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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bhutan DGPC handed keys to Indian-backed 720 Mw Mangdechhu hydro project

- India-assisted 720 Megawatts Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project has been recently handed to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Bhutan. With this project, India and Bhutan have successfully completed four mega hydroelectric power projects. The commissioning of the project has increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity by 44 per cent.
- The 720 MW project Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering in 2019. The commissioning of the project has increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity by 44 per cent and it is now at 2,326 Mega Watts. The Project has generated more than 9000 million units of energy since its commissioning, reducing 2.4 million tons of emissions annually.

Bangladesh's first-ever metro inaugurated in capital Dhaka

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first metro rail in Dhaka. The metro train was flagged off in Dhaka for the first journey between Diabari and Agargaon station. The metro rail is part of the Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030.
- Bangladesh has reached another milestone in its development journey with its first metro rail inauguration.
- The metro rail is an approximately 12-kilometer-long metro route.
- The metro rail will connect Diabari to Agargaon station in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Ten pairs of trains with six coaches each will run on this route initially for four hours carrying about five lakh passengers daily.

Former Maldives president Yameen to appeal 11-year jail term

- The Maldives criminal court sentenced former president Abdulla Yameen to 11 years in prison and fined him \$5 million after finding him guilty of corruption and money laundering charges related to receiving kickbacks from a private company. Yameen has denied any wrongdoing.
- He lost power in 2018 but has been declared presidential candidate for the Progressive Party of the Maldives for an election due in 2023. Already in 2019 he was sentenced to five years in jail and fined \$5 million in 2019 for embezzling \$1 million in state funds, which the prosecution said was acquired through the lease of resort development rights. After his sentencing, Yameen was shifted to house arrest in 2020 and was freed months later.

Pushpa Dahal 'Prachanda' Appointed Nepal's Prime Minister For Third Time

- President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Sunday appointed CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' as the new Prime Minister of Nepal.
- Prachanda has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal as per the Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution, according to a statement issued by the President's Office.

- The President had called any member of the House of Representatives, who can garner a majority with support from two or more parties as stipulated in the Article 76 clause 2 of the Constitution to submit a claim for the Prime Minister's post.
- Prachanda, 68, had submitted the claim before the deadline given by the President expired at 5 pm on Sunday.

International Finance Corporation approves 400 million dollar loan to HDFC

- World Bank's investment arm, International Finance Corporation (IFC) has proposed to make a \$400 million (around ₹3,400 crore) loan to mortgage lender HDFC Ltd, with an aim to drive India's green housing growth.
- The capital will help HDFC boost its green affordable housing portfolio, with 75% (around \$300 million) of the proceeds earmarked for this sector, the company said in a statement.
- "We are keen to increase our footprint in funding affordable and green housing and are committed towards supporting India's efforts for a sustainable and green, low-carbon economy. This investment will help galvanize HDFC's efforts to cater to the underserved segments of the population, boosting economic resilience and supporting the government's vision of housing for all," said Renu Sud Karnad, managing director – HDFC Ltd.

Sitiveni Rabuka confirmed as Fiji Prime Minister after close election

- Sitiveni Rabuka was confirmed as Fiji's next Prime Minister more than two decades after the former military commander first held the office in a term lasting nearly seven years. The 74-year-old won the nomination by one vote over incumbent Frank Bainimarama at a sitting of the Fijian Parliament in Suva. It also signals the end of former Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama's 16 years in power. In the 55-member Parliament of Fiji, Sitiveni Rabuka secured 28 votes against Bainimarama's 27 votes.
- Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka, the head of the People's Alliance Party, was elevated to the position after forming a majority coalition with two other parties following last week's close and contentious election. He was the instigator of two military coups in 1987. He was democratically elected as Prime Minister of Fiji, serving from 1992 to 1999, and again in 2022 leading a three-party coalition. He also served as Chairman of the Great Council of Chiefs from 1999 to 2001, and later as Chairman of the Cakaudrove Provincial Council from 2001 to 2008.

"Bomb Cyclone": Monster Storm Could Bring Deadly Winter Weather To US

- Bomb Cyclone has thrashed US and Canada with extreme climate and has trapped the residents inside their houses with snow and power outages. During the Christmas season, the bomb cyclone occurred due to a low temperature of -40 degrees Fahrenheit. Thousands of flights have been canceled and several highways have been blocked. People are advised not to step outside their homes as it can be life-threatening.
- Due to Artic Blast, the US has been experiencing an extremely cold climate, heavy snow, and intense wind. The authorities have ordered to put a halt on traveling during the Christmas season because of the Bomb Cyclone.
- During the Christmas season, the travel plans of millions were affected due to the Bomb Cyclone. Approximately 7,423 flights were delayed and 3,400 were canceled. The roads are

considered extremely dangerous to travel and the government has also urged people to expect zero visibility and snow drifts. Highways are closed completely, and people are advised to avoid traveling.

UNSC adopts first-ever resolution on Myanmar, demanding end to violence and release of political prisoners

- The U.N. Security Council has adopted its first ever resolution on Myanmar in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms. Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago and violently cracked down on dissent.
- The 15-member council has long been split on how to deal with the Myanmar crisis with China and Russia arguing against strong action. They both abstained from the vote, along with India. The remaining 12 members voted in favor.
- The resolution urges the junta to immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners, including Suu Kyi and ex-president Win Myint.
- It also demands an immediate end to all forms of violence and asks for all parties to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.
- It also urges “concrete and immediate actions” to implement a peace plan agreed upon by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

US to provide \$1.85 billion military aid to Ukraine, including critical Patriot missile system

- The United States is finalizing plans to send the Patriot missile defense system to Ukraine. Ukraine has asked its Western partners for air defenses, including U.S.-made Patriot systems, to protect it from heavy Russian missile bombardment including against its energy infrastructure. The system is part of \$1.85 billion in assistance unveiled in parallel with a visit to Washington by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.
- Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has warned NATO against providing Ukraine with Patriot missile defenses, and it is likely Moscow will view the move as an escalation.
- The Pentagon says Russia’s recent surge in missile strikes in Ukraine is partly designed to exhaust Kyiv’s supplies of air defenses so it can dominate the skies above the country.
- The Patriot is considered to be one of the most advanced U.S. air defense systems and is usually in short supply, with allies around the world vying for it.
- Ground-based air defense systems such as Raytheon Technology Corp’s (RTX.N) Patriot are built to intercept incoming missiles.
- Patriot has been proven effective in Saudi Arabia against Iranian-design ballistic missiles fired from Yemen.

India recorded 4 cases of BF.7 that's causing surge in China

- The BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron that is prevalent in China is thought to be the cause of the present spike in Covid-19 infections there. This isn’t the first time BF.7 has been in the spotlight; back in October, it began to displace the main variations in the US and several other European nations. The massive Covid rise in China is being caused by the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron, which has been found in four cases in India. In Gujarat and Odisha, the

instances of BF.7 Covid Variant first came to light. Currently, the Covid protocol is not required in the nation.

- As the main stem of the SARS-CoV-2 tree sprouts branches and sub-branches, so do viruses when they change, creating lineages and sub-lineages.
- The Omicron sub-lineage BA.5 and the BF.7 are identical. The latter is also known as BA.5.2.1.7.
- The study found that another Omicron sub-variant named BQ.1 had a more than 10-fold higher neutralization resistance than BF.7, which is not the most resilient sub-variant.

EU deal set to trigger 'domino effect' for global minimum tax deal

- The European Union has adopted a plan for a global minimum 15% tax on big business. The landmark deal between nearly 140 countries aims to stop governments racing to cut taxes in a bid to attract companies. It was praised by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen as “an historic agreement which helps even the playing field”.
- EU member states reached agreement in principle to implement at EU level the minimum taxation component, known as Pillar 2, of the OECD’s reform of international taxation. The ambassadors of EU member states decided to advise the Council to adopt the Pillar 2 directive, and a written procedure for the formal adoption will be launched.
- Corporation tax is usually based on a company’s profits. But often they might be able to pay less depending on where their offices are registered or how they invest in their business.

Indian-origin Leo Varadkar set to become Ireland's prime minister for second time

- Indian-origin Leo Varadkar has returned for a second term as Ireland’s Prime Minister as part of a job-sharing deal made by the country’s centrist coalition government. His appointment was confirmed when he received the seal of office from President Michael D. Higgins, Ireland’s head of state.
- This is the second time that Varadkar has been elected as Irish prime minister. He first became the Irish prime minister in June 2017. In June 2020, the Fine Gael party led by Varadkar formed a coalition government with Fianna Fail and Green Party, in which he served as deputy prime minister and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- According to an agreement reached by the three parties in setting up a coalition government, Fianna Fail party leader Micheal Martin will first serve as Irish prime minister until December 2022 and Fine Gael party leader Varadkar will replace Martin to be the new prime minister until the five-year term of the current government comes to an end.

Iran removed from U.N. women’s rights body after protest crackdown; India abstains on resolution

- In an unprecedented move, Iran has been expelled from the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in a vote on which India abstained. The US proposal at the UN Economic and Social Council to remove Iran from the panel received 29 votes, while there were eight votes against and 16 abstentions in the 54-member elected body.
- The vote came after intense lobbying by the US following widespread protests in Iran sparked by outrage against the edict compelling women to wear hijabs.

- US Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the Council that CSW, which is “the premier UN body for promoting gender equality and empowering women” cannot function if it is “undermined from within” by Iran. “Iran’s membership at this moment is an ugly stain on the Commission’s credibility,” she said.
- Mahsa Amin who died after being held by “morality police” in September. Her death sparked the protests, during which, “government security forces have reportedly detained and tortured thousands of people, killed hundreds of peaceful protestors, and badly injured many more. Men supporting women in the streets are now being targeted with the death penalty.

Solar panels mandatory for new homes after 2025 at Tokyo city in Japan

- The Japanese capital local assembly passed a new regulation which stated that all new houses in Tokyo built by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 must install solar power panels to cut household carbon emissions. Currently, Japan stands at fifth spot in the world’s largest carbon emitters list.
- This new regulation for new built homes requires about 50 major builders to equip homes of up to 2,000 square meters (21,500 square feet) with renewable energy power sources, mainly solar panels.
- Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike also noted that just 4% of buildings where solar panels could be installed in the city have them now. However, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government aims to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with 2,000 levels.

Vietnam reaches \$15.5B energy deal with G7 to cut emissions

- A group of nine rich industrialized nations approved a deal to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.
- The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said in a statement that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to “net zero” by 2050, a goal which expert say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- The Just Energy Transition Partnership with Vietnam is among a series of agreements that developing and rich nations are negotiating. The first such deal was signed with South Africa last year, and a similar agreement was reached with Indonesia last month.
- Vietnam is a dynamic, emerging economy at the heart of Southeast Asia,” British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said. “The investment we are making today means the country can cut its emissions while simultaneously creating new jobs and growth.

UN: Global Trade Surges to \$32 Trillion Record in 2022

- The value of global trade is set to reach a new record this year, increasing by about 12 per cent to an estimated \$32 trillion, according to a UN report that signaled a slowdown heading into 2023. “The substantial trade growth during the last year was largely due to increases in the value of the trade of energy products,” the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in the report.

- Trade in merchandise goods soared to \$25 trillion, an increase of about 10 per cent versus the prior year. Trade in services grew 15 per cent year-over-year to nearly \$7 trillion, according to the report.
- The UN body expects the inflation-adjusted value of global trade will diminish next year because of the combined impact of geopolitical frictions, lower economic growth, higher prices for goods and record levels of global debt.

New Zealand passes world's first law to ban smoking for future generation

- The New Zealand government has passed a law to completely end tobacco smoking by banning youth from buying cigarettes for life. The Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products (Smoking Tobacco) Amendment Bill has been passed in New Zealand which aims to make New Zealand smoke free by 2025.
- The bill aims to ban the sale of tobacco to anyone born after January 1, 2009, and reduce the number of cigarette retailers in the country. The bill has received bipartisan support in New Zealand's parliament and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also plans to reduce the amount of nicotine allowed in smokeless tobacco products. Passage of the bill would reduce the number of tobacco retailers nationwide to about one-tenth of the current number of 6,000.
- This will lead to thousands of lives longer and an additional \$5 billion less burden on the health system as there will be no need to treat diseases caused by smoking, such as many types of cancer, heart attacks, strokes, amputations. The legislation aims to prevent the high number of deaths caused by tobacco consumption in New Zealand which disproportionately affects the native Māori population.

Russia becomes India's second-largest oil supplier

- Russia has for the first time emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq as refiners last month snapped up oil from Moscow fearing a price cap from Dec. 5 could hit supplies and choke payment avenues.
- India's oil imports from Russia rose for the fifth straight month, totaling 908,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November, up 4% from October, the data showed.
- The Group of Seven nations(G-7), Australia, and the 27 European Union countries have imposed a price cap of \$60 a barrel on Russian seaborne oil from Dec. 5 as the West tries to limit Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine. The price cap plan calls for G7 countries to deny insurance, finance, brokering, navigation, and other services to oil cargoes priced above the price cap on crude and oil products.
- Russian oil accounted for about 23% of India's overall import of about 4 million bpd oil in November, the data showed. India's overall imports in November declined 11% from October on lower purchases by Russia-backed Indian refiner Nayara Energy, which had shut its 400,000 bpd refinery for maintenance during the month, the data showed.

France to host International Conference in Paris

- According to the French embassy, France will host an International conference "Standing with the Ukrainian People" in Paris with an aim to coordinate international support for civilian resilience in Ukraine and address the Ukrainian people's urgent humanitarian needs.

The conference is organised at the initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron and is co-organised with Ukraine. During the conference, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will address virtually.

- The Ukrainian people are facing dire difficulties in all sectors essential to life: electricity supply, food security, water supply, and access to medical care.
- This situation is aggravated by the onset of winter and by the increased Russian bombardments against civilian infrastructures in Ukraine, particularly energy infrastructure, resulting in severe blackouts.
- The goal of the conference is therefore to muster international humanitarian aid to bolster the Ukrainian people's resilience through the harsh winter, and establish a coordination mechanism to ensure effective and needs-based delivery of aid.

NASA's Orion capsule splashes down in Pacific after lunar mission

- NASA's Orion space capsule splashed down safely in the Pacific on Sunday, completing the Artemis-1 mission — a more than 25-day journey around the moon.
- After hurtling through the earth's atmosphere at a speed of 40,000 kmph, the uncrewed capsule floated down to the water with the help of three parachutes.

World Bank's Flagship Gender Toolkit Launched

- A Gender Toolkit based on "Enabling gender-responsive urban mobility and public spaces" was launched in a session conducted by the World Bank and the Chennai Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority.

Britain, Italy and Japan to jointly develop future fighter jet

- Britain, Italy, and Japan on Friday said, they will jointly develop a future fighter jet that uses artificial intelligence.
- The three nations held out the prospect of cooperation with European and US allies, which are developing their own sixth-generation planes, vowing to maintain interoperability among all the allies against threats from the likes of China.

U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 15 Commences in Canada

- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, also called as Conference of Parties (COP-15) commenced in Montreal, Canada on 7 December 2022.
- The two-weeklong conference (7-19 December 2022) was originally scheduled to be held in Kunming, China in October but was shifted to Montreal, Canada due to covid situation in China. This is the second part of the COP15.

Goblin Mode' is Oxford's Word of the Year for 2022

- The Oxford Word of the Year is the slang term "goblin mode". Oxford Languages opened its choice of 'Word of the Year' to public vote for the first time in its history.
- Over the last two weeks, more than 300,000 people cast their votes.

- The term "goblin mode" is often used to describe a type of behaviour that is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.

UAE emerges as second biggest tea importer from India after CIS bloc

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as the second largest importer of tea from India after the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a block, according to the latest data released by Tea Board.
- During the period from January to September 2022, UAE imported 28.58 million kilograms of tea from India, a rise of 159 per cent from the similar nine-month period of 2021.

Paris Club proposes 10-year moratorium on Sri Lankan debt

- Paris Club creditor nations are proposing a 10-year moratorium on Sri Lankan debt and another 15 years of debt restructuring as a formula to resolve the Sri Lankan debt crisis. The Paris club is a group of officials from 22 countries who find sustainable solutions for challenges faced by debtor countries.
- The Paris club has also called upon the Global north and south to take a similar haircut in restructuring of Sri Lankan debt. So far no official proposal has been made by Paris club to China or India.

Great Barrier Reef risks 'in danger' World Heritage listing

- A UN-backed mission to the Great Barrier Reef has concluded the world's biggest coral reef system should be placed on a list of world heritage sites in danger.
- The long-awaited report on the 10-day mission that took place in March said climate change was presenting a "serious challenge" to the values that saw the reef inscribed as a global wonder in 1981.
- Progress to cut pollution running into the reef's waters from farming and grazing was too slow and more investment was needed to meet water quality targets, the report from the mission said.
- The report's recommendation the reef be placed on a list of world heritage sites "in danger" will be taken into account alongside responses from the Queensland and federal governments before Unesco makes a formal recommendation to the world heritage committee before its next meeting.
- The reef mission was carried out at the request of former federal environment minister Sussan Ley after the former government successfully lobbied against a 2021 Unesco recommendation the reef should be placed on the "in danger" list.
- Two experts – one from Unesco and another from the International Union for Conservation of Nature – met the government, scientists and stakeholders in Queensland two months before the defeat of the Morrison government.

NATIONAL NEWS

'Dhanu Yatra' the largest open-air theatre performance begin

- The 'Dhanu Yatra' festival, the largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in Bargarh at the Odisha. The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of Odisha. The Festival is being held from December 27 to Jan 6, 2023. Several artists from 130 cultural troupes from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival. Around 3,000 artistes of 130 cultural troupes from across the country is participating in the festival. However, Kansa is the central attraction of the Dhanu Yatra.
- Dhanu Yatra, the eleven day long annual extravaganza places Bargarh in the Cultural Map of India. It is at par with the standard of Odishan Heritage and culture. It is an open-air theatre festival stretching more than 5 square K.M and comprising a village and a town in between.

Madras High Court Bans Mobile Phones In Temples Across Tamil Nadu

- The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has prohibited devotees from carrying mobile phones inside temples in Tamil Nadu. The Division Bench of Justice R. Mahadevan and J Sathya Narayana Prasad held that the gadgets divert the attention of the devotees from the purpose of visiting the temple.
- The Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act 1947, and the Rules empower the trustees or any authority in charge of the temple to make regulations for the maintenance of order and decorum in the temple.
- The court noted that mobile phone ban have been implemented in famed temples.
- These temples include Sri Krishna Temple at Guruvayur, Kerala, Meenakshi Sundareswara Temple at Madurai, Tamil Nadu, and Sri Venkateshwara Temple at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Food processing industry invests Rs 4,900 crore under PLI scheme so far: Government

- The government said that the food processing industry has invested Rs 4,900 crore so far under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. The PLI scheme for the food processing industry was approved in March 2021, with a budget outlay of Rs 10,900 crore. It will be implemented for seven years, until 2026-27.
- A total of 182 applications have been approved under the PLI scheme for the food processing industry. This includes 30 applications for millets-based products under the PLI scheme (8 large entities and 22 SMEs). Incentives amounting to Rs 800 crore are likely to be disbursed in the current financial year. Sales-based incentive of Rs 107.3 crore has been disbursed so far.
- PLI beneficiaries' investments are likely to increase sales and exports of food products. The scheme requires that the entire chain of manufacturing processes, including primary processing of food products, take place in India in order to qualify for the incentive, which is expected to boost domestic industry. It was also stated that the scheme will aid in the promotion of Indian brands abroad.

Home minister Amit shah launches 'Prahari' app for BSF Jawans

- Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the security of the border can be ensured only when the border villages are populated. He said, along with the deployment of Jawans on the borders, only the patriotic citizens living in the village can provide permanent security. Mr

Shah said this while launching the Mobile App 'Prahari' and Manual of Border Security Force in New Delhi.

- He said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently started the Vibrant Village programme. He urged all the Border Security Forces that through the Vibrant Village program, they should make efforts towards increasing tourism in the village, making the village self-sufficient with complete facilities. The Minister said that the security of the borders of the country cannot be ensured by pillars or fencing, but by the bravery, patriotism and alertness of the soldiers standing on that border.

