafe for consumers.

Acid Attacks in India -

- As per an analysis of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 14 cases of acid attacks were reported per month across the country in 2021.
- The number of reported cases saw some decline over the years. However, not all

thesecases go to trial.

- Experts believe that the number of reported cases might be low.
- There are cases where acid attacks happen as part of domestic violence where womenare pressured to not report it.
- While the conviction rate remains low, the acquittal rate remains considerably high in the country.
- In 2021, in only three cases, there was a conviction of the accused, while in 11 cases, theaccused was acquitted.

Existing regulations to control acid attack in India - • Over-the-counter sale is banned in India —

- The Supreme Court banned over-the-counter acid sales across the country in 2013.
 - Over-the-counter sale of acid is prohibited unless the seller maintains a log/register recording the sale of acid, which will contain the details of the person to whom acid is soldand the quantity sold.
 - The log/register shall contain the address of the person to whom it is sold.
- After the landmark verdict in Laxmi Agarwal's case in 2013, the Supreme Court also laid outcertain guidelines, making license mandatory for selling acid.
- Registration of Shops
 - Shops need to be registered under the Poison Act 1919. Rules are there for the buyer aswell.
 - A person has to provide an ID card to buy acid and disclose the reason for doing so. Moreover, acids can't be sold to anyone below 18 years of age. Those violating rules need to pay a fine of Rs 50,000.
- Legal provisions available to deal with the crime
 - Unfortunately, in India, there was no separate legislation to deal with acid attacks before the passing of The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. 2013.
 - The offense was registered under Sections 320, 322, 325, 326, and 307 of the Indian Penal

Code (I.P.C).

- Section 320 Grievous Hurt; Section 322 Voluntarily causing Grievous Hurt; Section 325
- Punishment For Voluntarily Causing Grievous Hurt; Section 326 Voluntarily Causing

Grievous Hurt By Dangerous Weapons Or Means; Section 307 - Attempt To Murder.

- Later, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 inserted Sections 326(A) and 326(B) in IPC
 - to deal with acid attacks.
- In July 2022, the Allahabad High Court said that the charge under Section 326A IPC can be

framed against the accused even if no grievous hurt has been caused to the acid attack survivor.

- Grievous hurt to an acid attack survivor is not mandatory in each case.
- Relief to the acid attack victim
 - In 2013, the Supreme Court also ruled that victims should receive free medical treatmentand minimum compensation of Rs 3 lakh.
 - Section 326(A) states that whoever causes permanent or partial damage shall be punished with minimum 10 years in jail to a life term and a fine up to Rs. 10 Lakh to be given tovictim.

Organ Donations

As per data shared in Parliament by the Union Health Ministry, after a dip in 2020 owing to the pandemic, organ donations picked up again in 2021 with 12,387 organs harvested from deceased as well as living donors.

Details -

- After a fall during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, organ donation numbers bouncedback in 2021.
 - However, the number of deceased donations has remained lower than the number of donations from living persons.
 - Deceased donation organs donated by the kin of those who suffered brain death or cardiacdeath.

What is the status in India?

- Of the 12,387 organs kidney, liver, heart, lungs, and pancreas among others harvested in 2021, only 1,743 (a little more than 14%) were from deceased donors.
 - The numbers harvested in 2021 were close to the highest in the last five years (12,746, in2019).
 - The numbers are skewed in favour of living donations organs like kidney and liver donatedby living family members.
 - There is also a geographical skew in deceased donations.
- The top five Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka accounting for more than 85% of the total.
- Two organs were harvested from a deceased donor in Goa.
- One reason for the geographical skew could be that most organ transplant and harvestingcentres are concentrated in these geographies.
- India has an organ donation rate of about 0.52 per million population.



• In comparison, the organ donation rate in Spain, the highest in the world, is 49.6 per millionpopulation.

Need to increase deceased donations - • Increased demand —

- There is a gap in the number of organs needed and the number of transplants thathappen in the country.
- In absolute numbers, India conducts the third highest number of transplants in the world. Of the estimated 1.5-2 lakh persons who need a kidney transplant every year, onlyaround 8,000 get one. And of the 10,000 who need a heart transplant, only 200 get it. Demand is on the rise because of the increasing prevalence of lifestyle diseases.
- Besides, organs like heart and lungs can be retrieved only from deceased donors.
- Precious resources are wasted
 - Without deceased donations, a precious resource is wasted.
 - Nearly 1.5 lakh persons die in road traffic accidents every year in India, many of whom canideally donate organs.