India grant permission to Nepal to exports additional 40 MW electricity

- India has given permission to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to export additional 40 megawatts of electricity from two more hydroelectric projects.
- According to NEA, the Central Electricity Authority of India has approved the sale of surplus power from two more hydropower projects - 25 MW Kabeli B-1 and 20 MW Lower Modi - at competitive rates in the Indian energy market. With this, 452.6 MW surplus power can be exported to India from 10 hydropower projects.
- The NEA has halted the export of surplus power to India since the 19th of December as production from the river-based hydroelectric power stations decreased.
- NEA has generated a net income of 11.16 billion rupees via trading 1.36 billion units of surplus power at a competitive rate in the Indian energy market as of the 18th of December.

President Murmu lays foundation stone for restoration works of Kameswaralaya Temple in Mulugu, Telangana

- Smt. Droupadi Murmu has laid the foundation stone of the project 'Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples' at Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam in Telangana.
- The President of India laid the foundation stone for another project called 'Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Infrastructure of UNESCO World Heritage Site at Rudreshwara Temple in Telangana. These projects have been approved under the PRASAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- President Droupadi Murmu informed that the famous temples of Telangana are visited by lakhs of pilgrims, and they form the major components of domestic and foreign tourists.
- Tourism increases the livelihood opportunities and income of the people.
- The President appreciated the Ministry of Tourism for boosting spiritual and cultural tourism by developing pilgrimage sites under the 'PRASHAD' scheme.

A 10-day International Beach Festival is happening in Kerala

- The 'Spice Coast' in the far north of Kerala, better known as North Malabar, bask in myriad colours and the pomp and splendour of the cultural extravaganza titled 'Bekal International Beach Festival'. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 10-day first international beach festival, that captures the wholeness and the essence of the district's cultural and artistic uniqueness and displays the rich cultural diversity and grandeur of the country, at the majestic Bekal Beach Park.

- It is organised by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kudumbashree, Asmi Holidays, and the local self-government bodies in the district. In Kerala, festival dates are decided in accordance with the Malayalam calendar and the local traditions and customs.

Water sports series kick off in Uttarakhand's Tehri

- World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy to be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand. The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K.Singh announced the World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also inaugurated the National Championship “Tehri Water Sports Cup” at Tehri Lake.
- Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K.Singh informed that there are immense possibilities for the hydropower projects in the mountains, and central and state government is working together to take them forward.
- State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh highlighted that it is the first time that a national-level sports competition is being organized at Tehri Lake.
- He also informed us that making Tehri Lake an international tourism destination is being done at a fast pace.
- New sports policy has been implemented in the state and the government has announced the re-introduction of sports quota in jobs.

UP govt launches E-Sushrut Hospital Management Info System in medical colleges

- The Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak and Minister of State for Medical Education Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh inaugurated the ‘E-Sushrut’ Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)in 22 state medical colleges. The initiative was launched by the state medical education department in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).
- I. Patients will be able to download E-Sushrut HMIS software from their Android phone’s Playstore.
- II. By registering through software, patients will be saved from the inconvenience caused at the counter.
- III. The software will also tell which doctors will be available in the hospital on which day.
- IV. Patients will be able to pay the fee online through any medium like UPI, Net banking.

Home Ministry nod to name change of two places in Uttar Pradesh

- Stage is all set in Uttar Pradesh to rename two places after the state government got the approval by Union Home Ministry. The Union Home Ministry has given its consent to change the names, a Municipal Council in Gorakhpur and a village in Deoria, both in eastern UP, following recommendations from the state government. The ‘no-objection’ certificates were issued by the Union Home ministry for changing the name of ‘Mundera Baazar’ municipal council in Gorakhpur district to ‘Chauri-Chaura’ and that of ‘Telia Afghan’ village in Deoria district to ‘Telia Shukla’.
- Mundera Bazar Municipal Council will now become Chauri-Chaura Municipal Council to commemorate 100-years of the Chauri-Chaura incident which had taken place on February 4, 1922 in Gorakhpur district. The police under British rule had opened fire on a large group

of protesters then participating in the Non-Cooperation Movement called by Mahatma Gandhi. Consequently, the demonstrators had retaliated by setting a police station ablaze killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.

Piyush Goyal launches right to repair portal & new premise of National Consumer Helpline

- Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal launched a host of new initiatives, including the right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi as well launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions.
- These initiatives were launched on the occasion of the National Consumer Day. The theme was "Effective disposal of cases in consumer commission". Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti was also present at the event.
- In July 2022 the Department of Consumer Affairs had set up a committee headed by the Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare to develop a comprehensive framework on 'Right to Repair'.

Anil Kumar Lahoti next Railway Board Chairman, CEO from January 1

- Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board. The former General Manager of Central Railway was appointed as Member (Infrastructure) of the board a week ago, and will be taking over the chairmanship from Vinay Kumar Tripathi on January 1.
- Lahoti belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), and his appointment is a part of an overhaul at the top management of the railway board. Over the past months, no full-time appointments for the member positions were made in the railway board, as it was transitioning to a new integrated service.

Humanising Prisons! Arunachal Pradesh Lays Foundation Of State's First Central Jail; Names It Correctional Centre

- Prison systems have, over time, undergone multiple reforms to ensure that prisoners are treated with dignity and given a second chance at life. Many countries have worked toward improving prison conditions, the effectiveness of their penal systems, implementing alternatives to incarceration, and facilitating rehabilitation. Unsafe and unsanitary prisons grew into being considered a violation of both ethical grounds and constitutional laws.
- One of the biggest challenges posed before the prison system is the rehabilitation of prisoners back into society after they serve their term. Prisoners are denied many opportunities and a decent livelihood even after serving their sentence due to the stigma attached. The system hopes to humanise the prisons through the correctional facilities and ensure that prisoners become integral members of society after their release.

Union minister piyush goyal unveils right to repair portal

- Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday introduced a host of new initiatives, including a right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital.

- On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers would share the manual of product details with customers so that they could either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers. Initially, mobile phones, electronics, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipments would be covered.

Union Min Jitendra Singh launched revamped probity portal ehrms 2.0

- To mark Good Governance Day, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh will launch the revamped Probity Portal, e-HRMS 2.0 Portal and e-Books on major initiatives and achievements of his Ministry on Sunday in New Delhi. The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal will provide services in a digital mode to the employees including Transfers, Deputation, APAR, Vigilance Status, Deputation Opportunities, Service Book and other basic HR Services like Leave, Tour and Reimbursements.
- The Minister will also launch Mobile Application of iGoTKarmayogi Portal by Karmayogi Bharat to create professional, well-trained and future-ready civil service for India. The iGoTKarmayogi platform is envisaged as a democratised, competency driven solution space that all of the government can access to enhance their execution capabilities. Revamped Probity Portal for Government Employees will demand the right attitude towards public service with 'integrity' and 'probity'.

Garuda Aerospace receives Type certification and RTPO approvals from DGCA

- Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has received the Type Certification and RPTO (Remote Pilot Training Organisation) approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation for the indigenously designed kisan drones.
- DGCA Type certification is provided on the basis of the quality check and is issued after a rigorous testing process of the unmanned aerial vehicles.
- The kisan drones are developed for agricultural purposes and with the Type Certification received for the GA-AG model, Garuda Kisan drones were eligible for Rs 10 lakh unsecured loans from the agri-infrastructure fund offered by the Centre.
- According to DGCA, a remote pilot training organisation is an organisation authorised by the DGCA to impart remote pilot training to any individual seeking for a remote pilot certificate under Rule 34 of Drone Rules 2021.

10th Edition of North East Festival begins at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi

- The 10th Edition of the North East Festival began at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The festival aims to promote the North East region's diverse life, culture, traditions, and tourism. Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane inaugurated the MSME Exhibition at the North East Festival.
- The last two editions were held in Guwahati in a hybrid model due to rising Covid in the national capital. Since its inception in 2013, this festival has contributed a lot in promoting tourism in the North Eastern states.
- The festival will provide an opportunity to entrepreneurs from North East regions especially women and SC/ST entrepreneurs to showcase their skills, products and create new opportunities for growth.

Ladakh celebrates Losar Festival to mark Ladakhi New Year

- Ladakh celebrated Losar Festival to mark the Ladakhi New Year. Losar Festival is celebrated in Ladakh on 24th December 2022. The Losar Festival or the Ladakhi New year is a major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated during winter.
- The Losar Festival will continue for nine days from the new year. People will celebrate by offering prayers in the name of God and goddess. They will also dance and sing in honor of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.
- The Losar Festival celebrated in Ladakh marks the beginning of the New year.
- Losar has been celebrated in Ladakh for centuries and has strengthened the existing community bond.
- The festival brings joy to the lives of inhabitants of the landlocked Himalayan territory of Ladakh.

UP's Sania Mirza clears NDA, set to become country's first Muslim woman fighter pilot

- Sania Mirza, a Mirzapur resident and the daughter of a TV mechanic, successfully passed the National Defense Academy admission examination (NDA). Sania Mirza is from the Jasovar village, which is within the jurisdiction of the Mirzapur Dehat Kotwali Police Station.
- Sania Mirza was born in the Jasovar hamlet under the Mirzapur Dehat Kotwali Police Station.
- Sania Mirza aspires to be a fighter pilot like Avni Chaturvedi, the nation's first female fighter pilot.
- She will join NDA Khadakwasla in Pune on December 27. Both Sania's parents and the villagers are pleased with her.

PM Modi to inaugurate National Youth Festival in Hubballi-Dharwad on Jan 12: Karnataka CM

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that a National Youth festival is poised to be hosted at Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The National Youth Festival will be organized on January 12 in connection with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- Around 7,500 representatives from all the States will participate in the youth festival. The National Youth Festival is organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand which falls on 12 January.
- The first National Youth Festival was started in 1995 as a major activity under the programme of National Integration Camp. The 25th National Youth Festival was organised in Puducherry.
- Swami Vivekananda's birthday on January 12 is always celebrated as National Youth Day and 12-16 January every year is observed as the National Youth Week.

Tourism sector receives industry status in Assam

- As the growth in the tourism sector is vital for socio-economic development in a state, the Assam State Cabinet led by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma approved the proposal for grant of industrial status to the tourism sector in the state.

- It has been highlighted that with such industry status, fresh investments in tourism infrastructures permanent in nature will contribute towards rapid employment generation, public-private partnership and infrastructure development.
- With the grant of industry status to the tourism sector, now, restaurants, cafeterias, health clubs, spas and wellness centres among others are eligible for incentives under the industrial policy.
- The ministry also said mentioned that the infrastructure can be developed through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, which will contribute to the overall development of the region.
- Assam has now become a nationally and internationally acclaimed all-season tourist destination for its unique wildlife, bio-diversity and experience of an unexploited wonderland.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor: Prof. Jagadish Mukhi

Country's first infantry Museum opens for public in Mhow (Indore)

- The country's first Infantry Museum has been opened for the general public at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This museum is the first in the country and second in the world. Before this, such a museum has been built in America. The Army inaugurated to celebrate the Victory Day and the eve of the 75th year of the establishment of the Infantry School. The world-class museum has been set up with the intention of showcasing the Infantry. The project was conceived in July 2003 as a national-level training hall cum research centre.
- The Infantry Museum covers the history of the Infantry from 1747 to 2020. It depicts the rich heritage, glorious past and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers preserved in sculptures, murals, and photo galleries.
- The construction of this museum has been in the works for a decade. This three-story building of the museum has been built on two acres of land. It has 17 different rooms covering the history and development of the Indian Infantry since 1747 in chronological order in 30 subject areas. In this museum, along with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Subhash Chandra Bose, and Maharaja Ranjit, the history of many great men will be seen.

About Madhya Pradesh

Capital: Bhopal;

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

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

- The Indian Navy launched 'Arnala', the first of the eight indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC), at the shipbuilding facility of L&T in Chennai's Kattupall. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), 'Arnala' made its first contact with the water of the Bay of Bengal.

- The ship has been named 'Arnala' to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala, located about 13 kilometres north of Vasai, Maharashtra, by Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The 'Arnala' class of ships will replace the 'Abhay' class ASW ships of the Indian Navy. These are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO), including subsurface surveillance in littoral waters. The 77.6-metre-long ASW-SWC ships have a displacement of 900 tonnes with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 nautical miles (NM).
- It is anti-submarine warfare vessel in 700 ton displacement range and will replace Abhay-class corvette (a corvette is a small warship) currently serving in Indian Navy.

Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launches country's first Green Steel Brand

- Union Steel Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched India's first Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FeRESTA" in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- The Kalyani Group initiative will help transform the steel sector's long-standing identity as a carbon-emitting 'hard to abate sector' to a reduced carbon emitting-green steel-producing industry.
- The steel industry produces 7 per cent of CO₂ emissions internationally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 per cent of such emissions. Green steel is manufactured using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification and electricity instead the widely used coking coal. The company avoided 76,484 total carbon dioxide (tCO₂) emissions, reduced water consumption by 10 per cent and recycled 99.4 per cent of its waste.

Agriculture Ministry to host Millets Food Festival for members of Parliament

- To raise awareness about the importance of millet, the Agriculture Ministry is hosting a Millet food festival in Parliament for the members. As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing global population, resilient cereals like millet provide an affordable and nutritious option. The United Nations has passed a resolution declaring the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM). The IYM 2023 and the push towards increasing millet production will also contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations organised the opening ceremony of the International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYOM 2023) in Rome, Italy.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) accepted the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

Indian Navy gets 5th Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir'; 3rd in 24 months

- The fifth Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai. Defence Ministry said, the submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene

design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France.

- Launched on the 12th of November 2020, Vagir commenced the sea trials on the 1st of February 2022 and it has completed all major trials including the weapon and sensor trials in the shortest time in comparison to the earlier submarines. Construction of these submarines in an Indian yard is another step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and a notable achievement is that this is the third submarine delivered to the Navy in a span of 24 months. In all, six submarines of the Kalvari class, based on the Scorpene design of the Naval Group of France, are being constructed at the MDL in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.

Tamil Nadu government makes Aadhaar a must for all of its schemes

- The Tamil Nadu government has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes are required to submit proof of possession of an Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar identification. According to the order, Aadhaar is mandatory for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the State government through various Departments by their implementing agencies.
- Any individual desirous of availing himself of benefits, but does not possess an Aadhaar number or has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make an application for Aadhaar enrolment before registering for the "Scheme."

Ministry of culture in collaboration with Prasiddha foundation organises Delhi

- Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation inaugurated Delhi International Arts Festival at Kartavya Path with the tag-line – 'Where Bharat Meets India.
- The festival aims to celebrate the great Epics, the Warriors Who Fought for Our Freedom, and the many policy decisions and schemes instituted by our Government towards 'Women Empowerment', towards 'Cleaning Our Holy Rivers', towards keeping our Country 'Clean and Free from Dirt and Disease'.
- In the festival dance performances such as Kathak, Odissi along with theatre, classical musical performances and other cultural performances will be organised. A series of events and performances will be organised at various venues like Kartavya Path India Gate Lawns, Central Vista, Samvet Auditorium Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, Amphitheatre Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, etc in Delhi.

Gujarat CM to unveils Urban G20 logo, website and social media handle

- In Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of the Urban-20 conference in Gandhinagar. The UNESCO heritage city Ahmedabad will host the Urban 20 cycles as part of G-20 meetings between February to July. The logo unveiling event in Gandhinagar was attended by senior officials of the Gujarat government and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).
- CM Patel said the unveiling of the U20 logo heralds the launch of the U20 cycle, which will begin in February next year with the Sherpas' meeting and end with the U20 Mayors' summit.

- Along with C40 (Climate 40) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Ahmedabad will organise various events including City Sherpas' inception meeting on February 9 and 10.
- This city diplomacy initiative facilitates a productive dialogue between the national and local governments and helps promote the importance of urban development issues in the G20 agenda.

Indian Railways opens nation's longest 'escape tunnel' in Kashmir

- The Indian Railways on Thursday completed the construction of a tunnel on a 111-kilometre section of the Udhampur-Katra railway line in Kashmir. The 'escape tunnel', which is the longest of its kind in the country, is located at an elevation of 12.89 meters.
- According to railway officials, the tunnel was constructed to allow emergency response teams to carry out rescue operations in case of an accident. It passes through various drainages and reservoirs in the Chenab River, including the Khoda, Hingni, and Kundan nullahs making its drilling and construction a challenging task.
- The tunnel, which is the fourth on the Banihal-Katra route, was constructed using a modern technique known as the New Austrian Tunnelling Method. It was completed in January this year.

Assam government launches Orunodoi 2.0 scheme

- Turning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of direct benefit transfer into reality, the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam government has launched a special scheme, Orunodoi 2.0, under which 10.54 lakh beneficiaries will be given Rs 1,250 every month, officials said.
- With the fresh inclusion, the total number of beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation scheme, which was first launched on December 1, 2020, will be around 27 lakh. The Orunodoi benefit is usually transferred to the bank account of each beneficiary by the 10th day of every month, an official said. It is one of the 18 flagship schemes of the Assam government currently in operation.
- "Our government has been extending economic and nutritional security to lakhs of financially vulnerable families across the state and the foremost among the schemes has been Orunodoi," Sarma said. The chief minister said the greater version of Orunodoi is being launched to ensure that the benefits reach the financially vulnerable and underprivileged families of the state. The total financial outlay for Orunodoi is Rs 4,142 crore per annum, making it one of the largest DBT schemes in the country.

63rd session of Indian Historical Records Committee begins in Lucknow

- Two-day 63rd session of the Indian Historical Records Committee (IHRC) organised by the National Archives of India (NAI), New Delhi, got under way at Uttar Pradesh State Archives' Mahanagar Extension office here on Sunday.
- "The IHRC has aided in preserving Indian history and culture and it is one method we can teach to the next generation about the rich past we have," said minister of state for transport (independent charge) Daya Shankar Singh while inaugurating the event.
- "It would not have been possible to know our beginnings if the epics—the Ramayana and the Mahabharata—were not maintained and archived," he added while requesting all the delegates coming from different states to visit Uttar Pradesh and see how it has changed.

- The event will comprise inaugural and business sessions on the first day and academic session on the second and the concluding day. A total of 24 academic papers based on original sources of post 16th century of the Indian history will also be presented by scholars on various aspects of history during the event.

Karnataka Govt set up development board for nomadic communities

- The Karnataka government has issued an order to set up a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Nomadic Communities Development Board for the upliftment of these communities which are among the most downtrodden.
- This is aimed at helping 51 communities among Scheduled Castes and 23 communities among Scheduled tribes, as per the order. As per the 2011 census, there are 9,91,184 people belonging to nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. At the Central level, there is Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities.

Jaishankar declares India's candidature for 2028-29 UNSC term

- India looks forward to being back in the UN Security Council, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, as he declared the country's candidature as non-permanent member for the 2028-29 term. Jaishankar arrived at UN to preside over two signature events on counter-terrorism and reformed multilateralism held under India's current Presidency of the UN Security Council, before the curtains come down this month on the country's two-year tenure as elected member of the 15-nation top organ of the world body.
- The previous eight terms that India has been in the Council are 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and 2011-2012. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council, the second time after August 2021 that India is presiding over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member.

India successfully carries out night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile

- India has successfully conducted night trials of nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni V, capable of striking targets at ranges more than 5,000 kilometers with very high degree of accuracy. The missile test firing was conducted from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. This was the latest test in the Agni missile series. According to defence sources, the test was carried out to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile that are now lighter than before.
- The night-trials came a few days after Chinese soldiers indulged in a brawl with Indian soldiers at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh. Several soldiers from both sides are injured, but none of the armies reported any deaths.
- Last year, China raised concerns regarding India's launch of an Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile citing a resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1172. The resolution was issued after India's 1998 nuclear tests.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) is now named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

- The Minister of Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha informed that the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme. The integrated scheme converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil. The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission.
- PM VIKAS aims to improve livelihoods of the minorities, particularly the artisan communities, using the components of skill development, education, women leadership & entrepreneurship. These components compliment each other in the ultimate objective of the scheme to increase the incomes of the beneficiaries and provide support by facilitating credit and market linkages.

Atal Innovation Mission and UNDP India launch 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab for entrepreneurs

- The 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab, Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India December 15th 2022. The applications for this edition were launched by Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director AIM, NITI Aayog and Mr. Dennis Curry, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India.
- Atal Innovation Mission, along with UNDP India are driving this movement through the fifth edition of Youth Co:Lab India and have been supporting young social entrepreneurs who can be a powerful force in leading social change and furthering the implementation of SDGs target actions.
- Youth Co:Lab is an initiative launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Inaugurates The 7th Edition of India Water Impact Summit

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) on December 15, 2022 in the presence of Shri Bishweshwar Tudu, Minister of State for Jal Shakti.
- The summit is being organized from 15th to 17th December, 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).
- The theme of the summit this year is Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin, with emphasis on the 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' – People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.
- The three-day-long summit will aim to give an insight into the potential causes for divergence and formulate a strategy to achieve convergence.
- The 5 broad themes of the summit are Science and Policy, Finance and Economics, Technology and Innovation, International and Implementation Challenges.

India, Kazakhstan Begins Joint Military Drill In Meghalaya

- The 6th Edition of Indo – Kazakhstan joint training exercise “KAZIND-22” is conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15 to 28 December 2022. The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX) on sub-conventional operations. During the exercise, participants will engage in variety of missions ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, basics of special arms skills, HADR and raiding a hostile target.
- Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

ISRO is doing to boost the use of NavIC, India's version of GPS

- To promote the use of ‘NAVigation with the Indian Constellation’ (NavIC), the Indian version of GPS, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will introduce the L1 frequency in all its future satellites.
- The seven satellites in the NavIC constellation currently use two frequencies for providing positioning data — the L5 and S bands. However, most mobile System on Chips(SoCs) and wearable devices support the L1 band.
- To overcome this drawback, ISRO announced that new satellites from NVS-01 onwards which are meant to replace these satellites will also have L1 frequency.
- L1 frequency is one of the most commonly used frequencies in the Global Positioning System (GPS), which even the less sophisticated, civilian-use devices such as smartwatches are capable of receiving. Thus, with this band, the use of the NavIC in wearable devices and personal trackers that use low-power, single-frequency chips can go up.
- NavIC, or Navigation with Indian Constellation is an independent stand-alone navigation satellite system developed by the Indian Space Research Organization(ISRO). NavIC was originally approved in 2006. It was expected to be completed by late 2011 but only became operational in 2018. NavIC consists of eight satellites and covers the whole of India's landmass and up to 1,500 km from its boundaries.

Govt allocates Rs 1037.90 crore to New India Literacy Programme for next 5 years: MoE

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme” for the next five years to cover all the aspects of adult education to align with new National Education Policy (NEP).
- The ministry has also decided to use “Education For All” instead of “Adult Education” as the previous term did not appropriately represent all non-literates in 15 years and above age group.
- The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century such as critical life skills including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare); vocational skills development with a view towards obtaining local employment); basic education including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency, and continuing education including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as

other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills.

Prime Minister launches several development projects worth 75,000 crore rupees in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate projects worth Rs 75,000 crores in Maharashtra. According to the Prime Minister's Office, PM Modi inaugurated Phase-I of Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, covering a distance of 520 Kms and connecting Nagpur and Shirdi.
- In yet another step that will revolutionise urban mobility, Prime Minister will dedicate 'Nagpur Metro Phase I' to the nation. He will flag off two metro trains – from Khapri to Automotive Square (Orange Line) and from Prajapati Nagar to Lokmanya Nagar (Aqua line) – at Khapri Metro Station. Phase I of the Nagpur Metro is developed at a cost of more than Rs 8650 crore. Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Nagpur Metro Phase- II, which will be developed at a cost of more than Rs 6700 crore.
- Prime Minister's commitment to strengthen health infrastructure across the country will be strengthened through the dedication of AIIMS Nagpur to the nation. The Hospital, whose foundational stone was also laid by the Prime Minister in July 2017, has been established under the Central sector scheme Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
- Prime Minister dedicated Government Maintenance Depot, Ajni (Nagpur) and Kohli-Narkher Section of Nagpur- Itarsi Third line project to the Nation. These projects have been developed at a cost of about Rs 110 crore and about Rs 450 crore respectively.

PM addresses programme commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary via video conferencing

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in a programme commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, on 13th December, 2022. The programme, being held in Kamban Kalai Sangam, Puducherry, under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, witnessed the Prime Minister releasing a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Sri Aurobindo.
- He is popularly known as yogi Rishi Aurobindo. He was a revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher. He was born on August 15, 1872, in Calcutta to Shri Krishnadhan Ghosh. His father was a rich doctor from Calcutta.
- At the age of seven he was taken to England for education. There he studied at St. Paul's School, London, and at King's College, Cambridge.

CJI Chandrachud inaugurates 10 district court digitisation hubs in Odisha

- Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha, and said that modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour.
- With this inauguration, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state, with each catering to a neighbouring district, thus covering all 30 district courts.
- The hubs at Angul, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Sonapur, will take care of digitisation work of all 30 districts of the state. Each DCDH will be assigned the task of digitizing the surrounding districts.

- Initially, four District Court Digitization Centres (DCDC) were set up on a pilot basis in Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore districts on April 30, 2021.
- Appreciating the information and communication technology (ICT) measures adopted by the Orissa High Court under the leadership of its Chief Justice S Muralidhar, he said, "Digitisation should be accompanied by a push for e-filing of cases."

1st G20 Central Bank Deputies Meet in Bengaluru Under India's Presidency

- The first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting is scheduled to be held during 13-15 December 2022 in Bengaluru.
- This meeting, which will mark the start of discussions on the Finance Track agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency, will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India.

Indian Army's Airawat Division conducted Ex Sanchaar Bodh

- Indian Army's Airawat Division conducted Ex Sanchaar Bodh in extensive obstacle ridden terrain of Punjab. The exercise validated tactical communication capabilities.
- The formation reaffirmed its determination to win at any cost under adverse conditions.
- Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Pande;
- Indian Army Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Army Founded: 1 April 1895, India.

9th World Ayurveda Congress: PM Modi inaugurates 3 National Ayush Institutes

- The institutes inaugurated by PM Modi include the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi.
- National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh will be a satellite Centre of the existing National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore.

Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu takes oath as new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh , Mukesh Agnihotri his deputy

- Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Bhagel made the announcement. He said the new Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister will be Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Mukesh Agnihotri will be Deputy Chief Minister.
- He will be the second chief minister from Hamirpur district, after Prem Kumar Dhumal.
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.
- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will be the 15th chief minister of HP.

Bhupendra Patel to continue as Gujarat CM for second term

- Bhupendra Patel took oath as chief minister of Gujarat for the second time.

- BJP swept the Gujarat Assembly election with a whopping 156 out of the 182 Assembly seats, which is the highest number of seats any party has won after the formation of the state in 1960.
- Did you Know
- Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Goa's second international airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Goa's second airport, MOPA International Airport. The airport is named after former Chief Minister Manohar Parikar. The operations will begin from January 5, 2023. GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL) will manage the airport.
- Manohar International Airport is built on 2,132 acres and is located at Pernem Taluka in North Goa.
- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

J&K awarded 1st prize in category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation

- Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded 1st prize in the category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation and 2nd prize in the category for Teleconsultation conducted during the celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 which is being celebrated on 10th and 11th December at International Cooperation and Convention Centre, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Country's largest business jet terminal commissioned at Cochin International Airport

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the country's first chartered gateway, and a business jet terminal at the Cochin International Airport.
- With this, Cochin airport has become the fourth airport in the country to operate a private jet terminal. The Chief Minister is also the Chairman of the Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL).

NTT India to invest \$2 bn in data centres, submarine cable, renewables

- NTT India has earmarked around USD 2 billion to boost information and communications technology infrastructure in the country over the next three-four years, aiming to tap the rise in data consumption. New data centres, cloud computing, submarine cable landing stations and solar parks are key areas where NTT India's capex is planned.

Election results 2022: BJP breaks records in Gujarat, Cong wins Himachal

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) posted a record-breaking tally of 156 out of the 182 seats in the Gujarat Assembly elections, winning a seventh consecutive term in the state. The Congress posted its worst tally in Gujarat, notching up just 17 seats with a vote share of around 27 per cent, down from 41.4 per cent in 2017.
- In Himachal Pradesh, the final seat tally stood at 40 for the Congress, a gain of 19 seats from the previous election, and 25 for the BJP. However, the contest

was closer in terms of vote share, with the Congress getting 44 per cent of the votes and BJP 43 per cent.

- The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won five seats in Gujarat but could not open its account in Himachal Pradesh. However, thanks to its vote share of 12.9 per cent, it gained national party status.

RBI signs Currency Swap Agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This agreement will enable the Maldives authority to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of 200 million dollars from the RBI.
- 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022 inaugurated in Goa
- 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated at Panaji, Goa. The 9th WAC aims to showcase the efficacy and strength of the AYUSH systems of medicine at the Global level.
- A MoU was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems.

In first, Ajit Doval hosts NSAs of Central Asian nations

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval for the first time, hosted a special meeting with his counterparts from Central Asian countries.
- This was the first time that NSAs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were in Delhi for a high-level security meeting, which focus mainly on the security situation in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism originating from the country under the Taliban.
- This meeting flows from the India-Central Asia virtual summit, held in January this year.

Maharashtra becomes first state in India to have a separate Divyang department

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has announced the setting up of a separate Divyang department for the welfare of differently abled people with a fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore.
- Maharashtra is the first state to have such a department, Shinde said while addressing an event in Mumbai to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons.
- The Maharashtra government has created 2,063 posts for the new department which will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled by taking into consideration views of the stakeholders

First G20 Sherpa meeting under India's Presidency begins at Udaipur

- India has been ranked among the top 50 countries of the world in terms of comprehensive safety audits conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), said the Director General of Civil Aviation.

- In terms of ranking India jumped from the 102nd rank four years ago to the 48th spot this year.
- The Indian aviation safety has scored the highest ever EI score of 85.49 per cent which puts India in the 48th spot. In 2018, India scored 69.95 per cent at the 102nd rank.

India The First Country in The World to Receive \$100 billion in Remittances

- India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022, the World Bank has said. Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries declined by 10%, it rose by 12% in India's case.
- Remittances are a vital source of household income for low income countries as they help alleviate poverty, improve nutritional outcomes, and are associated with households. Studies show remittances help recipient households to build increased birth weight and higher school enrolment rates for children in disadvantaged resilience, for example through financing better housing and to cope with the losses in the aftermath of disasters.

Seventh edition of Global Technology Summit held at New Delhi

- The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit was held from 29th Nov till the 1st of December in New Delhi in a hybrid format.
- The Summit is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India. The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.

Spocto introduces India's First Debt Collection Innovation Lab

- The world's leading full-stack debt support and risk mitigation platform has inaugurated India's first Innovation Lab (SIL) dedicated to the debt collection segment of banking industries in India and the Middle East.
- SIL will work with a variety of bank stakeholders to better understand the NPA situation and how the team might be able to use technology to remedy it.

India, US successfully conclude 18th edition of joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas'

- India and the US have successfully concluded the 18th edition of joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' in the Auli district of Uttarakhand.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas, conducted annually between India and USA with the aim of exchanging best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures between the Armies of the two nations. The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.

Power Min waives inter-state transmission charges for new hydro projects

- The Power Ministry announced a waiver of inter-state transmission charges on wheeling electricity for 18 years for new hydropower projects.

- The waiver is already available to solar and wind power projects. The government has set an ambitious plan to have 500 GW of generation capacity from non-fossil energy-based sources by 2030.
- Hydropower projects, being clean, green and sustainable will be of paramount importance in our clean energy transition journey.

Culture Ministry inaugurates a three-day long music, art and literature festival Swar Dharohar in New Delhi

- Three-day-long music, art, and literature festival Swar Dharohar was inaugurated by the Culture Ministry on Friday under Kalanjali. The festival aims at showcasing the iconic art, culture and heritage of the country.
- The program will facilitate the upcoming local artists to perform with renowned artists on the same platform. The national, as well as local poets, will also exhibit their artistry through Kavi Sammelan.
- The festival will continue till 4th of this month at Central Vista, New Delhi. Entry is free for everyone.

Meghalaya Cabinet on Tuesday passed its first ever Mental Health & Social Care Policy

- The Meghalaya cabinet has approved a policy aimed at addressing the issues of mental health and social care through collaborative engagement with communities. The Meghalaya Mental Health & Social Care Policy was approved at the cabinet meeting, chaired by the Chief Minister. In 2014, the Centre launched the first-ever National Mental Health Policy in an attempt to provide universal psychiatry care.
- Meghalaya is the third state in the country to have a comprehensive policy on mental health and social care, paying attention to these issues, especially among children, adolescents and youth. Kerala and Karnataka are the other two states in the country to have such policies.
- India being a signatory to it, launched her national mental health policy (NMHPolicy) in 2014.
- The policy was in concordance with WHO's mental health (MH) policy, plan, and program (2005), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD, 2007).
- Further, it aligned with and was supported by contemporary laws such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD, 2016), Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA, 2017), etc.

Nagaland: 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 kicks start

- 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 begins at Naga Heritage Village Kisama in Nagaland. Nagaland's famous Hornbill Festival is scheduled from 1st December to 10th December 2022. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar graced the inaugural function of the festival as the Chief Guest. Now it has been more than 20 years that the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland has welcomed visitors from around the world. In 10 days festival, a visitor gets the opportunity to view all the Naga tribes, their culture and distinctiveness in one place.
- Hornbill Festival of Nagaland is also popularly known as the 'Festival of Festivals' and showcases Nagaland's rich culture. It is organized by the Government of Nagaland, mainly to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland. This

year, in the 10-day festival, more than 130 stalls are set up in Kisama wherein, 100 stalls are taken up by the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises and 32 are temporary stalls. The daily cultural events include activities such as music festivals, photo fest, fashion shows, adventure sports, night carnivals, etc.

International Lusophone Festival to be held from 3-6 December in Goa

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government will organize the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December. It will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan. Minister of State for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi will be the Guest of Honour. AIR correspondent reports that Lusophones are people that speak Portuguese as a native or as a common second language.
- The festival seeks to further India's connect with the Lusophone world. Goa has had historical linkages with the Lusophone world, which has been nurtured through the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions like the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute which promote Portuguese language and culture in India. This has deepened our economic, cultural co-operation and people-to-people ties with the CPLP member countries.
- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa) also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth (Comunidade Lusofona), is a multilateral forum, founded on 17 July 1996 at the 1st CPLP Heads of State & Government Summit in Lisbon.

J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurates Amar Jawan Shourya Sthal in Reasi

- J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated Amar Jawan Shourya Sthal at Pouni, Reasi. On the occasion LG paid obeisance to Param Poojya Sant Balak Yogeshwar Das Ji Maharaj.
- While addressing the gathering LG saluted Veer Naris, and veterans, and paid tributes to all those martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for our country.
- Lt Governor observed that after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the ecosystem nurturing terrorism has been dismantled. He said the nation is truly indebted to the brave Jawans for safeguarding national security.

UP Govt Launches 'One District One Sport' Scheme to Promote Sports Culture

- In his mission to promote sports and sportspersons in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched One District One Sport (ODOS), modeled after the government's highly successful One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- The scheme serves the government's two interconnected goals of promoting sports culture and keeping the state's younger generation healthy and providing a platform for athletes to develop their talents and skills to compete in prestigious national and international championships and win medals.
- According to a press release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), under ODOS, one sport will be identified in each of UP's 75 districts and necessary steps will be taken to find district-specific sport-specific talents and hone their skills to enable them to represent the district, state, national, and international level tournaments and championships.

- Because wrestling has a long history in Deoria, Maharajganj, Azamgarh, Chandauli, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Kashi, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Gorakhpur in Purvanchal, the government has made it the ODOS here. Many local wrestlers have even flown the tricolor at national and international competitions.

India to assume chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement on January 1 2023

- India will assume chairmanship of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for a year on January 1, 2023, just five years after joining the 42-member voluntary export control regime that monitors transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods.
- At the 26th annual plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement held in Vienna during November 30- December 1, Ireland's ambassador Eoin O'Leary handed over the chairmanship to India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, who is the permanent representative to the UN and international organisations in Vienna.
- India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 2017 as its 42nd participating state. The body is a multilateral export control regime that works to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies through regular exchanges of information among its members.
- The regime is aimed at tracking such transfers and preventing "destabilising accumulations" of conventional arms and dual-use goods, the external affairs ministry said.

Civil Aviation Minister launches Digi yatra for three Airports in India

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia today launched Digi Yatra from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for three airports in the country, namely New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru. Digi Yatra is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).
- Speaking about the Digi Yatra project conceived by Digi Yatra Foundation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Minister said that the project envisages a traveller today pass through various check points at the airports through a paperless and contactless processing using facial features to establish her identity which could be linked to the boarding pass. To use this facility, one-time registration on Digi Yatra app is required using Aadhar based validation and a self-image capture. The project has tremendous advantages of improving passenger convenience and ease of travel.
- About the privacy features of the project, the Minister said that keeping in mind the privacy, there is no central storage of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Passenger's ID and travel credentials are stored in a secure wallet in the passenger's smartphone itself. The uploaded data will utilise blockchain technology and all the data will be purged from the servers within 24 hours of use.

India to illuminate 100 iconic monuments with G20 logo from 1-7 dec

- India will formally take over the G-20 presidency today, December 1. Several events will be held across the country including the lighting of 100 monuments with the G-20 logo to mark the occasion.
- The logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag. It juxtaposes planet Earth with India's national flower Lotus, which reflects growth amid challenges. The

Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature. Below the G20 logo is written Bharat, in the Devanagari script.

- AIR correspondent reports, the theme of India's G20 Presidency is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth One Family One Future. The theme affirms the value of all life - human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

SPORTS

South Africa's Farhaan Behardien retires from cricket

- South African batter Farhaan Behardien has announced retirement, concluding an 18-year international cricketing career. The 39-year old has represented the Proteas in 59 ODIs and has 1074 runs and 14 wickets under his belt.
- Behardien also has 38 T20I caps for South Africa and has amassed 518 runs at an average of 32.37. He also led the Proteas in the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka in January 2017. His last international game came way back in 2018, in South Africa's 21-run win over Australia in a T20I at the Carrara stadium. The batter remained not out for three off two deliveries.

Anurag Thakur inaugurates Sports Science Centre in Udupi

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur inaugurated the Sports Science Centre here at M.G. Stadium in Udupi, Karnataka. This Sports Science Centre will bring together sports scientists and athletes. The sports science center has been set up by the government of Karnataka.
- The state government has set up two sports science centers at Udupi and Bengaluru. These centers will conduct research on medicines, nutritious food, treatment and rehabilitation measures for sportspersons, which would help them to boost their abilities. The Minister said that many more such sports science centers will come up. In the future. The government is making efforts to transform India into a sporting soft power. It has increased the sports budget from 854 crores before 2014 to 3,100 crore rupees this year and spent 2700 crore rupees to enhance sporting infrastructure as against 630 crore rupees earlier.

Arunachal's Geto Sora wins junior international badminton championship

- Budding badminton sensation Geto Sora once again made Arunachal proud by winning the Top Arena Junior International Badminton Championship title in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Friday, December 23.
- He won the championship title after beating Malaysia's second seed Jaryl Teh in straight sets 21-5, 21-16. This is Sora's second international badminton title in two months.
- In November, the 7-year-old Sora had won the multinational BTY-Yonex-Singha Championship, which was held at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand.

English all-rounder Sam Curran becomes most expensive IPL player ever, breaks Ishan Kishan's record

- Sam Curran breaks all the records and became the most expensive cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Sam Curran is a 24-year-old English Cricketer who was bought by Punjab Kings on the first day of the IPL auction for ₹18.5 crores. The IPL auctions for the 2023 season are being held in Kerala.
- Sam Curran has broken the record of Ishan Kishan who was bought for ₹15.25 crore by Mumbai Indians.
- Punjab Kings Director Ness Wadia said that Same Curran is one of the best all-rounder players in the world and will bring good balance to our team.
- Other than Sam Curran, Cameron Green was bought by Mumbai Indians for ₹17.50 crore and Ben Stokes was bought by Chennai Super Kings for ₹16.25 crore.

FIFA chooses Morocco to host the 2023 Club World Cup

- Morocco was rewarded by FIFA with hosting rights for the next Club World Cup in February, with an expanded 32-team edition set to launch in 2025. The most recent edition of the tournament was held in the UAE in February 2022 and was won by the English football club, Chelsea. European champion Real Madrid, South American champion Flamengo and Seattle Sounders, the first CONCACAF Champions League winner from the United States, will play in the traditional seven-team tournament from Feb. 1-11.