Regulatory framework in India - • Legislation —

- In 1994, The Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA) was promulgated by the government of India.
- The Transplantation of Human Organs Rules followed in 1995 and were last amended in 2014, increasing the scope of donation and including tissues for transplantation.
- The act made commercialisation of organs a punishable offence and legalised the conceptof brain death in India allowing deceased donation by obtaining organs from brain stem dead person.
- Institution —
- •National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is a national level organisation set up under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Besides laying down policy guidelines and protocols for various functions, it coordinates all the activities associated with organ donation at national level.

Reasons for low organ donation rate in India - • Existing system —

- In India a person has to register to be an organ donor and the family has to consent to it after death.
- Even with a donor card, the family"s consent is sought for organ donation after the death ofthe individual.
- If the family refuses, the organs are not harvested.
- On the other hand, Spain has an opt-out system where a person is presumed to be a donorunless otherwise specified.
 - Availability of transplant coordinator
 - Having a medically qualified transplant coordinator helps in organ donation.
 - A transplant coordinator is the patient's link to the transplant hospital.
 - They also serve as information resources for patients and families after the transplant. India has smaller number of such coordinators.

- Transport infrastructure
 - Good transport networks between cities and states can help boost organ donation.
 - There is need to improve coordination among the Road, Railway, and Aviation Ministries to facilitate the creation of green corridors for faster transportation of organs.
- Less awareness There is need for more awareness about organ transplant so that people register as donors.

Zero tolerance towards drugs

During a debate in the Lok Sabha, Union Home Minister said that the government has zero-tolerance policy towards drugs. As a result of this policy, drug seizures and cases against traffickers went up in recent years.

Details -

While participating in a debate in Lok Sabha, the Union home minister Amit Shah stressed that the government is committed to wipe out narcotics trafficking.

Reasons for widespread drug abuse in India -

- To escape from hard realities of life The disintegration of the old joint family system, decline of religious and moral values etc. lead to a rise in the number of drug addicts who take drugs toescape hard realities of life.
 - Loosening of the traditional methods of social control leaves an individual vulnerable to the stresses and strains of modern life.
 - Peers pressure Many youths start using drug under the pressure from their friends, seniors at educational institutions, or by members of their informal groupings.
 - Easy Availability
 - India is situated in the sense that on its west is the 'Golden Crescent' and on east is the 'Golden Triangle'.
 - Golden Crescent Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan
 - Golden Triangle Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar
- The usage of drugs in India is increasing, particularly in the border areas due to their porous nature.
- Economic prosperity The agricultural reforms and other industrial activity have led to increase in income in regions like Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra etc. Increase in disposable money and easy availability of drugs has led to increase in its use.

Steps taken -

- Article 47 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition ofthe consumption of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
 - India is a signatory to
 - the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol,
 - the Conventions on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and

- the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
- Legislative steps Enacted Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.
- Institutions involved
 - The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was created in 1986 as a nodal agency to fight against this menace.
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) are involved with alcohol and drug demand reduction policies and drug de-addiction programme.
 - In order to prevent misuse of dual-use drugs, a permanent inter-ministerial committee
 hasbeen formed with the ministry of health and family welfare and the ministry of
 chemicals.
- Technological intervention
 - The NCORD portal has been launched as an effective mechanism for information exchange between various institutions/agencies.
 - The Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism was set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the year 2016 for effective drug law enforcement.
 - Besides information exchange, the portal will also help in knowledge management.
 - The NCB is working to launch a helpline soon.
 Key highlights -
 - All dealers will be in jail in next two years —
 - The government has mapped possible routes and drug trafficking networks in 472 districts across the country.
 - No matter how big the culprit is, in the next two years they will be behind bars.
- Increased drug seizure
 - As per the data shared by the minister, 6-lakh kilo of drugs were seized between 2014 and 2022 as compared to 22.45-lakh kilo between 2006 and 2013.
 - The value of the drugs seized went up from Rs 33,000 crore to Rs 97,000 crore in the same period.



- Three-pronged strategy
 - The Home ministry has adopted a three-pronged strategy • strengthening of institutions;
 - empowerment and coordination among agencies; and
 - extensive awareness and rehabilitation campaigns.
- Empowering paramilitary forces on the borders
 - The Centre has empowered the Border Security Force, Seema Suraksha Bal and Assam Riflesto register cases under the NDPS Act.
 - Many states had criticised this step as they saw this empowerment as an encroachment ontheir jurisdiction.

Abetment of suicide

Actress Tunisha Sharma's friend Sheezan Khan arrested in abetment to suicide case.

What is 'abetment of suicide'?

- The Indian Penal Code, 1860 makes abetment of suicide a punishable offence.
 - Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prescribes either a jail term of up to 10 years ora fine or both.
 - \$If any person commits suicide, whoever abets the commission of such suicide shall be punished with imprisonment of either imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine," Section 306 reads. Generally, the fine is paid to the kin of the deceased.
 - The IPC also has a separate chapter on abetment and describes who is an abettor under Section 108.
 - Abetment is defined as including instigating, engaging in a conspiracy or assisting incommitting the offence.