About Federation International de Football Association (FIFA)

Founded: 21 May 1904;

Founded: Paris, France;

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland;

Membership: 211;

Languages: English, French, German, Spanish & Italian;

First President: Robert Guérin;

Current President: Gianni Infantino (Switzerland);

Secretary General: Fatma Samoura (Senegal).

T20 World Cup for the Blind: India beat Bangladesh to claim third successive title

- The Indian national blind cricket team won the T20 World Cup for the Blind for the third time in a row. They defeated Bangladesh at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium by a commanding score of 120 runs. The Indian captain, Ajay Kumar Reddy elected to bat after winning the toss, and his side eventually set a challenging total of 277 runs for Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi team could only muster 157 runs for three in return.
- Sunil Ramesh won Man of the Match award in the championship. He was also given the B3 category's Man of the Series award. India, the tournament's victors and unbeaten team, won Rs. 3 lakh as prize money, while Bangladesh took second place and received Rs. 1.5 lakh. Ajay won the title of Man of the Series in the B2 division. Mohammed Mahmud Rashid of Bangladesh won the title of Man of the Series in the B1 division.

Abhishek Bachchan's Jaipur Pink Panthers Wins The Trophy Of Pro Kabaddi League 9!

- Jaipur Pink Panthers won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final against a hard-fighting Puneri Paltan by a score of 33-29 to win their second PKL championship. After Patna, Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever winners, are currently only the second team to win multiple titles. The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai. Jaipur Pink Panthers team is currently led by Sunil Kumar Malik and coached by Sanjeev Baliyan. The team is owned by Abhishek Bachchan.

PKL Season 9: Award winners 2022

- Perfect Player of the Final: Sunil Kumar (Pink Panthers)
- Game Changer of the Final: V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)
- Moment of the Final: Ankush Rathee (Pink Panthers)
- Move of the Final: V Ajit Kumar (Pink Panthers)
- Perfect Moment of the Final: Sunil Kumar (Pink Panthers)

Rafael Nadal crowned ITF World Tennis Champion for fifth time

- Spanish Tennis Player, Rafael Nadal has been named the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time after an outstanding 2022 season. Previously, He has been named the men's ITF World Champion in 2008, 2010, 2017 and 2019. Polish tennis player, Iga Świątek, has been named Women's ITF World Champion 2022 for her performance in 2022 winning 2 Grand Slam titles and 8 titles.
- The winners will be honoured at the annual ITF World Champions Awards event which will be held on 8th July 2023 at Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom(UK). The event is usually held in Paris France.

About International Tennis Federation (ITF):

President-: David Haggerty

Headquarters-: London, United Kingdom (UK)

Establishment:- 1913

Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022

- The Indian women Hockey team led by Captain Savita Punia beat Spain 1-0 in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup played at Valencia, Spain. The winning goal was scored by Gurjit Kaur of India. The inaugural FIH Nations cup was held in Valencia, Spain from 11-17 December 2022. India and Spain had played in the FIH women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22 season as replacement teams after pull-outs by Australia and New Zealand due to COVID-19 related issues.
- The result also means that Janneke Schopman-coached side has been promoted to the FIH Pro League 2023-24. Hockey India has announced cash prize of Rs 2 lakh for every member of the squad and Rs 1 lakh each for all the support staff. India ended the tournament with a perfect record of five wins in five matches. Indian team beat Chile (3-1), Japan (2-1), and South Africa (2-0) in the group stage before a thrilling 2-1 win over Ireland in the penalty shootout in the semifinal.

Messi and Argentina's World Cup wait ends with dramatic final win over France

- FIFA World Cup 2022: Messi's Argentina clinched their 3rd World Cup trophy from six final appearances in history, seeing off France 4–2 on penalties (3–3 after extra time) to win the biggest prize in men's football at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar. It had won two in 1978 and 1986 under Diego Maradona. Lionel Messi had come close to winning in 2014 but La Albiceleste lost the final 0-1 to Germany. The only similarity from Messi's 2014 campaign in Qatar was his Golden Ball award for Player of the Tournament award. He became the first player to win two World Cup Golden Balls.
- The 22nd edition of the World Cup just ended and for another 4 years for the next World Cup. Also, The 2026 World Cup will be held across three different countries, the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- Top 4 team Rankings: Argentina (Winner), France (2nd), Croatia (3rd) and Morocco (4th)
- Golden Boot Award: Kylian Mbappe (France); (8 Goals)
- Golden Ball Award: Lionel Messi (Argentina); (7 goals and registering 3 assists)
- Golden Glove Award: Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)

Neeraj Chopra pips Usain Bolt to become most written-about athlete in 2022

- According to the World Athletics, Tokyo Olympics gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra of India was the most written about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing the Jamaican legend Usain Bolt from the top lists. The data collated by media analysis company Unicepta was cited by World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics.
- Neeraj Chopra, the Tokyo Olympics men's javelin champion, led the way with 812 articles ahead of the Jamaican women's sprint trio of Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah (751 articles), 100m world champion Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce (698 articles) and 200m world champion Shericka Jackson (679 articles). Usain Bolt, the world record holder in 100m and 200m men's sprint, comes in fourth in the list with 574 mentions. The Jamaican, who is now retired, had previously topped the annual list for most written-about athlete for years.

Rafel nadal and Iga Swiatek crowned ITF world championship 2022

- Rafa Nadal was named ITF world champion for the fifth time in his career, while top-ranked Iga Swiatek won the women's award after a stellar 2022 season, according to the International Tennis Federation (ITF). World number two Nadal came back from two sets down to defeat Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final in January, capturing his 21st Grand Slam trophy, before capturing his 22nd major in June with a record-extending 14th French Open title.
- The Spaniard joins his friend and recently-retired rival Roger Federer as a five-times ITF world champion behind Pete Sampras (6) and 2021 winner Novak Djokovic (7). "I'm very happy to be named ITF World Champion for the fifth time," the 36-year-old Nadal, who also bagged the award in 2008, 2010, 2017 and 2019, said in a statement.

Rehan Ahmed becomes youngest player to represent England in Tests Cricket Match

- Rehan Ahmed becomes England's youngest-ever Test Cricketer to debut in the final match between Pakistan and England. Rehan Ahmed will be 18 years and 126 days old when the

match begins. Till now, Brian Close, who was 18 years and 149 days old, was the youngest player in England during the New Zealand vs England match in 1949.

- Ben Stokes announced the debut of Rehan Ahmed in the Final match of England vs Pakistan.
- Rehan Ahmed beats Brian Close for being the youngest cricketer to debut for England in Test Cricket. Rehan Ahmed is 18 years and 126 days old.

Tata Steel becomes an Official Partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023

- Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India on December 13, 2022 to become an Official Partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar – Rourkela. The FIH Men's World Cup is the pinnacle of men's hockey tournaments. The 15th edition of the esteemed event will take place in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023.
- Tata Steel has contributed in strengthening the national sport of India through various top-notch high-performance residential hockey training facilities, international coaches, nutritionists, and mental and physical trainers.
- This journey started with the Naval Tata Hockey Academy which was founded in the year 2017 as a state-of-the-art facility to enable budding field hockey talent at the grassroot level in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- Currently, there are around 65+ centres of grassroot programmes with 3000+ cadets run by Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives in the interiors of 3 districts of Jharkhand.
- In addition to this, 9 centres are being run by Tata Steel Foundation in the interiors of other districts of the State with 300+ cadets. These talented cadets from the grassroot centres are promoted to the Regional Development Centre, where they are given advanced training along with a better pitch and match exposure at state levels.

Chahat Arora sets national record in women's 100-metre breaststroke

- In Swimming, Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women's 100-metre breaststroke at the FINA World Swimming Championships 2022 in Melbourne, Australia. FINA is the International Swimming Federation. Chahat Arora completed the 100-metre breaststroke race in 1 minute, 13.13 seconds.
- Lithuania's Ruta Meilutyte, topped the overall heats in 1 minute, 3.81 seconds, which was 9.32 seconds quicker than Chahat Arora.
- The 19-year-old Lara Van Niekerk of South Africa came second in 1 minute 3.93 seconds.
- Lilly King of the USA came third in 1 minute 3.94 seconds. Chahat will participate in the women's 50m breaststroke event. Siva Sridhar will compete in the 100-metre individual medley.

PAK vs ENG: Joe Root joins elite list with 10000+ test runs and 50+ wickets in 2nd Test 2022

- PAK vs ENG: Former England skipper Joe Root became only the third cricketer in history to score 10000 runs and pick up 50 wickets in Test cricket. He achieved the feat during the ongoing second Test against Pakistan in Multan. Root reached the milestone when he dismissed Faheem Ashraf in the 70th over of Pakistan's second innings at the Multan Cricket Stadium. It was a tossed-up delivery from the off-spinner and Faheem tried to push at it. The

ball turned very little to take the batter's edge and presented a simple catch to Zak Crawley at slips.

- Root joins South African legend Jacques Kallis and former Australian skipper Steve Waugh in scoring 10000 runs and claiming 50 wickets in the longest format.
- Root currently has 10629 Test runs and 50 wickets under his belt. Waugh has 10927 runs and 92 wickets, while Kallis tops the chart with 13289 runs and 292 wickets.

FIFA World Cup: Argentina, Croatia, France & Morocco teams qualified for semi -finals

- In the FIFA World Cup, with the quarter-finals concluded, Argentina, Croatia, France and Morocco are the four teams which have qualified for the semi-finals of the marquee tournament.
- Argentina is now all set to face off against Croatia in the first semi-finals on 14th December 2022.
- In the second semifinals, France will be up against Morocco at Al-Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar on 15th December 2022.
- The final will be played on 18th December.

Brazil and Croatia enter quarterfinals of FIFA World Cup

- In the FIFA World Cup Football, Brazil crushed South Korea 4-1 and secured their spot in the 2022 World Cup quarterfinals, in Ras Abu Aboud, Doha, Qatar.
- Earlier, Croatia secured their spot in the 2022 World Cup quarterfinals after defeating Japan 3-1 on penalties after both sides were levelled 1-1 round of 16 draw at the end of scheduled playtime at the Al-Janoub Stadium, Qatar.
- Croatian goalkeeper Livakovic saved three Japan spot-kicks, to send the 2018 finalists through to the last eight.

World No. 3 Sukant Kadam strikes gold at Peru Para Badminton International

- Sukant Kadam smashed his way to a gold medal at the Peru Para-Badminton International, defeating ace shuttler defeated Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang.
- In the women's category, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur clinched the titles in the SH6 & SL3 singles sections.
- While Nithya overpowered Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores, Mandeep defeated Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna.

FIFA World Cup round of 16: France, for app_20201213 England reach quarterfinals

- France beat Poland 3-1, while England recovered from a slow start to hand African champion Senegal a 3-0 defeat.
- France's Kylian Mbappe and Olivier Giroud provided the 3-1 goals that defeated Poland, and England's Jordan Henderson, Harry Kane and Bukayo Saka put three in the net for their 3-0 win over Senegal.
- France and England will take on each other in the quarterfinal at the FIFA World Cup.

Brazil defeat South Korea 4-1 to reach FIFA WC quarter-finals for 8th straight time

- Five-time champions Brazil defeated South Korea 4-1 in their round of 16 match at Stadium 974 in Doha to reach FIFA World Cup quarter-finals for the eighth straight time.
- Vinicius Jr, Neymar, Richarlison and Lucas Paquetá scored for Brazil, marking the first time since 1954 that Brazil netted four goals in the first half of a FIFA World Cup match.

Arjun Erigaisi, Rameshbabu Vaishali Emerge Champions in Tata Steel Chess India

- Arjun Erigaisi clinched the Blitz title finishing ahead of Hikaru Nakamura on the concluding day of the Tata Steel Chess India.
- Displaying a strong performance on the last day, R Vaishali emerged as the Blitz women's champion. She ended with 13.5 points followed by Mariya Muzychuk with 12 points and Harika Dronavalli with 11 points.

Asian Junior C'ships: Unnati Hooda wins India's first-ever medal in under-17 category

- Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda became the first-ever Indian under-17 shuttler to clinch a medal at the Asian Junior Badminton Championships.
- She lost to Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match in the women's singles category.
- In the men's doubles category, the in-form duo of Arsh and Sanskar also got a silver medal.

Shooter Rudranksh Patil clinches ISSF President's Cup in Egypt

- Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil has clinched the International Shooting Sport Federation President's Cup held in Cairo, Egypt. He defeated Italy's Danilo Sollazzo in the 10-metre rifle play-off by 16-8.
- Rudranksh Patil bagged India's first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics, when he clinched a gold in the men's 10-metre air rifle in the ISSF Rifle-Pistol World Championship.

Anish Thoppani clinches silver medal in U for app_20201213 -15 category at Badminton Asia Junior Championships

- Indian shuttler Anish Thoppani clinched a silver medal in the under-15 category at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Nonthaburi, Thailand on Sunday.
- Anish lost the men's singles final against Chinese Taipei's Chung-Hsiang Yih 8-21, 24-22, 19-21 to settle for silver.
- India's under-17 men's duo Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Sraswat also lost the final to secure a silver medal.

All-round Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets, win second Vijay Hazare Trophy

- Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. They restricted Maharashtra at 248/9 in 50 overs as captain Ruturaj Gaikwad hit a century, scoring 108 off 131 balls after a slow start.

Saurashtra bowler Chirag Jani claimed a hat-trick in the match. Man of the moment is Sheldon Jackson.

- Chasing the target of 249, Saurashtra started off cautiously before the openers stitched a 125-run partnership. Batter Sheldon Jackson held one end as wickets tumbled around him. He scored a match-winning 133 off 136 balls to help Saurashtra chase down the target in 46.3 overs, with five wickets to spare. It was Saurashtra's second title triumph in history.
- The win enhanced Jaydev Unadkat's credentials as captain, he had led Saurashtra to their first Ranji Trophy title in 2019-2020. He also finished at the top of the wicket-taking charts in the Vijay Hazare Trophy with 19 strikes to his name.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Roorkee, AIIMS Delhi develop SwasthGarbh app providing real-time medical support to pregnant women

- To create the SwasthGarbh app, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi worked together. Pregnant women can access antenatal care and real-time medical support through the smartphone app. The software may be downloaded for free from the Google Play Store.
- SwasthGarbh app may be a crucial tool for women in rural areas and those who do not have easy access to doctors, according to a statement made by IIT Roorkee.
- The software was created by Sahil Sharma, Professor Deepak Sharma, Professor Vatsla Dadhwal, and Professor Aparna Sharma from the AIIMS in Delhi, all of whom work in the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Roorkee.
- The app helps expectant mothers by assuring punctual prenatal care appointments, documenting each clinical test, and enhancing medication adherence.
- The clinical evaluation of 150 patients showed how useful the app is for enhancing antenatal care quality and minimising problems.

Gaganyaan: India Targets Q4 2024 For Launch Of Its Maiden Human Space Flight Mission

- The Government has said, the country's maiden human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024. Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, in view of the paramount importance of crew safety, two uncrewed flights are scheduled, before the final human space flight- 'H1 mission', to demonstrate the performance of the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions.
- He said, uncrewed 'G1 mission' will be targeted in the last quarter of next year, followed by the 'G2' in the second quarter of 2024. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the astronaut designates for the Gaganyaan are identified and undergoing mission-specific training at Bengaluru. The first uncrewed flight of Gaganyaan programme 'G1' mission is aimed at validating the performance of the human rated launch vehicle, Orbital module propulsion system, mission management, communication system, and recovery operations. The mission will carry a humanoid as a payload.

Indian Armed Forces To Get Pralay Missile; 150-500 Km Range Will Allow Targeting Of Chinese Infra In Tibet

- As the conflicts in the border region with China increase, the Indian armed forces are now set to procure the 'Pralay' ballistic missile that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha in December 2021.
- "The new missile followed the desired quasi ballistic trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithms. All the sub-systems performed satisfactorily. All the sensors deployed near the impact point across the eastern coast, including the down range ships, tracked the missile trajectory and captured all the events," the statement read.
- The Pralay missiles combined with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles would be the longest-range tactical weapon system in the defence forces as the long-range strategic weapons are controlled by the strategic forces command. The missile can help the troops to completely destroy or take out enemy air defence sites or similar high-value targets.

NASA Successfully Launches Game-Changing SWOT Mission To Survey Earth's Water

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) have jointly launched the newest Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft to track nearly all the water on the surface of the Earth. It was launched atop a SpaceX rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at California's Vandenberg Space Force Base. It will remain operational for 3 years.
- The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission is a satellite altimeter jointly developed and operated by NASA and CNES (French space agency) in partnership with the space agencies of the UK and Canada.
- The mission's objective is to make the world's first-ever global survey of the Earth's surface water, capable of observing the finer details of the ocean surface topography and measuring the changes in the terrestrial surface water bodies.
- As it uses wide-swath of altimetry technology, the mission will be capable of almost completely observing the world's oceans and freshwater bodies with repeated high-resolution elevation measurements.
- The satellite can measure the height of water in freshwater bodies and the ocean on more than 90 percent of the Earth's surface.
- The information obtained from this mission can be used to understand the ocean's influence in climate change, impact of global warming on the waterbodies.

Japan's ispace launches world's first commercial moon lander

- A Japanese space startup launched a spacecraft to the moon after several delays, a step toward what would be a first for the nation and for a private company.
- ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission took off without incident from Cape Canaveral, Florida, after two postponements caused by inspections of its SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

ISRO inks MoU with Social Alpha to establish SpaceTech Innovation Network

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Social Alpha today signed an MoU to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN), India's first dedicated platform for innovation curation and venture development for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem. In line with the partnership announcement, SpIN has launched its first innovation challenge.

Adani Green becomes world's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer with 450 MW Rajasthan plant.

- Adani Green stated that it has commissioned a 450 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan. With the new hybrid plant in Jaisalmer, Adani Green Energy has the largest operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1,440 MW. AGEL has a total operational generation capacity of 7.17 GW, making it the largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer.

OBITUARY

Pelé, Brazil World Cup winner and football legend, dies aged 82

- Brazilian football legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, famously called Pelé, has passed away aged 82. He is considered by many as one of the greatest footballers of all time. He was instrumental in Brazil's three World Cup victories in 1958, 1962, and 1970. He is still the top scorer for Brazil national team with 77 goals in 92 games. He retired from Santos in 1974 but a year later made a surprise comeback by signing a lucrative deal to join the New York Cosmos in the then nascent North American Soccer League.
- In a glorious 21-year career he scored between 1,281 and 1,283 goals, depending on how matches are counted. Pele, though, transcended soccer, like no player before or since, and he became one of the first global icons of the 20th century.
- During his career, he became known as "The Black Pearl".
- Pele was named "Athlete of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee, co-"Football Player of the Century" by world soccer body FIFA, and a "national treasure" by Brazil's government.

PM Modi's mother Heeraben Modi passed away

- Heeraben Modi (Hiraben Modi), mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, passed away early on Friday (30 December 2023) in an Ahmedabad hospital. Heeraben was 99. The news of her passing was announced in a bulletin from the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, where she was taken on Wednesday when her condition began to deteriorate.

Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana passes away

- Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana has died at his Filmnagar residence in the wee hours of Friday. He was 87. The last rites will be performed on Saturday in Hyderabad's Mahaprasthanam.

- Kaikala was admitted to the hospital in November 2021. Before that, he was on respiratory support at home following post-Covid complications. He was also admitted in October 2021, after a fall at his residence.
- Fondly known as Navarasa Natana Sarvabhouma, Kaikala was born on 25th July 1935 in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. He starred in more than 770 films and has worked with over 200 directors.

Padma Shri awardee, H.R Keshava Murthy passed away at 89

- H.R. Keshava Murthy, a senior gamaka exponent, who was honoured with Padma Shri earlier this year, passed away. He was born in a family of gamaka artists. He had his initial training from his father Ramaswamy Shastry. Under the guidance of Venkateshaiah he continued his studies. Over the decades he has presented hundreds of programmes and trained many students. Through his performances, he publicised noted Kannada epics. Hosahalli, his native place, is known for many music talents.
- Keshava Murthy has been honored with many awards including Shantala Natya Shri award, by the State government and different cultural organisations. The President honoured him with the Padma Shri this year. The residents of his village celebrated the occasion.

Songwriter Shirley Eikhard, who wrote 'Something to Talk About', dies at age 67

- The legendary singer and songwriter Shirley Eikhard died at the age of 67. Shirley Eikhard was one of the most prolific songwriters in the industry. She penned the Grammy-winning single Something to Talk About.
- Shirley Eikhard died on Thursday at the healthcare centre in Orangeville. According to her publicist, Eric Alper, she died cause of severe cancer-related complications. She took her last breaths at the Headwaters healthcare Centre in Ontario.
- During her musical journey, Shirley Eikhard released 18 albums between 1972 to 2021. She was a self-taught performer and taught herself to play instruments like drums, bass, guitar, piano and many others.

Hawaii's Last Princess, Abigail Kawānanakoa passed away at the age of 96

- Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, a Hawaiian princess whose lineage included the royal family that once ruled the islands and an Irish businessman who became one of Hawaii's largest landowners, 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). Iolani Palace, the royal residence of the rulers of the Kingdom of Hawaii, is the only royal residence in the United States of America. She was a symbol of Hawaiian national identity that endured after the kingdom was overthrown by American businessmen in 1893.

Poland's only cosmonaut, Mirosław Hermaszewski, dies aged 81

- Poland's only cosmonaut Gen Mirosław Hermaszewski passed away recently at the age of 81. He circled the Earth in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978. Hermaszewski became a national

hero thanks to his trip to space. For nine days in June and July of 1978, Hermaszewski and Soviet cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk circled the Earth in the Soyuz 30 spaceship that docked at the Salyut 6 orbital space station. They went around the globe 126 times.

- Hermaszewski travelled into space as part of the Soviet Union's Intercosmos program, which offered an opportunity to explore space for countries within the then-Eastern Bloc, under Moscow's domination or which had ties with the Soviets.
- The first person to blast off as part of the program was Vladimir Remek of then-Czechoslovakia, in March 1978. Hermaszewski followed, while Sigmund Jahn of then-East Germany was the third to fly that year.

Veteran odia film actress jharana Das passes away at 77

- Veteran Odia film actress Jharana Das died at her residence here, family sources said on Friday. She was 77.
- Das, a winner of the state government's prestigious 'Jaydev Puraskar' for her lifetime contribution to Odia film industry, was suffering from old age-related ailment.
- Born in 1945, the versatile actress was known for her memorable roles in films 'Malajahna', 'Amadabata', 'Adina Megha', 'Abhinetri', 'Shree Jagannath', 'Nari', 'Hira Nilla' and many more Odia classics.
- Having started out as a child artiste in All India Radio in the 60s, Cuttack, she was a trained Odissi dancer and had learnt the art from Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. In the later part of her career, she went on to become the voice of AIR-Cuttack.

Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin dies at 96

- Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin has died at the age of 96, Jiang died on Wednesday from leukaemia and multiple organ failure in the city of Shanghai, the official Xinhua news agency said, publishing a joint letter to the Chinese people by the ruling Communist Party, parliament, cabinet and the military, announcing the death.
- Flags at major Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and government buildings in China and worldwide will be flown at half-mast, state media reported.
- Jiang was plucked from obscurity to head the CCP after the bloody Tiananmen crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989, but broke the country out of its subsequent diplomatic isolation, mending fences with the United States and overseeing an unprecedented economic boom.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Praveen Kumar Srivastava appointed acting CVC

- Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). His appointment comes after Suresh N. Patel completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission on December 24. The commission is headed by a CVC and can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners. Besides Mr. Srivastava, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar is the other Vigilance Commissioner. The tenure of a CVC and vigilance commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

- Mr. Srivastava is a 1988-batch (retired) Indian Administrative Service officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He superannuated as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat on January 31 this year.
- During his tenure as Special Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, he had handled matters relating to cadre management of Indian Police Service, personnel and general administration of central armed police forces and Union territories.

RBI approves Baskar Babu's re-appointment as Suryoday Bank's Chief for 3 years

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as the MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance bank for three years effective from 23rd January 2023. The founder of the bank, Baskar Babu Ramachandran sold the bank's 50 lakh shares on 16th December for ₹55.44 crores to close a loan for exercising warrants to maintain the promoter's stake at the minimum of 26 percent for the first 5 years.
- Baskar Babu Ramachandran holds 63,01,911 shares amounting to 5.94 percent after the aforementioned same of which 62.40 lakh shares are pledged.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank is a scheduled commercial bank. The bank has a widespread presence across 13 states and UTs across India through its 565 banking outlets. The bank has reported a net profit of Rs 13 crore in Q2 FY22 as against a net loss of Rs 1.92 crore.

Lieutenant General Arvind Walia Has Been Appointed as the Next Engineer-in-Chief of the Army

- Lieutenant General Arvind Walia has been appointed as the next Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He would be succeeding Lt Gen Harpal Singh who is superannuating on December 31. An officer of the 1986 batch, Lt Gen Walia is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, and also received the prestigious Silver Medal there.
- Lt Gen Walia has previously commanded an independent squadron in the desert sector, a regiment in Jammu and Kashmir and an Engineer Brigade along the western front. He has also commanded the MEG & Centre in Bengaluru.

Puma India onboards Anushka Sharma as brand ambassador

- The manufacturer and designer of casual and athletic footwear, Puma has roped in Bollywood actor and entrepreneur Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador. The association is intended to "accelerate Puma's strong commitment towards women consumer segment". The actor will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories, including select collections through myriad activities and brand campaigns, throughout the year.
- The brand announced 'End of Season Sale' promotions on its social media featuring images of the actor in its products. Anushka took to her social media and called out the brand for using her imagery only after onboarding her as a brand ambassador. The brand's other ambassadors in India include Kareena Kapoor Khan, MC Mary Kom, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, and most recently Harrdy Sandhu.

Major General Mohit Seth appointed as General Officer Commanding

- Major General Mohit Seth has taken over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Counter Insurgency Force Kilo. He took over from Major General Sanjiv Singh Slaria who has

been moved to Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur. In his distinguished military career spanning over three decades, the General Officer has held various prestigious staff and command appointments in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast and at the Army headquarters.

- Major General Mohit Seth has also served as Indian Army Liaison Officer, High Commission of India, United Kingdom.
- Maj Gen Seth, who took over as GOC of Kilo Force was commissioned into 3 MADRAS Regiment in December 1991. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Maj Gen Seth attended the prestigious NDC at New Delhi.

Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw appointed 1st Chancellor of Gati Shakti University

- Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw has been appointed as the Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, by President Smt. Draupadi Murmu. It is noteworthy to mention that Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. President also appointed Dr Manoj Chaudhary as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Vadodara. As per the Central University Act, 2009, Dr Manoj Chaudhary will hold the position of Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University for five years from the date he assumes office.
- Gati Shakti University was granted the central status by the Union Cabinet in July 2022.
- In August this year, the Central Government introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute, into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous central university.
- The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill was introduced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan which seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond the railways to cover the entire transport sector to support the ambitious growth and modernisation in the field.

Harvard appoints Claudine Gay as first Black president

- Harvard University named Claudine Gay, a dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, as its new president, the first African American to hold the post at the prestigious university. Gay, 52, is just the second woman to be elected to head the school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Gay, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, will take over as the university's 30th president on July 1, 2023.
- The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Gay graduated from Stanford and then earned her Ph.D. in government at Harvard in 1998, winning the Toppan Prize for best dissertation in political science.
- Gay was elected to the presidency by the Harvard Corporation, the university's principal governing board.

Sir Jeremy Farrar becomes WHO's Chief Scientist

- World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Dr Jeremy Farrar will become its new Chief Scientist. Currently, Director of the Wellcome Trust, Dr Farrar will join WHO in the second quarter of 2023. As WHO's Chief Scientist, Dr Farrar will oversee the Science Division, bringing together the best brains in science and innovation from around the world

to develop and deliver high quality health services to the people who need them most, no matter who they are and where they live.

- Dr Farrar is a clinician scientist who, before joining Wellcome in 2013, spent 17 years as Director of the Clinical Research Unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Viet Nam where his research interests were in global health with a focus on emerging infectious diseases. Dr Farrar is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK, European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), the National Academies USA and a Fellow of The Royal Society.
- Dr Amelia Latu Afuhaamango Tuipulotu will become WHO's Chief Nursing Officer. Previously Minister for Health of the Kingdom of Tonga, and before that Tonga's Chief Nursing Officer, Dr Tuipulotu will join WHO in the first quarter of 2023.

Senior nuclear scientist K V Suresh Kumar is new BHAVINI CMD

- Senior nuclear scientist K V Suresh Kumar assumed charge as the chairman and managing director of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).
- BHAVINI is tasked with operationalizing the Stage-II of India's three-stage nuclear programme with a focus on fast breeder reactor technology.
- BHAVINI is under the Government's Department of Atomic Energy.

Gol appointed Meenesh C Shah as the Managing Director of NDDB

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has appointed Meenesh C Shah as its Managing Director with effect from November 15. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala informed that the Gujarat-based NDDB does not have regular chairman since December 2020.
- Varsha Joshi, the then Joint Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, held the additional charge of the post of Chairman, NDDB, from December 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

Ashok Leyland appoints Shenu Agarwal as MD and CEO

- Ashok Leyland, a subsidiary of Hinduja group, announced on December 8, 2022, that they had appointed Shenu Agarwal as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of five years from December 8, 2022, to December 7, 2027.
- Agarwal joins Ashok Leyland from Escorts Kubota Ltd, where he was its President.

Vodafone CEO Nick Reed to step down from his role

- Vodafone Chief Executive Officer Nick Read will step down as head of organisation at the end of December 2022. He will be replaced on an interim basis by Margherita Della Valle who has been serving as Chief Financial Officer OF Vodafone Group.
- Nick Read has been serving the group for more than 20 years and is holding the chair of CEO for the last four years.

Meghna Ahlawat new TTFI president, ex-champ Kamlesh Mehta secretary

- Meghna Ahlawat was elected president of the Table Tennis Federation of India on Monday with former stalwart Kamlesh Mehta elected secretary general.
- Patel Nagender Reddy was elected treasurer. The Delhi High Court had suspended TTFI in February and appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to take over its functioning. Dushyant Chautala was the previous TTFI president.

Sushmita Shukla appointed First Vice President, Chief Operating Officer of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

- Sushmita Shukla, an Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, has been appointed as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, making her the second-ranking officer at the prominent institution.
- The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Fed John Williams.

Hansraj Ahir assumes charge as NCBC chairperson

- Former Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on Friday.
- He belongs to District Chandrapur, State of Maharashtra. He is an Agriculturist by profession, read a statement from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Hansraj Gangaram Ahir had been elected four times Member of Parliament from Parliamentary Constituency Chandrapur, Maharashtra and also he was Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. He had been Member of various Standing Committees of Parliament and also served as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel.
- He had been Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India the 16th Lok Sabha.

Vijender Sharma elected president, Rakesh Bhalla as VP of ICAI

- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India on Monday said that Vijender Sharma has been elected as the new president and Rakesh Bhalla as vice-president for 2022-23.
- The institute, which is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament, comes under the administrative control of Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Vijender Sharma has been elected as the President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23, according to a statement.
- The institute conducted the election of President on November 28.
- Sharma is a fellow member of ICAI and a law graduate. He is a leading practising cost accountant since 1998 and insolvency professional since January 2017.
- He has an experience of over 22 years in diversified areas of financial, cost and management accounting, internal audit, management consultancy, forensic audit, insolvency and liquidation, etc.

GroupM Media's CEO Prashanth Kumar elected president of AAI

- Prashanth Kumar, CEO, South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI). He has an experience of over 25 years in the Industry. Before joining GroupM, he held positions at Pepsi, The Hindu, The Media Edge, and McCann Erickson. He has served as AAAI's vice president from 2020 to 2022.
- Rana Barua, group CEO of Havas Group India, was elected vice-president of the association. Anupriya Acharya, outgoing president, will be the ex-officio member of the AAAI board for 2022-23.
- Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) is the official, national organisation of advertising agencies, formed in 1945, to promote their interests. The Association promotes professionalism, through its founding principles, which uphold sound business practices between Advertisers and Advertising Agencies and the various media.

Ex-Health Secretary Preeti Sudan appointed UPSC member

- Andhra Pradesh cadre IAS officer and former health secretary, Preeti Sudan has taken the oath of office and secrecy as Member, UPSC. The oath was administered to her by the UPSC chairman Dr Manoj Soni. Sudan superannuated as the Union Health Secretary in July, 2020. She also served as Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, and in Women and Child Development and Defence Ministries.
- Preeti Sudan is an M.Phil in Economics & MSc in Social Policy and Planning from LSE. Amongst her notable contributions have been initiating two major flagship programmes of the country, i.e., Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Ayushman Bharat, apart from Legislation on National Medical Commission, Allied Health Professionals Commission & ban on E-cigarettes. Sudan was also a Consultant with the World Bank. She served as Chair of COP-8 of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Vice Chair of Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Chair of Global Digital Health Partnership and as member of WHO's Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV amid Adani takeover

- A senior journalist, Ravish Kumar has resigned from NDTV according to news sources. This comes just a day after the channel's founders and promoters Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy resigned from their positions as directors on the board of RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPRH). The senior journalists' resignation comes after the news channel was acquired by the Adani Group, and holds 29.18% stake in the news channel.
- Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy had resigned as Directors on the Board of RRPR Holding Private Limited just yesterday, the company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. The board of RRPR Holding has approved the appointment of Sudipta Bhattacharya, Sanjay Pugalía and Senthil Sinniah Chengalvarayan as Directors on its board with immediate effect.
- Kumar, a winner of the Ramon Magsaysay award, used to host a number of programs including the channel's flagship weekday show Hum Log, Ravish ki Report, Des Ki Baat, and Prime Time. He has also been conferred with the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award twice.

IMPORTANT DAYS

356th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj being celebrated across the country

- The 356th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj is being celebrated across the country today with religious fervor and gaiety. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and recalled his contribution towards serving humanity. In a tweet, Mr Modi said that his unparalleled courage will continue to motivate people for years to come.
- In Bihar, the main function of the birth anniversary known as Prakash Parv will be celebrated at midnight at the gurdwara Takht Sri Harimandir Sahib at Patna Sahib, the birthplace of the Tenth Sikh Guru. A special Diwan has been decorated at Takht Sri Harimandir Sahib Gurudwara. Shabad Kirtan has been organized and devotees have been paying their Ardas (obeisance) since early morning. With the culmination of Akhand Path the main ritual of Prakash Utsav will be performed.

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2022: 27th December

- International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on December 27 serves the purpose of creating awareness about epidemics. This day encourages every individual, every institution, and every government to prepare its citizens in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through education and awareness-raising activities, in order to highlight the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for, and partnership against epidemics.
- The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness reminds us what we went through during the two years of peak-COVID infections. Hospitals were overwhelmed. Family members could not conduct the last rites of their loved ones. Such grim situations could be avoided in the future if people remain alert and prepared.
- In its 75th session and 36th plenary meeting on December 7, 2020, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution which declared December 27 as the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.

Celebrate Gwalior Gaurav Diwas Like A Festival, Says Shivraj

- Gwalior Gaurav Diwas is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He is also known as the son of Gwalior. Gwalior Gaurav Diwas is celebrated on 25th December. On the occasion of Gwalior Gaurav Diwas, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the participation through video conferencing and appealed to the people of Gwalior to light lamps at their homes on 25th December 2022.
- Gwalior Gaurav Diwas is celebrated on 25th December, on the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- A huge statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be installed and a research center will be built as part of his grand memorial in Gwalior.
- The Gwalior Gaurav Diwas marked the 98th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The event was attended by Union Jyotiraditya Scindia and Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born in Gwalior on 25th December 1924 and is known as the pride of Gwalior.

PM Modi to participate in first veer BAL DIWAS programme on 26 Dec

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a historic programme marking Veer Bal Diwas at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi on Monday.
- On the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh on 9th January this year, Prime Minister had announced that 26th December will be observed as Veer Bal Diwas to mark the martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.
- During the programme, Prime Minister will attend a Shabad Kirtan performed by about three hundred Baal Kirtanis.
- On this occasion, Mr Modi will also flag off a march-past by about three thousand children in Delhi.

Good Governance Day 2022: 25th December

- Good Governance Day: Every year, in honour of former Indian Prime Minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee's birthday, India observes "Good Governance Day". The day is devoted to former prime minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi 2014 announced that "Good Governance Day" will be observed annually on December 25 in memory of the former PM.
- The Indian government decided that every year December 25 would be a full day of work. The government has been commemorating Good Governance Day every year since 2014. The day is celebrated to make sure that the country's residents are treated fairly by the government and they receive the advantages of various government services. The purpose of Good Governance Day is to increase public access to various government programmes and services via good governance. It was established with the slogan "Good Governance through e-Governance."

National Consumer Rights Day 2022: History, Significance and More

- Every year on December 24, India observed the National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas. This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights. This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing.
- The significance of Bharatiya Grahak Diwas 2022 revolves around giving a wholesome shopping experience to consumers. They are provided protection against unfair trade practices like fake advertisements, false gift offers, and hoardings, among others. Owing to an effective complaint redressal forum, the Consumer Protection Act assures that there is an efficient settlement of consumer disputes. The act also brought changes in the process of how consumer complaints were dealt.
- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year. The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers' rights be recognised and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardise those rights.

Indian National Farmer's Day 2022: 23rd December

- December 23 is observed as Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas across India. Farmers are the backbone of our economy and to honour their hardship, this day was coined by the government of India in 2001. This day also marks the birth anniversary of the 'Champion of Indian Peasants' and the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- The day aims to spread awareness of the contributions of farmers to the socioeconomic development of the nation. It also recognises the efforts of the former Prime Minister who helped in uplifting the farmers in the country, introduced Debt Redemption Bill and Land Holding Act.
- National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas is the day marked every year to honor each and every farmer who is working continuously for the nation. Farmers are considered to be the backbone of the nation as without them none of us can survive. Agriculture is the basis for all our growth and consumption.

National Mathematics Day 2022: 22nd December

- National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22 across the nation every year. The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887. This year nation celebrates his 135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.
- The day was announced on 26 February 2012 by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (22 Dec 1887- 26 Apr 1920). 2012 was also observed as National Mathematics Year. Ramanujan had a wealth of ideas that have transformed and reshaped 20th-century mathematics. These ideas continue to shape the mathematics of the 21st century.

International Human Solidarity Day 2022: Date, Theme, Significance

- International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed annually on December 20 across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity. IHSD highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to create awareness about poverty and the need to reduce poverty in independent nations.
- The celebration of the International Day of Human Solidarity is a significant step in the aim of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, to eradicate poverty in all its forms across the globe. The annual celebration reminds world citizens of the issues faced by poor people and nations affected by poverty. The day serves to remind governments, civil society members and other institutions that poverty can be tackled and eradicated only through a united effort to help usher in an era where social equality, dignity and justice prevails.

18 December International Migrants Day 2022: History, Significance

- International Migrants Day is observed annually on December 18 to bring attention to the social and economic realities of migrants around the world. This day is observed to

guarantee that the rights of migrants are equally respected and not violated. The mobility of people is still influenced by a range of factors despite the world's rapid growth and change.

- Currently, 281 million individuals are international migrants who reside in nations other than their own. International Migrants Day serves as a reminder that the challenges faced by migrants in every country remain unresolved, and policymakers must continue to develop constructive and comprehensive policies to address the issue.
- The day is set aside to honour the health, security, and welfare of all migrants. During the Intergovernmental Conference in December 2018, it was decided to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

Minority Rights Day celebrated at the National Commission for Minorities

- National Minorities Rights Day is commemorated on December 18 every year in India. Its aim is to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country. This day is a reminder about the rights of minorities and to raise awareness about it. Minority Rights Day in India is commemorated by conducting debates and seminars on topic related to minority communities.
- Awareness about their linguistic, national, cultural and religious identity are also a topic of study during this day. The day revolves around understand the issues faced by these communities and how discrimination against them can be stopped.
- The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992. Following this five religious communities have been notified as minority communities in the Gazette of India by the Union Government all around the country. These religious communities are Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, and Zoroastrians.

15 December 2022: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel death anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 71st death anniversary. Stating that the country will forever be grateful to Patel, PM Modi said, "Remembering Sardar Patel on his Punya Tithi. India will always be grateful to him for his monumental service, his administrative skills, and the untiring efforts to unite our nation."
- Sardar, or Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, was an Indian leader. From 1947 until 1950, he was India's first deputy prime minister. He was a barrister and a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress who led the country's independence movement and guided its integration into a single, independent nation. He was a member of the Indian National Congress's conservative wing.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the "Iron Man of India," was born in Nadiad village in present-day Gujarat on October 31, 1875.