How serious is the offence of abetment?

• Abetment of suicide is a serious offence that is tried in a Sessions court and is cognizable,non-

bailable and non-compoundable.

- A cognizable offence is one in which a police officer can make an arrest without a warrant from a court.
- A non-bailable offence means bail is granted to the accused at the discretion of the court andnot as a matter of right.
- A non-compoundable offence is one in which the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant even

when the complainant and the accused have reached a compromise.

Is abetment of suicide the same as murder?

- No, it is not same as murder. The Supreme Court clarified this issue in 1997 in the case of !Sangarabonia Sreenu v State of Andhra Pradesh".
- Despite the intention of the accused to drive a person to commit suicide, abetment of suicide isnot the same as murder.
- In the case of a murder, the final !act" of causing the death of a person is committed by theaccused, which is not the case in abetment of suicide.

Road fatalities in India

According to a report published by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, at least 8out of every 10 occupants, nearly 83%, killed in accidents across India were not wearingseatbelts. Road Accidents in India 2021 Report -

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published the annual report 'Road accidentsin India 2021'.
 - The purpose of this report is to present an in-depth analysis and overview of the road accidents in India.
 - The report provides information on various facets of road accidents in the country during the calendar year 2021.
 - This report is based on the data/information received from police departments of States/ UnionTerritories
 - collected on calendar year basis. This report has been developed by reporting, management, claim processing and analysis of road accident data by using the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) system.

Major highlights of the report -

- As per the report, there were 4.12 lakh unfortunate incidences of road accidents during 2021 which
- claimed 1,53,972 lives. Young adults in the age group of 18-45 years accounted for 67.6% of victims during 2021.
- During the previous year 2020, country saw an unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities and injuries. This was due to the unusual outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and resultant

stringent nation-wide lockdown particularly during March-April, 2020.

- Major indicators related with accidents have performed better in 2021 when compared to 2019.
- Road accidents decreased by 8.1 percent and injuries decreased by 14.8 percent in 2021 compared to 2019.
- Fatalities, however, on accounts of road accidents increased by 1.9 percent in 2021corresponding to the same period in 2019.
- State-wise data
 - Uttar Pradesh accounted for the largest share of fatalities at 13.8%, followed by TamilNadu (10%), Maharashtra (8.8%), Madhya Pradesh (7.8%), and Rajasthan (6.5%).
 - Of these, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have seen a rise in their share offatalities as compared to 2019.
- Death due to not wearing Helmets/Seatbelts
 - At least 8 out of every 10 occupants, nearly 83%, killed in accidents across India were notwearing seatbelts.
 - Uttar Pradesh reported the maximum deaths of car occupants for not wearing seatbelts.
 - Also, 2 out of every 3 who died in road crashes on two-wheelers were not wearing helmets.

What is iRAD?

• It is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and is funded by World

Bank, to improve road safety in the country.

- This will facilitate road accident data collection by 4 stakeholder departments; Police, Transport,
 Highways and Health Departments.
- Through a collection of road accident data from all over the country, a road accident database will be

developed. The collected data will be analysed using different data analytics techniques for the identification of accident-prone areas and the causes of the accidents.

The analysis output will be represented in appropriate dashboards, access to higher authorities
of
stakeholder departments and MoRTH. And accordingly, a strategy will be formed for the
reduction of the number of road accidents in India and to enhance road safety.

Kala Azar

Prime Minister recently said that India will completely eradicate Kala Azar disease soon. What is 'Kala Azar'?

- It is a neglected tropical disease affecting almost 100 countries including India.
 Neglected tropical
 diseases are a diverse group of communicable diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries.
- It is caused by a parasite called Leishmania, which is transmitted through the bite of sand flies.
- There are three types of leishmaniasis -
 - Visceral leishmaniasis, which affects multiple organs and is the most serious form of the disease. Cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores and is the most common form.
 - Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin and mucosal lesions.
 - Visceral leishmaniasis, which is commonly known as Kala-azar in India, is fatal in over 95% of the cases, if left untreated.
- Symptoms
 - Initially, leishmania parasites cause skin sores or ulcers at the site of the bite. If the disease progresses, it attacks the immune system.
 - Kala azar presents after two to eight months with more generalised symptoms including prolonged fever and weakness.
- Treatment Treatment of Kala Azar is done through liposomal AmB this is the drug of choice for immunocompetent patients. There are other treatment options available such as paromomycin, miltefosin and multidrug therapy treatment.



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