National Energy Conservation Day 2022: History, significance and more

- The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 14th December 2022. The purpose is to showcase the achievements of the nation in energy efficiency and conservation. This occasion has been celebrated since 1991 when is led by the Ministry of

power. This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the conservation of energy as it is the best way to have a greener and brighter future.

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the power ministry of India, launched the National Energy Conservation Awards in 1991 to recognise the contribution of industries and establishments in reducing energy consumption while maintaining their production through awards. The first time the awards were given away was on December 14, 1991. Since then, the day has been declared as National Energy Conservation Day. These awards are given away by eminent dignitaries at a function organised every year on the same day.

International Universal Health Coverage Day

- On 12 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day). Universal Health Coverage Day, commemorated each 12 December, is the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.
- The UHC Day 2022 theme is “Build the world we want: A healthy future for all,”

International Day of Neutrality

- International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12. It is a day when people look at the possibility of a world free of armed and other types of conflicts.
- The day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. Its focus was on advocating and campaigning for intra-state peaceful relations.

UNICEF Day

- UNICEF Day is observed every year on December 11. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- The organisation was originally named United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

International Mountain Day

- International Mountain Day is marked annually on 11 December to create awareness about mountains. The United Nations accepted a document titled “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” while the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in 1992.
- The United Nations General Assembly then declared 11 December as International Mountain Day in 2003.
- The theme for 2022 is “Women move mountains”

Nobel Prize Day

- On December 10th, Nobel Prize Day recognizes the annual award established by Alfred Nobel. Since 1901, the five Nobel Prize has been awarded annually on December 10th. In 1969:

- “The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.” Each year on 10 December, a ceremony is held in Stockholm, Sweden on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death.

Human Rights Day

- Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be celebrated on 10 December 2023.
- 2022 Theme: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.

International Anti-Corruption Day 2022

- International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on December 9 with an aim to raise awareness against corruption and the measures that can be implemented to fight it. The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003, and designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day.

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime: 9th December

- International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is commemorated on December 9 of every year around the world.
- It is observed to raise awareness about the greatest crime perpetrated by man against man, the violation of human rights and how it can be prevented in the future.
- On December 9, 1948, the United Nations adopted the first human rights treaty, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”).

International Civil Aviation Day 2022

- International Civil Aviation Day is observed on December 7 every year. The day was established by the United Nations in order to promote the importance of international civil aviation.
- The ICAO Council establishes the theme for International Civil Aviation Day every four years. The theme till 2023 is "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".

‘Matiri Diwas’ marking recognition to Bangladesh by India celebrated in Dhaka

- The 51st anniversary of ‘Maitri Diwas’ marking the recognition granted to Bangladesh by India in 1971 was celebrated in Dhaka on 6th December.

- Liberation war fighters, Parliamentarians, members from civil society, media, dignitaries, and other prominent people took part in the event organised by the High Commission of India in Dhaka.

Armed Forces Flag Day 2022

- December 7 is marked as the Armed Forces Flag Day or the Flag Day in India every year. The day is commemorated in order to honour the soldiers serving in India's armed forces as well as the veterans. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the new naval ensign that eschews the Union Jack and other colonial heritage of the past.

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

- International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed on December 5 every year.
- The day is also referred to as IVD and is mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985. To achieve goals at the local, national and international levels, the UN offers an opportunity to volunteer-involving organisations and individual volunteers to promote volunteerism.

World Soil Day

- World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
- An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences in 2002. In December 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as first soil day.
- The theme of World Soil Day 2022 is "Soils: where food begins".

Indian Navy Day

- India observes Navy Day on December 4 every year to recognise the role and achievements of the Indian Navy. It also commemorates the launch of Operation Trident in the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971.
- The Indian Navy is all set to demonstrate India's combat prowess and capability through an 'Operational Demonstration' at Visakhapatnam.

International Day of Banks

- On 19 December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, which designated 4 December as the International Day of Banks in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how; and also in recognition of the vital role of the banking system.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December

- December 3rd is celebrated as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, worldwide. The day is observed to highlight issues that affect people with disabilities and to champion their well-being, their dignity and fundamental rights. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated to encourage increased assimilation of persons with disabilities in the socio-political, economic and cultural aspects of life. The goals fall under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, this year, is “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”. The 2022 celebration will focus on the need for innovative solutions to help create an inclusive developmental model to aid people with disabilities.
- In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). On February 6, 1981, US President Ronald Reagan did the same. Then the UNGA declared 1983-1992 as the decade of Disabled Persons. The adoption of December 3 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities happened during the UNGA’s 37th plenary meeting, on October 4, 1992.

National Pollution Control Day 2022: 2nd December

- National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on 2 December in India. The day is recognized to commemorate the precious lives that were lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, one of the greatest industrial disasters in the history of India. The main aim and objectives of celebrating the National Pollution Prevention Day 2022 in India is to create awareness among people about the judicious use of industries to prevent uncalled-for industrial disasters.
- The significance of celebrating the National Pollution Control Day is to avoid similar catastrophes like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and save the earth from the damage caused by pollution. The day is dedicated to encourage the adoption of pollution control acts to prevent the environmental pollution caused by human negligence and industrial emissions.

World Computer Literacy Day 2022: 2nd December

- December 2 is observed as International Computer Literacy Day. It was started in 2001 by NIIT, a world-famous Indian computer firm. The day is entirely devoted to Computers and how they are a significant source of concern with the modernisation of the planet. The aim is to highlight the importance of computer literacy, which is essential for the present times. The day promotes technological skills, especially in children and women, and aims to inspire them to learn more and make their work easier by the use of computers. To know more about the World Computer Literacy day candidates are advised to read the below article.
- World Computer Literacy Day was launched in 2001 by an Indian company called N.I.I.T to celebrate its 22nd anniversary. Founded in 1981 by Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani, N.I.I.T, which stands for National Institute of Information Technology, is a skills and talent development company. World Computer Literacy Day was founded by the company in response to a study that revealed that men formed the majority of computer users in the world. As a result, N.I.I.T took up the cause to educate more women and children by

equipping them with computer literacy skills. Since its inception in 1981, the company has spread to over 30 countries of the world.

World AIDS Day 2022:1st December

- Every year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. The day raise awareness and to unite people worldwide in the fight against the global health issue of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. The day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.
- The World AIDS Day theme for 2022 is “equalize”. According to UNAIDS, “The slogan is a call to action. It is a prompt for all of us to work for the proven practical actions needed to address inequalities and help end AIDS.
- World AIDS Day is significant to fight the stigma around it and focus on providing care and support for those who are already living with the disease. Like with most major public health issues, the HIV pandemic has only been presented with further challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Border Security Force to celebrate its Raising Day on 1st Dec 2022

- India celebrates the 58th BSF Raising Day (1st December) in 2022. This is for the first time that the Raising Day Parade of India’s first line of defense is being held in Punjab and the second time outside the national capital. The 58th Raising Day Parade of the Border Security Force (BSF) will be held on December 4 on Guru Nanak Dev University campus.
- Formed in 1965, the primary role of the BSF lies in securing the borders of India shared with Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Border Security Force (BSF) comprises Indian armed personnel dedicated to protecting the sovereignty and integrity along the Indo-Bangladesh and the Indo-Pakistan borders.
- From BSF Raising Day, personnel roll across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, securing the LoC (Indo-Pakistan border) from rogue elements trying to infiltrate along the western borders.
- They operate in West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, and Tripura along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The jurisdictions of BSF empower them to act within 50-km of the international border in these states.

SUMMITS AND MOU’S

Tribal Affairs Ministry, Amazon Launch Computer Skills Training Programme For Teachers Of Tribal Schools

- In conjunction with the Learning Links Foundation, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) was setting up a two-day face-to-face capacity building program which was held on 28th and 29th of December 2022, for EMRS teachers to implement the Amazon Future Engineer Program (LLF).
- The relationship between NESTS and amazon, according to Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda, will empower educators and students in the area of digital education. He

further stated that the programme will aid in the beginning of digital contact with those living in remote places in the present decade. He claimed that the Future Engineer Program will be extremely beneficial to EMRS students. Additionally, he said that the Future Engineer Program would help the tribal students at EMRSs become more computer literate.

Jaishankar signs defense cooperation agreement with Cyprus on visit

- At a joint news conference held in Nicosia, Cyprus, Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed three important agreements. The two ministers had fruitful conversations during Jaishankar's first official visit to Cyprus about bilateral relations, multilateral cooperation, geopolitical and regional problems, the Indo-Pacific issue, the Middle East, Europe, and India's relationship with the European Union.
- S. Jaishankar also stated at the meeting how crucial the partnership between India and Cyprus is.
- It is based on our shared principles of democracy, diversity, pluralism, and respect for the law, he claimed.
- Both are driven by similar beliefs and guiding principles as India and Cyprus develop their own relationships and collaborate with other parties.
- The UN Security Council has expressed concern over unauthorized activities in the buffer zone separating the Greek and Turkish communities in the northern and southern regions of the Mediterranean island since 1974.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs Conference of LGs, Administrators of UTs in New Delhi

- Home Minister Amit Shah has said that if the potential of Union Territories is fully harnessed, India will be able to achieve the goal of becoming the third-largest economy in the world. He emphasized making Union Territories a role model for the country. Mr Shah said this while chairing the Conference of Union Territories in New Delhi today. He said that all Union Territories should come together and work synergistically on a common platform to achieve the national objectives and vision and take the country forward in the journey of development.
- The Minister also directed the Union Territories to prepare their vision for 2047. He said that Union Territories should take inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's motto of vocal for local and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat while striving to become a hub of tourism, development and welfare. The Union Territories should focus on increasing their manufacturing sector to reduce their dependence on external resources to reduce the loss of revenue in the process. He said that tourist circuits should be developed in the country to attract more tourists and reduce the cost of transportation.

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) signed agreements with MSMEs for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products. The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten conversion of products from research labs to the market.

- The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality) such as access to safe drinking water, and growth of potential import substitutes for advanced and affordable healthcare in the country.
- The technologies include Alkaline Water Electrolyser for Green Hydrogen production, DC Accelerator for Wastewater Treatment, novel Gamma Monitoring, and X-Band LINAC-based X-ray source for radiotherapy machines.
- The launch of AIC-BARC was announced in the 2020 Budget Speech of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and will complement the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative of the government.

UAE Set to Host World's Largest Trade Minister Meeting in 2024

- The next World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in February 2024, the global trade watchdog confirmed in a statement. The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event and came to an informal agreement for Abu Dhabi to host the first one and Cameroon to do the next, trade sources said.
- For the UAE, hosting the meeting is part of its own push to position itself as a global hub for business amid growing competition in the Middle East. It has been rolling out bilateral trade deals with fast-growing markets since the pandemic. Next year the Gulf Arab state will host COP28, the UN's Climate Change conference.
- The top priority for the WTO's 13th ministerial conference, known as MC13, will be reaching an agreement to reform the trade body's hobbled dispute settlement system and modernising its 27-year-old rulebook.

Amit Shah chairs the eastern zonal council meeting in Kolkata

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the Eastern Zonal Council meeting at the West Bengal secretariat here on Saturday, officials said.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her counterparts from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Sikkim are likely to attend the EZC meeting.
- Sources in the secretariat, however, said that Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik may skip the meeting.
- Among other issues, Mr. Shah is slated to hold discussions on matters related to boundaries of the five states and the completion of the eastern freight corridor.
- Along with the CMs, chiefs of all central armed forces are also expected to attend the meeting, which was earlier scheduled for November 5, but got postponed due to Shah's unavailability, owing to other engagements.

Airbnb signs MoU with Department of Tourism, Government of Goa to promote Inclusive Tourism

- Airbnb signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, to jointly promote Goa as one of the most sought-after high potential tourism destinations in India and around the world.
- This partnership is aimed at encouraging travel to unique destinations that are lesser-known and enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism in the state. On the sidelines of the official launch of 'Rediscover Goa', a week-long celebration of Goa's vast

cultural diversity beyond its beaches and dazzling nightlife, Airbnb and Goa Tourism Department have joined hands to scale homestay capacity across the state, and provide support to Goan homestay Hosts in delivering quality tourism experiences to guests, both domestic and international.

- The announcement reflects the commitment of both parties to support the development of a sustainable tourism ecosystem in Goa, while highlighting current and upcoming tourism destinations in the state. By hosting knowledge sharing and training workshops for homestay Hosts, the partnership will also enhance the potential of tourism to create jobs and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the local communities. There will be a spotlight on unique properties that enable more domestic and international travelers to explore Goa like never before and uncover some hidden gems.

8th India International Science Festival in Bhopal next month

- India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 will be held in Bhopal in January 2023 and incidentally, it is one of the major events to be held after India took over G-20 Presidency. IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Science of Government of India in association with Vijnana Bharati which is a science movement with swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country. The IISF 2022 is the eighth edition since its inception in 2015.
- It is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.
- It also provides opportunities to people and scientific fraternity in the country and abroad to come together, work together and experience the joy of doing science for the wellbeing of India and humanity.
- There will be fourteen events organized during these four days which will be running parallel with the participation of more than 8,000 delegates from across the country. More than lakhs of local visitors will witness the festival and will remember the festival for its unique grandeur and creativity in science.

Cristiano Ronaldo signs 200-million euro contract with Saudi club Al-Nassr

- Cristiano Ronaldo is set to move to Saudi Arabia from the start of 2023 after agreeing a contract with Al-Nassr.
- The initial deal will be around €100m (£86m) with advertisement and sponsorship bringing his wages to a record figure that will see him become the highest paid athlete in sport.
- He recently became the first man to score at five different World Cups.

NSIC Signs MoU with Walmart

- A Memorandum Of Understanding was signed between The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and Walmart Global Sourcing India Private Limited, to facilitate services to MSMEs in Walmart Vridhhi program.
- Through this MoU, NSIC will be able to extend the NSIC schemes and other services to MSMEs which would participate in various Vridhhi programs.

Moreover, the MSMEs would get the exposure to various advantages of gaining working capital, bulk procurement support etc. under various opportunities offered by NSIC.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Chhattisgarh police 'Nijaat' campaign received IACP 2022 Award

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat' of Chhattisgarh police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' award in the institutional category. The prestigious IACP 2022 Award has selected the de-addiction drive 'Nijaat', which was executed following the directive by chief minister Bhupesh Baghel to act tough against drug peddlers, and bootleggers and check to smuggling of drugs. A successful singular campaign, 'Nijaat' witnessed the striking results to achieve a drug-free society with missionary zeal.
- The campaign was launched by the Chhattisgarh police under the leadership of the IPS officer Santosh Kumar Singh who pioneered the drive with intensified efforts in districts of Korea, Rajnandgaon and presently continuing in Korba.

Prabhu Chandra Mishra receives the Atal Samman Award

- On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country Atal Bihari Vajpayee, many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honored, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi during 9th Atal Samman Samaroh. Prabhu Chandra Mishra has been awarded Atal Samman Award for his excellence in field of science & research. His area of work is Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails.
- The diseases like premature ovarian failure, thin endometrium, Asherman syndrome Etc have shown satisfactory results with body's own cells. PRP & bone marrow-derived StemCells Research have shown promising hope for these patients/ couples who are struggling for their own child's.

IIT Madras' courses win Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards

- The Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards, also known as “,” gave significant recognition to the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M). The best programme awards went to the IIT Madras courses, BS Data Science and NPTEL in partnership with IISc Bangalore. The institute has been awarded and its BS in Data Science and Applications is awarded the silver in the best online programme category. While, the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, run by IIT Madras, won the gold in the lifelong learning category.
- The Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Applications program is a sought-after undergraduate degree that is uniquely designed to address the employability of students in this domain. The programme opens the door to the world of data science and programming where the demand for skilled resources is very high, to anyone from any background and of any age group. This tailor-made programme provides core employment-oriented skills to students.”

Nobel Prize 2022 Winners

- The Nobel Prize is one of the most prestigious and distinguished awards given in six different fields, namely, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Economic Sciences, Physiology or Medicine, and Peace Prize. It was started in 1901 by the Nobel Foundation in memory of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel. The winners of the Nobel Prize are called Laureates and are given a gold medal, a diploma, and a monetary award. In this article, we are covering the winners' list of the Nobel Prize 2022 Awards.

Nobel Prize 2022 Winners List		
Nobel Prize Category	Nobel Prize Winners	Awarded For
Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences	Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig	"for research on Banks and Financial crises"
Nobel Peace Prize 2022 Winner	Ales Bialiatski, organisation Memorial and organisation Center for Civil Liberties	For promoting the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens. For showing outstanding efforts to document war crimes, human rights abuses, and the abuse of power.
Nobel Prize Winner in Literature	Annie Ernaux	"for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".
Physiology or Medicine	Svante Paabo	"concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution"

Physics	Alain Aspect, John F Clauser and Anton Zeilinger	“for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities, and pioneering quantum information science”.
Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry	Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal & Barry Sharpless	“click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”

The Last Show And RRR's Naatu Naatu Make It To Shortlist: Oscars 2023

- The Gujarati-language Chhello Show (The Last Show), which is India's official entry for the 2023 Academy Awards or Oscars awards in the International Feature film category, has been shortlisted for next year's Academy Awards. Meanwhile, the track Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR has been shortlisted in the Best Original Song Category. The Academy announced the list of shortlisted entries in 10 categories. The nominations for the Academy Awards will be announced on January 24.
- India's history with the Oscar entries for the last few years were – Koozhangal, Jallikattu, Gully Boy, Village Rockstars, Newton, Visaranani, all of which have failed to make the Oscar shortlist. The only Indian films to have been nominated for an Oscar so far have been Mother India, Salaam Bombay and Lagaan.
- As far as RRR's best song category is concerned, 15 songs have been shortlisted from among 81 tunes. Other songs include 'Nothing Is Lost' from 'Avatar: The way Of Water', 'Lift Me Up' from 'Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever', 'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick' among others.

UIDAI bags top data security award for best practices in govt sector

- Data Security Council of India (DSCI), a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM awarded UIDAI for its significant role in securing national critical 'Aadhaar' infrastructure that provides digital identity based welfare services to residents.
- The jury recognized the forward looking security strategy, good security practices for safeguarding residents' demographic and biometric data and the proactive approach in addressing new age cyber security risks and threats through effective and efficient security governance and state of art security infrastructure deployment.
- This award is another feather in the cap for UIDAI, which takes pride to be the first Government Organization to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701)

and one of the leading government institutions that is ahead in innovation and incubation of indigenized technology implementation.

- The award was given in the just concluded three day 'Annual Information Security Summit (AISS)' of DSCI in New Delhi. Among over 270 nominations across five award categories, UIDAI was awarded by DCSI jury panel for 'Best Security Practices in Government Sector'.

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar

- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021) and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021). The winners, awarded \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, were picked from a shortlist of 11 at India International Centre, with the Tagore Prize for social achievement going to Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments. In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore.

NHPC wins 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India – Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022'

- NHPC Limited has been awarded as Winner of 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India – Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022'. Shri U.S. Sahi, Executive Director (EMS/CC/CSR), NHPC received the award on behalf of NHPC at a glittering function held at New Delhi Institute of Management, New Delhi on 22nd December 2022.
- The Award has been conferred to NHPC in recognition of its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW. The award also recognizes that NHPC has more than 5000 MW of projects under construction and an ambitious 7000 MW plus plan for Solar capacity addition. The award was given by Shri V.M. Bansal, Chairman, New Delhi Institute of Management. During the event Shri K. Vijayanand, Special Chief Secretary, Energy, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Shri A.K. Singh, former CMD, NHPC were also present.

Sahitya Akademi Award Winner list 2022

- The award has been given by the central government for the best literature of every year. Accordingly, the central government has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award for literature on December 22. Writer M. Rajendran from Tamil Nadu has received this award for his novel 'Kala Pani'. The awardee will be presented with a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a copper Shield. This 'Kala Pani' novel is a historical novel based on the war of Kalayarkovil or Kalayarkool.
- The Awards, recommended by distinguished Jury members in 23 Indian languages, were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022:

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays)	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate
Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Koijam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	K.B. Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhjot
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani'
Santali	Sabarnaka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran

Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

Oscars 2023: RRR's Naatu Naatu, Last Film Show, among others shortlisted for the 95th Academy Awards

- The Gujarati-language Chhello Show (The Last Show), which is India's official entry for the 2023 Academy Awards or Oscars awards in the International Feature film category, has been shortlisted for next year's Academy Awards. Meanwhile, the track Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR has been shortlisted in the Best Original Song Category. The Academy announced the list of shortlisted entries in 10 categories. The nominations for the Academy Awards will be announced on January 24.
- India's history with the Oscar entries for the last few years were – Koozhangal, Jallikattu, Gully Boy, Village Rockstars, Newton, Visaranani, all of which have failed to make the Oscar shortlist. The only Indian films to have been nominated for an Oscar so far have been Mother India, Salaam Bombay and Lagaan.
- As far as RRR's best song category is concerned, 15 songs have been shortlisted from among 81 tunes. Other songs include 'Nothing Is Lost' from 'Avatar: The way Of Water', 'Lift Me Up' from 'Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever', 'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick' among others.

Sonakshi Sinha is PETA India's 2022 'Person of the Year'

- Bollywood actress, Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title. Sonakshi's actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title. She is actively involved in animal welfare activities and regularly voices out the need for stronger animal protection laws. The international animal rights non-profit group endorsed the title and celebrated the actions of the "Dabang" actress for saving animal lives in India.
- Last year, Alia Bhatt was awarded the same title. Previously PETA India Person of the Year winners include former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, cricketer Virat Kohli, comedian Kapil Sharma; and actors John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, among others.

India's Sargam Koushal wins Mrs World 2022

- Sargam Koushal created history as she finally won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years while competing for India in the pageant. The 32-year-old won the competition in Las Vegas after defeating competitors from 63 other nations.
- Sargam Koushal beat Mrs. Polynesia to win the title.
- The Jammu and Kashmir-born beauty queen previously worked as a teacher in Vizag.
- Koushal is shown beaming in photographs from her historic victory that were posted on the Mrs India pageant's official Instagram account. "The long wait is over; the CROWN is returned after 21 years!" Check out the caption.

- Sargam Koushal, an Indian contestant, won the title of Mrs. World on Sunday at a gala held in Las Vegas.

After Golden Globes and Critics Choice, SS Rajamouli's RRR bags 4 nominations at HCA Film Awards

- SS Rajamouli-directed period movie 'RRR' has been nominated in two categories at the Golden Globe Awards to be held in January 2023. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) has nominated 'RRR' in the Best Picture: Non-English language and Best Original Song Naatu Naatu.
- 'RRR' follows a pre-Independence story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries: Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, in the 1920s. Starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR in the lead, the film released worldwide in March in five languages. RRR is the only Indian film to make the final five out of a clutch of other entries from India, among them Gangubai Kathiawadi, Kantara and Chhelo Show.

SpiceJet wins 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by Delhi Airport

- SpiceJet has been awarded the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines and as it has been able to reduce ground safety violations significantly. SpiceJet ground handling team at Delhi Airport achieved this performance through constant focus on quality improvements, innovation and hard work. Moreover, their role in minimising incidences of ground safety violations ensured compliance with safety guidelines and regulatory requirements.
- 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.
- The airline was the only scheduled Indian airline part of the audit conducted by ICAO, the United Nations aviation arm. The audit of SpiceJet safety systems "helped India achieve" its highest-ever safety ranking in ICAO audit

Former VP Venkaiah Naidu confers with SIES Award for public leadership

- Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES). The award was presented during the event held at Shanmukhananda auditorium, King's Circle in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The SIES was set up in 1932 by M. V. Venkateshwaran in Mumbai.
- 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 its National President from 2002 to 2004.
- He served as Minister for Rural Development in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government from 1996 to 2002.

India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti wins 2022 Earthshot Prize

- A Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers devised by Telangana startup Kheyti has won the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize, founded by Britain's Prince William and dubbed the Eco Oscars'. Kheyti, one of the five winners at a gala green carpet awards ceremony in Boston, won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category from hundreds.

Indian-origin science teacher wins Prime Minister's prize in Australia

- An Indian-origin teacher in Australia has received the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in secondary schools. Melbourne-based Veena Nair, who is ViewBank College's Head of Technology and STEAM project leader, has been awarded for demonstrating practical application of STEAM to students, and how they can use their skills to make a real impact in the world.
- As a leading educator in STEAM, Nair has more than 20 years of experience in teaching science-based subjects across India, the United Arab Emirates, and now Australia.

Manthan Platform Wins the Best Tech Initiative Award

- The Manthan platform won NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022 .
- The award was presented for building the technology infrastructure to support Manthan, a platform that promotes collaboration at scale between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem.

RANKING

India Ranks 5th In World's Best Cuisines List; Gulati's Butter Chicken In Delhi Among Top Dishes

- Cuisines of the World: India is ranked fifth on the global list of the best cuisines for 2022, according to Taste Atlas. The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes, and beverages. Italy's food came in first place followed by Greece and Spain. India received 4.54 points and the best rated foods of the country include "garam masala, malai, ghee, butter garlic naan, keema", the rating said. It has a total of 460 items in the list. Furthermore, the best restaurants to try Indian cuisine are Shree Thaker Bhojanalay (Mumbai), Karavalli (Bengaluru), Bukhara (New Delhi), Dum Pukht (New Delhi), Comorin (Gurugram) and 450 others, according to the list.
- Japan, the United States of America, Turkiye, France and Peru were also among the top 10 countries with best cuisines. Chinese cuisine, which is the world's most popular, however, ranked 11th on the list.

PV Sindhu 12th highest-paid female athlete in world, only Indian and badminton player in top 25

- Forbes annual list: India's badminton star, PV Sindhu is the only Indian sportsperson to feature in the top 25 of Forbes' annual list of the world's highest-paid female athletes. Sindhu, the 2016 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list. Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list. For the third straight year, Osaka tops

Forbes' annual list of the World's highest-paid female athletes. The list is dominated by tennis players once again.

List of highest paid female athletes of the year:

1. Naomi Osaka (Japan) – Tennis – \$51.1 million
2. Serena Williams (USA) – Tennis – \$41.3 million
3. Elieen Gu (China) – Skiing – \$20.1 million
4. Emma Raducanu (UK) – Tennis – \$18.7 million
5. Iga Swiatek (Poland) – Tennis – \$14.9 million
12. P.V. Sindhu (India) – Badminton – \$7.1 million

India Ranks Third Globally In Scientific Publications, Higher Budgetary Allocations Expected For DST: Minister

- Union Minister for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh has revealed that India had jumped from 7th to 3rd in global scientific publications and scholarly output, according to a report by America's National Science Foundation. India also ranks third globally in the number of PhDs produced annually. In a similar upward trend, the number of patents granted by the India Patents Office to Indian scientists has more than doubled in just the last four years.
- India's scholarly output increased from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1, 49,213 papers in 2020.
- China leads the world in the publication of the maximum number of scientific papers followed by The United States of America.
- The National Science Foundation is an independent agency of the United States government that supports fundamental research and education in all the non-medical fields of science and engineering. Its medical counterpart is the National Institutes of Health.

2022 GFSI Report released by British weekly The Economist

- The 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) report was released by the British weekly The Economist. The 11th Global Food Security Index shows a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, threatening food security. In this report, South Africa overtook Tunisia to become the most food-secure country in Africa.
- Vulnerability to Shocks: The global food environment is deteriorating, making it vulnerable to shocks. Significant progress was made in global food security from 2012 to 2015, with the overall GFSI score increasing by 6 percent.
- Widening food security gap: In 2022, 8 of the top 10 performing countries are in Europe, with Finland topping the list with a score of 83.7.
- Africa's Most Food-Secure Country: South Africa, at the 59th position, was recognized as the most food-secure country in Africa. It made a record leap from the 70th rank in 2021.
- India is ranked at 68th position along with Algeria with the overall score of 58.9. China's position is at 25th with the score of 74.2.

UN Ranks Namami Gange Among Top 10 World Restoration Flagship Programmes

- The United Nations has recognised the Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world.

The award was received by G Ashok Kumar, Director General, Namami Gange, at the 15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.

- Namami Gange was selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe. They were selected under the banner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- It is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces across the planet. The recognized initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise.

UIDAI tops Grievance Redressal Index for the fourth month in a row in Nov

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) topped the grievance redressal index among all group A ministries, departments and autonomous bodies for resolution of public grievances for the fourth month in a row in November.
- The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry stated that UIDAI has moved towards a centralized grievance handling mechanism through its Open-Source customer relationship management system. UIDAI's new open-source CRM (customer relationship management) system has enhanced user experience and improved service delivery to the residents.
- UIDAI's Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning based Chatbot, Aadhaar Mitra is also gaining popularity and soon the conversations happening there on a daily basis are going to cross 50,000 figures.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, following the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.

20 Indian firms in 500 most valuable globally, Reliance top: Hurun report

- Twenty Indian companies, up eight from last year, are among the 500 most-valuable ones in the world, Hurun report showed. With a valuation of \$202 billion, Reliance Industries was the most valuable Indian company on the list. Globally, it was the 34th biggest company.
- Apple, worth \$2.4 trillion, was the most valuable company, followed by Microsoft, with \$1.8 trillion.

World's strongest passports list 2022: India stands at 87th position, UAE ranked the best

- The Passport Index 2022, published by Arton Capital, ranks the world's strongest and weakest passports. The passport rankings indicate how many countries you can visit without a visa.
- The UAE has got the first position in the rating of passports for 2022, while India was ranked 87 in the list of the strongest passports in the world.

India's GDP to grow at 6.9% in FY23 & will remain one of the fastest-growing major economies, says World Bank

- The World Bank in its India Development Update has upgraded the forecast for the Indian economy to 6.9% from 6.5% earlier in the current fiscal year.
- The report sees average retail inflation at 7.1% this year. World Bank's India Development Update said India is affected by spillovers from the US, Euro area, and China.

Gautam Adani, 2 other Indian billionaires on Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy list

- Billionaires Gautam Adani, HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, and Happiest Minds Technologies' Ashok Soota are the three Indians who have been named in the 16th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list.
- Gautam Adani was listed for having pledged ₹60,000 crores (\$7.7 billion).
- Shiv Nadar donated ₹11,600 cr. (\$142 million).
- Ashok Soota has pledged ₹600 cr. (\$75 mn.)

BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List: 4 Indian women's in the list

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has published the list of 100 most influential women in the world and has included women from several areas such as politics, science, sports, entertainment, and literature.
- The BBC's 100 most influential women's list also includes four Indians: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale.

India ranked 48th in Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022

- According to DGCA officials, India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place.

Pakistan tops 'list of nations at 'risk of Violence'

- Pakistan has topped the list of countries at the highest risk of experiencing new mass killings, according to a new report.
- The report cites violence by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as one of the main challenges for the nation already facing political and economic crises.
- It said that Pakistan is estimated to have about a one in six chance of experiencing a new mass killing in 2022 or 2023.

Gautam Adani tops Forbes list of 100 richest Indians

- The world economy may be slowing but India's richest have grown even richer this year. The Forbes 2022 list of India's 100 richest is finally here, according to which, the combined wealth of India's 100 richest grew by \$25 billion to touch a colossal \$800 billion. The top 10 richest Indians are worth a cumulative \$385 billion. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani

has bagged the top spot on the list with a net worth of \$150 billion. According to Forbes, the gain was largely due to a record-breaking feat by infrastructure tycoon, which changed the pecking order at the top for the first time since 2008.

Top 10 Richest person:

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH
1	Gautam Adani	Rs 1,211,460.11 crore
2	Mukesh Ambani	Rs 710,723.26 crore
3	Radhakishan Damani	Rs 222,908.66 crore
4	Cyrus Poonawalla	Rs 173,642.62 crore
5	Shiv Nadar	Rs 172,834.97 crore
6	Savitri Jindal	Rs 132,452.97 crore
7	Dilip Shanghvi	Rs 125,184.21 crore
8	Hinduja Brothers	Rs 122,761.29 crore
9	Kumar Birla	Rs 121,146.01 crore
10	Bajaj Family	Rs 117,915.45 crore

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book “Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond” by Indian economist C. Rangarajan

- C Rangarajan authored a book titled “Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond”. It was published by the Penguin Business (Penguin Group). The book is the memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It discusses India’s transition from its post-independence planning era to the present times. The book is divided into 3 parts. Part 1- ‘RBI and Planning Commission’, Part 2- ‘Governor of RBI’ and Part 3- ‘Beyond RBI’.
- In this book, the veteran economist and policymaker provides a captivating account of his professional journey, starting with his purely accidental entry into the RBI in 1982. Rangarajan, regarded as one of the tallest figures in the history of India’s economic reforms, provides crucial insights into the role he played as part of the team which initiated far-reaching reforms in India’s economy in the early 1990s.

Book “The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times” by Michelle Obama

- The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times is a nonfiction book written by Michelle Obama and published, by Crown Publishing. The Light We Carry will inspire readers to

examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world. The author “shares the contents of her ‘personal toolbox’ – the habits and practices, attitudes and beliefs, and even physical objects that she uses to overcome her feelings of fear, helplessness and self doubt.”

- The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times has generally received positive reviews by book critics for herself on biography. In The Light We Carry, the former First Lady shares her practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today’s highly uncertain world.

A book ‘Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History’ authored by Vikram Sampath

- A book titled ‘Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History’ by Vikram Sampath, an anthology of 15 stories of men and women and their indomitable spirit of freedom and courage, was launched in Delhi. The book is published under Penguin publication.
- The book chronicles the stories of courage and determination of few individuals, whose stories largely remained untold and therefore unknown for a long time.

Shekhar Pathak wins Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022 for 'The Chipko Movement'

- A book on the popular forest conservation campaign Chipko Movement, written by historian-activist Shekhar Pathak, was named the winner of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022. Translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry, “The Chipko Movement: A People’s History” was selected from a diverse shortlist of five books covering a wide expanse of modern Indian history and encompassing distinct topics and perspectives.
- The winner was selected by a six-member jury panel chaired by political scientist Niraja Gopal Jayal. The other jury members were entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal; historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri; former diplomat Navtej Sarna; and attorney Rahul Matthan.
- The other shortlisted books were “Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India’s Professional Elite” by Swethaa S Ballakrishnen; “Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India” by Rukmini S; “Midnight’s Borders: A People’s History of Modern India” by Suchitra Vijayan; and “Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India” by Ghazala Wahab.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, December 2022

- The 26th edition of the Financial Stability Report was released by the Reserve Bank of India on December 29. The Reserve Bank of India publishes a financial stability report (FSR) every two years (RBI). The report reflects the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council’s (FSDC) collective evaluation of the financial system’s resilience and vulnerabilities to financial stability.
- With recessionary dangers hanging large, the global economy is contending with significant obstacles.

- Multiple shocks acting in concert have tightened financial conditions and increased market volatility. Strong international headwinds are affecting the Indian economy.
- The findings of the stress tests, which are published in this issue of the FSR, show that, should they occur, even extremely severe stress circumstances, banks would be able to survive them.
- Credit risk macro stress tests show that SCBs would be able to meet the minimum capital requirements even in the most extreme stress scenarios.

Centre's fiscal deficit for April-November period at 58.9% of FY23 target

- The government's fiscal deficit in end-November touched 59 per cent of the full year Budget Estimate on increased capital expenditure and slow growth in non-tax revenue. In actual terms, the fiscal deficit, which is the difference between expenditure and revenue, was Rs 9.78 lakh crore during the April-November period of 2022-23. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 46.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22.
- The government has budgeted fiscal deficit to be Rs 16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP in the current year ending March 2023. The deficit is funded by market borrowings. Capital expenditure was at Rs 4.47 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of BE between April-November. In the last fiscal, capex was 49.4 per cent of BE.
- As per the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the net tax revenue at Rs 12.24 lakh crore was 63.3 per cent of BE 2022-23. During the corresponding period of 2021-22, the net tax revenue was 73.5 per cent of that year's BE. Non-tax revenue was at Rs 1.98 lakh crore or 73.5 per cent of BE. In the last fiscal, the collection was 91.8 per cent of BE.

Core sector output growth in November rises to 5.4 percent

- Production of eight infrastructure sectors increased by 5.4 per cent in November against a 3.2 per cent growth in the same month last year on a better show by coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments. Crude oil, natural gas and refinery products, however, recorded negative growth in November this year. The production growth of eight key sectors slowed down to 0.9 per cent in October.
- The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — stood at 8 per cent in April-November this fiscal as against 13.9 per cent during the same period last fiscal.
- The production of coal rose by 12.3 per cent, fertiliser by 6.4 per cent, steel by 10.8 per cent, cement by 28.6 per cent and electricity by 12.1 per cent in November 2022 compared to a year ago.

Free import policy for key pulses extended by a year

- The government of India has extended the free import of Urad and Tur pulses by one more year to 31 March 2024. Earlier in March 2022 the government had allowed free import of tur and urad till 31 March 2023. Now importers can import any quantity of urad and tur dal without any quantitative restrictions. The government has taken this step to ensure adequate domestic supply in the country and to control the prices of these pulses.
- India is the largest producer, importer and consumer of pulses in the world accounting for nearly 25% of global production, 15% of International trade and 27% of world consumption.

- In 2020-21 the total pulse production in India was 26.96 million tonnes.
- India meets around 10-12 % of its demand for pulses through import.

Service sector received most FDI investment: Ind-Ra report 2022

- According to a research report published on 28 December 2022 by the India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India was still limited to few sectors and maximum investment was still in the service sectors.
- According to Ind-Ra despite the government's effort to attract more investments in the manufacturing sector through "Make in India" campaign, the FDI inflow is still tilted in favour of the services sector,".
- Ind-Ra believes this could be because doing business in the services sector is less complicated than doing business in the manufacturing sector in India. This could also be the reason for the majority of the FDI coming in the manufacturing sector is not a Greenfield investment.
- The share of the services sector and computer software & hardware in the FDI between April 2014 and March 2022 were as high as 41.3% and 19.6%, respectively, while manufacturing accounted for just 25.4%.
- Between April 2000 and March 2014, the share of the services sector and computer software & hardware in such inflows were 37% and 5.9%, respectively, and that of manufacturing was as much as 35.4%.

Indian PSU WAPCOS top amongst Consulting Services Firm category in ADB report

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its report released on annual procurement, ranked Indian-PSU company WAPCOS as top amongst consulting services firms in water and other infrastructure sectors, with the highest sanctioned financed amount. In another report on its members' Fact Sheet – 2022 released by the ADB, WAPCOS figured amongst the Top 3 consultants from India involved in consulting services contracts under ADB loan, grant, and technical assistance projects in energy, transport and water, and other urban infrastructure sectors.
- WAPCOS is a leading technology-driven consultancy, engineering, and procurement and construction (EPC) organization in the fields of water resources, power, and infrastructure development.
- It was established by the government of India in 1969 under the aegis of the Ministry of Water Resources to utilize India's knowledge and expertise in the field of water resources by sharing and exporting technology to friendly developing nations.

India, Australia Economic Cooperation & Trade Agreement comes into force from today

- India, Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force from 29 December. India and Australia signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) on the 2nd of April 2022. ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade. The agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries.

- Under this trade agreement, Indian exports will benefit from preferential zero-duty market access in Australia for 100 per cent of its tariff lines. It will benefit India's labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, furniture, food and agricultural products, engineering products, and medical devices.
- India has provided preferential access to Australia on over 70 per cent of its tariff lines, which are primarily raw materials and intermediaries. As a result of this agreement, 10 lakh jobs are estimated to be created in the country. The total bilateral trade is expected to cross 45 to 50 billion dollar in five years from the existing 31 billion US dollar.

Government gives official recognition to Esports

- Esports received a huge boost from the Indian government. It is incorporated into the nation's mainstream sports disciplines. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, amended the regulations governing eSports in accordance with the authority "conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution" and requested that "e-Sports be included as part of multi-sports events" from the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology and Sports.
- E-sports after being added to the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta as a demonstration sport, which meant that medals earned in the sport were not included in the official total of medals.
- There had been an increase in desire for Esports to be included in the curriculum of multi-discipline competitions.

Bajaj Allianz Launches 'Respect Senior Care Rider' for Elderly

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers of India, announced the launch of its unique health insurance rider 'Respect Senior Care Rider'. This rider helps one fulfill their parental responsibility smoothly. In order to accomplish this goal, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has tied up with a wide network of service providers to assist the insured with their worries.
- This network can be accessed by them or their family members at any time, this product will protect the customers from shelling out significant sums of cash and reduces worries and brings a plethora of services at their fingertips.
- The intention of the rider is to minimize the worries of senior citizens and of their family members who might not be living in the same city. Anyone who is aged 50 years & above and has the company's base health insurance policy can opt for this rider.
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance is India's leading private general insurance company. Bajaj Allianz is a joint venture between Bajaj Finserv Limited, India's most diversified non-bank financial institution, and Allianz SE, the world's leading insurer and largest asset manager.

Financial literacy poor across urban, rural population: RBI

- It is often believed that in India, the majority of the rural people is not familiar with digital banking. But in what might be considered a revelation, a pan-Indian "Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey" conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) found that awareness and knowledge of digital banking are on par between the rural and urban population nationwide, with the average for both segments being 11.7 on a scale of 21.

- Three criteria—financial knowledge, attitude, and behavior—were used to base the poll. The average urban and rural scores on a scale of 1 to 21 were 11.7. The scores, zone-wise, were as follows: Both the urban and rural areas in the north zone had scores of 11.5 apiece, which was par. The scores were 12.1 for both rural and urban areas in the east zone as well. In the middle zone, urban areas had a score of 12.5 while rural regions received a slightly lower score of 12.1. In the west zone, scores were nearly identical, with urban areas scoring 12.6, and rural regions scoring 12.5. The urban area score in the south zone was 11.2 while the rural area score was 10.3.

Frauds fall nearly 50% at banks: RBI Data

- According to an RBI report, public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for the majority of frauds reported in 2018–19, with 55.4% of the cases reported and 90% of the money involved. This is primarily due to an inadequate internal process, lack of personnel, and inadequate systems to address operational risks.
- Private banks and foreign banks contributed 30.7% and 11.2 percent, respectively, to the total number of frauds, while contributing 7.7 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, to the latter.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's "Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2018-19" report, PSBs contributed even more to big frauds in 2018–19, accounting for 91.6% of their total value.
- The value of incidents involving various aspects of banking, such as card/internet, off-balance sheet, and foreign exchange transactions, has decreased (in terms of reporting date) in 2018–19 compared to the previous year.

Ambani-Led Reliance Retail Acquires Metro AG's India Business For Rs 2,850 Crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 percent equity stake in Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd, which operates under the 'Metro India' brand, for a cash consideration of Rs 2,850 crore.
- Through this acquisition, Reliance Retail gets access to a wide network of METRO India stores located in prime locations across key cities, a large base of registered kiranas and other institutional customers, strong supplier network and some of the global best practices implemented by METRO in India.
- Metro India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mero AG, started operations in India in 2003 as the first company to introduce cash-and-carry business format in the country and now runs 31 large format stores across 21 cities with about 3,500 employees.

IRDAI WILL Introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to Expand Insurance Force a "BIMA VAHAK"

- To enhance the insurance force in India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon introduce "Bima Vahaks" in each gram panchayat. Each Gram Panchayat will have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products, Bima Vistar, covering health, property, life and personal accident.

- The insurance companies have adopted a state each and with the help of state governments are looking to develop state-level insurance plans. Much like what has been done in the banks.
- There's arguably a case for having differentiated operations which cater to niche sectors, the same way we have NBFCs and microfinance institutes in lending.
- There is a big protection gap in the country, and it was an "urgent need" for insurance companies and caregivers to collaborate and ensure wider coverage.

Jio Invests Additional Rs 6500 Cr For 5G In Andhra Pradesh

- Reliance Jio announced it has launched True 5G services in Andhra Pradesh. The 5G services were launched in Tirumala, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur districts. Apart from their existing investment of Rs 26,000 crore, additionally Jio has invested over Rs 6,500 crore for deploying 5G network in Andhra Pradesh. By December 2023, Jio True 5G services will be made available in every town, taluka, mandalam and village of Andhra Pradesh.
- Jio demonstrated the benefits of 5G in the field of healthcare, through Jio Community Clinic medical kit, and the revolutionary AR-VR device, Jio Glass. These benefits will bring phenomenal changes in the lives of people in Andhra Pradesh. The launch of Jio's True 5G services will open doors to growth opportunities in the areas of e- governance, education, healthcare, IT and SME business.

Under SIDBI's Mentorship, FIT Rank for MSMEs Launched by TransUnion CIBIL and Online PSB Loans Limited (OPL)

- With the intent of deepening credit flow to small businesses and also helping lenders avoid loan losses on such bets, credit information company TransUnion Cibil launched a ranking system for MSME borrowers. The 'FIT Rank' launched by TransUnion Cibil in association with Online PSB Loans, will rate the over 6 crore micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by drawing inputs from their current accounts, income tax returns and also Goods and Service Tax (GST) returns to arrive at a score between 1-10 to rate a borrower after taking consent to draw the relevant data.
- The ranking will give lenders an idea about the capacity of an enterprise to pay, its creditworthiness and also intention to pay from past experience.
- The product will go into the cash flows of an entity while arriving at the rank, and hence broaden the universe of entities who can borrow because at present, banks insist on collaterals.
- The lenders will be able to get the probability of default in a particular case because the engines have sifted through the data of many years while arriving at the rank.

India to become \$10-trillion economy by 2035, forecasts by CEBR

- The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), which is a UK-based economics consultancy, predicted that India will become the third-largest economy by 2037. 14th edition of the report noted that over the next five years, the annual rate of GDP growth is expected to average 6.4%. After that, the growth is expected to average 6.5% in the subsequent nine years.

- As per the report, India seems “unstoppable in its momentum” to become the third economic superpower. The report has predicted that in 2035, India will become the third \$10 trillion economy.
- While commenting on the Chinese economy, the report said that despite modest output performance in 2022, inflation was at an anticipated 11.6%. The Chinese economy, therefore, faces a potential stagflationary trade-off between growth and price rises.

Indian Billionaire Gautam Adani to Control Nearly 65% of NDTV

- Indian Billionaire Gautam Adani is to control 64.71% of New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) as the founders have decided to sell most of the shares. The founders of NDTV, Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy have decided to transfer most of the shares in the company giving Gautam Adani his conglomerate control of about 65% of NDTV. The decision comes after four months after Gautam Adani announced his takeover of the news channel.
- Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy will sell a 27.26% stake of their remaining 32.26% shareholding in NDTV.
- Gautam Adani already holds 37% of shares after an open offer and an acquisition of NDTV.
- Adani Group will become the single largest shareholder in NDTV after first buying out a firm backed by the founders and then acquiring more shares from the open market.
- New Delhi Television Ltd or NDTV is an Indian news media company that was founded in 1984. The founders of NDTV are economists Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy. The husband-and-wife duo is from Kolkata. In August 2022, the Adani Group launched a hostile bid to take over NDTV.

New Bank Locker Rules To Take Effect On January 1, 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently said that all leading banks should issue the locker agreement to its holders before January 1, 2023, as the new locker rules will be implemented from that date. Earlier, the RBI had announced revised guidelines on August 8, 2021, which became effective from January 1, 2022. And now, all the locker owners must display their eligibility for a new locker arrangement and sign a renewal agreement prior to January 1, 2023.
- Banks shall ensure that any unfair terms or conditions are not incorporated in their locker agreements.
- Further, the terms of the contract shall not be more onerous than required in the ordinary course of business to safeguard the interests of the bank.
- Banks shall renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by January 1, 2023.
- All banks need to circulate a new locker agreement to their safe deposit locker holders under the new rules.
- According to the Central bank, all the lenders can use the IBA-drafted model locker agreement, which should comply with the updated instructions and Supreme Court's directives.

India clears defence purchase plan worth Rs 84328 crore

- In a step to augment the operational capabilities of the Armed Forces and the Indian Coast Guard in future, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accorded approval for Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 Capital Acquisition Proposals. These proposals include six for the Indian Army, six for the Indian Air Force, 10 for the Indian Navy and two for the Indian Coast Guard for a total value of Rs 84,328 crore.
- It is pertinent to mention that 21 proposals, worth Rs 82,127 crore (97.4%), are approved for procurement from indigenous sources. This unprecedented initiative of DAC will not only modernise the Armed Forces but also provide a substantial boost to the defence industry to achieve the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Jio deposits Rs 3,720 cr in SBI escrow account to acquire Reliance Infratel

- Reliance Projects and Property Management Services — a subsidiary of telecom major Reliance Jio — has deposited Rs 3,720 crore in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fibre assets of Reliance Infratel. Reliance Infratel has fibre assets of about 178,000 route kilometres and 43,540 mobile towers across the country. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave an approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL).
- The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio had placed a bid of Rs 3,720 crore in November 2019 to acquire the tower and fibre asset of debt-ridden subsidiary of his younger brother Anil Ambani-managed firm Reliance Communications.
- The tribunal had asked Jio to deposit Rs 3,720 crore in the State Bank of India (SBI) escrow account to complete the acquisition of RCOM's tower and fibre assets.

Govt hikes copra MSP by 3-7% for 2023

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for 2023 season. The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut growing states.
- The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 10860/- per quintal and for ball copra at Rs. 11750/- per quintal for 2023 season.
- This is an increase of Rs. 270/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 750/- per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- This would ensure a margin of 51.82 percent for milling copra and 64.26 percent for ball copra over the all India weighted average cost of production.
- The announced MSP of copra for 2023 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19.

Parliament proceedings: Note in circulation rise 8% annually to ₹32 lakh crore

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said note in circulation (NiC) has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98 per cent to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. The demand for currency depends upon several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rates, she said.

- Six years after demonetisation, the currency in circulation has jumped to a new high of Rs 32 lakh crore reflecting that cash still remains the preferred choice of payment for Indians. Compared with the pre-demonetisation period, it has increased by a massive 72 per cent from Rs 17 lakh crore on November 4, 2016. The demonetisation (of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes that ceased to be legal tender) was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016, with the aim of reducing the circulation of black money in the economy, among other objectives.

IPL Turns Decacorn As Valuation Crosses \$10 Billion, Witnesses 75% Growth Since 2020

- IPL surpasses \$10 billion valuation: The Indian Premier League (IPL), whose total valuation has surpassed \$10 billion, has evolved into a decacorn. A D and P Advisory report made public on Tuesday states that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion. Notably, it has shown a startling 75% rise since 2020.
- IPL's expansion has been aided by lucrative agreements with industry titans in media. A company valued at more than \$10.0 billion is referred to as a decacorn.
- In less than 15 years since its beginning, the IPL has reached the milestone.
- The D and P Advisory said in a study titled "Beyond 22 Yards" that the IPL attained the significant milestone after selling its media rights for the years 2023 to 2027. The league recorded a three-fourth increase in revenue over the previous cycle when it sold its media rights for \$6.2 billion. The rights were divided among numerous broadcasters for the first time.

Gross Direct Tax collections for the FY 2022-23 show 25.90% growth: CBDT

- The Gross collection of Direct Taxes has registered a growth of 25.90 percent which stood at 13,63,649 crore rupees in the financial year 2022-23. The Gross collection in the corresponding period stood at 10,83,150 crore rupees. According to the Finance Ministry data, the Net Direct tax collection for FY 2022-23 stood at 11,35,754 crore rupees, registering a growth of 19.81 percent. The Net Direct tax collection for the corresponding period was recorded at 9,47,959 crore rupees.
- It stood at ₹11,35,754 crore compared to ₹9,47,959 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which is about 80% of the full-year Budget target.
- The net direct tax collection of ₹11,35,754 crore includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at ₹6,06,679 crore (net of refund) and personal income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at ₹5,26,477 crore (net of refund).
- There has been a remarkable increase in the speed of processing of income tax returns filed during the current fiscal, with almost 96.5% of the duly verified ITRs having been processed till 17.12.2022.

IDFC First Bank waives fee on savings accounts and multiple banking services

- IDFC FIRST Bank has declared ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on multiple banking services, including Passbook charges, NEFT charges. The bank said that customers maintaining as low as Rs 10,000 Average Monthly Balance, and the Rs 25,000 AMB savings account variant will get these benefits.

- Number of Cash Transactions at branches per month (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal)
- Value of Cash Transactions (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal) at Branches
- Third-party Cash Transaction Charges (Cumulative of Deposit and Withdrawal) at Branches
- Demand Drafts/ PO (Issuance Charges) – at Bank Locations
- IMPS Charges per Transaction– Outward

Government launches first-ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' for infrastructure projects

- Road, transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product, a move that would reduce the dependence of infra developers of bank guarantee. Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal. The product will cater to the requirements of a diversified group of contractors, many of whom are operating in today's increasingly volatile environment.
- The Surety Bond Insurance is a risk transfer tool for the Principal and shields the Principal from the losses that may arise in case the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.
- The product gives the principal a contract of guarantee that contractual terms and other business deals will be concluded in accordance with the mutually agreed terms. In case the contractor doesn't fulfil the contractual terms, the Principal can raise a claim on the surety bond and recover the losses they have incurred.

India's monthly merchandise trade deficit comes down to a six-month low

- India's overall trade deficit for goods and services in November this year has fallen to \$11.11 billion, lower than year-ago and month-ago levels. Moreover, thanks to a recovery in exports, India's monthly merchandise trade deficit came down to a six-month low of \$23.81 billion. Trade deficit is the amount by which a country's import costs exceed its export value in a given period.
- November's goods exports stood at \$31.99 billion against \$29.78 billion in October and \$30.04 billion a year ago. The export data is still the lowest since November 2021 due to lower prices and volumes. Also, November goods imports were recorded at \$55.88 billion against \$56.69 billion a month ago. The number stood at \$52.94 billion a year ago. November goods trade deficit has fallen to \$23.81 billion against \$26.9 billion in October and \$22.9 billion year-on-year (YoY). The November goods deficit is the lowest since May.
- The November trade deficit is down on marginal recovery in exports and a fall in services imports.

RBI holds 599th central board meeting, reviews economic situation

- The 599th meeting of the board was held in Kolkata on December 16. The meeting was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- Directors of the Central Board, Satish K. Marathe, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Dr Ravindra H. Dholakia attended the meeting. RBI deputy governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, and T. Rabi Sankar too attended the meeting.

- The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reviewed the current economic situation, and global and domestic challenges including the overall geopolitical developments, finance, and trade. The Board also discussed the activities of select Central Office Departments and the draft Report on the Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2021-22.

Sitharaman holds 48th GST Council meet, panel agrees to decriminalise certain offences

- The 48th Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council meeting at the national capital Delhi on 17 December has concluded without any decisions on the highly anticipated GST Appellate Tribunals, tax rate applicable on gutkha and pan masala.
- Increase in monetary threshold, from the current ₹5 crore to ₹20 crore, for launching legal proceedings against offenders. Additionally, the fee payable by a taxpayer for compounding of GST offences be lowered to 25% of the tax amount, down from the up to 150% currently.
- A report on tax evasion by the tobacco industry (pan masala, gutka), along with a possible mechanism to curb the evasion.
- As proposed by a Group of Ministers (GoM), increasing the indirect tax on online gaming, casinos, and horse racing, to 28%, from the existing 18%.

HDFC Bank Launches Parivartan SmartUp Grants with Startup India

- HDFC Bank announced the launch of its sixth annual grants program for social startups in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India'. Known as Parivartan SmartUp Grants, the program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.
- The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the bank's social initiatives. So far, the bank has disbursed over INR 30 crore to more than 45 incubators which supported over 165 startups working in areas like environment, agri-business, ed-tech, waste management, healthcare, and skill development sectors.
- This year the bank will also focus on building capacities of incubators and startups working in tier-II & III cities. Through selected incubator partners, the bank will fund social impact startups developing solutions in environmental conservation, affordable healthcare, sustainable rural economy, technologies for better governance, economic growth of SMEs, gender diversity and inclusion space.

ADB keeps India's GDP growth unchanged at 7% for current financial year

- The Manila-based Asian Development Bank kept its economic growth outlook for India unchanged at seven percent for the fiscal 2022-23. The bank also forecasted a weaker-than-previously expected pace for developing Asia. The seven percent growth projection for fiscal 2022-23, unchanged from its September forecast, against 8.7 percent GDP growth in the previous fiscal.
- For the next fiscal year, FY 23-24, the GDP growth has been kept unchanged at 7.2 percent, "sustained by positive effects from structural reform and from public investment catalysing private investment".

- The Manila-based bank's report sees Asia expanding 4.2 percent this year and accelerating to 4.6 percent in 2023. The previously estimated expansion stood at 4.3 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively.
- "While some recent high-frequency indicators are more favourable than expected — notably consumer confidence, electricity supply and purchasing managers' indexes — others are a little less favourable, in particular exports, largely textiles and iron ore, and the index of industrial production of consumer goods," the report said.

November retail inflation eases below 6% for the first time this year

- Retail inflation of India has been eased to 5.88% in November 2022 from 6.77% in October. It is the first time in this Financial Year when the inflation rate came within the tolerance band of RBI i.e. 2 to 6%. Food prices, which account for nearly 40% of the CPI basket, eased to 4.67% in November, compared with 7.01% in October.
- Retail inflation has been above the upper end of the Reserve Bank of India's 2%-6% tolerance band since January, triggering 225 basis points of interest rate rise, so far taking it to 6.25%.
- Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the core inflation is estimated to be between 6% and 6.26% in November, according to three economists' estimates, compared to 5.9% to 6.3% in October.
- RBI recently wrote a letter to the government explaining the reasons for failing to contain inflation within the set band for three successive quarters. The letter has not been made public so far.
- Cooling vegetable and edible oil prices drove India's retail inflation down to 5.88% in November from 6.77% in October, the first time since January this year that consumer prices have risen slower than the 6% tolerance threshold set for the central bank.

Banks Wrote Off Bad Loans Worth Over 10 Lakh Crore In Last 5 Financial Years: Minister

- Banks have written off bad loans worth ₹ 10,09,511 crore during the last five financial years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament. The non-performing assets (NPAs), including those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance sheet of the bank concerned by way of write-off.
- Banks write off NPAs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with RBI guidelines and policy approved by their boards. As per inputs received from RBI, Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) wrote off an amount of ₹ 10,09,511 crore during the last five financial years.
- As borrowers of written-off loans continue to be liable for repayment and the process of recovery of dues from the borrower in written-off loan accounts continues, write-off does not benefit the borrower, she said.
- Banks continue to pursue recovery actions initiated in written-off accounts through various recovery mechanisms available, such as filing of a suit in civil courts or in Debts Recovery Tribunals, filing of cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and through sale of non-performing assets.

Bank of Baroda Proposes Sale of Majority Stake in Nainital Bank

- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) said it plans to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank. The board of directors of the bank has approved divestment of its majority shareholding in Nainital Bank Limited (NBL), and authorised issuance of an advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) through a Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) from interested parties (IPs).
- BoB currently holds 98.57 per cent of the total equity share capital of NBL. Uttarakhand-based Nainital Bank has about 150 branches across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan. The Mumbai-based BoB had taken over Nainital Bank in 1973 on the directions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Bank of Baroda is one of the leading commercial public sector banks in India. The Bank is having their head office located at Baroda and their corporate office is located at Mumbai.
- Bank of Baroda is one of India's largest banks and as on December 2020 the bank has a strong domestic presence spanning 8246 domestic branches and 11553 ATMs & Cash Recyclers supported by self-service channels.

RBI shortlists 7 global consultancy firms to use AI, ML to improve regulatory supervision

- 7 firms are Accenture Solutions Private Limited; Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd; Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Ernst and Young LLP; KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP; McKinsey and Company; and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd.
- The Department of Supervision has been developing and using linear & a few machine-learned models for supervisory examinations.

YES Bank gets RBI nod to raise capital from Carlyle, Verventa Holdings

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued two letters to YES Bank as the final go-ahead for its proposed capital raise plan from the Carlyle Group and Verventa Holdings, the bank said in a statement while informing the exchanges.
- YES Bank will now engage with the investors for completion of the proposed capital raise, subject to various regulatory compliances.

UPI to now allow blocking money for multiple debits, paves way for ASBA

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enhanced the capabilities of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by introducing a 'single-block-and-multiple debits' functionality, which allows a customer to enable a payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds for specific purposes in his/her bank account which can be debited, whenever needed.

RBI Monetary Policy 2022: RBI Repo Rate Hike by 35 bps to 6.25%

- The decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been announced.
- In the consecutive fifth hike this year, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has raised the repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect, making loans expensive.

- The policy rate is now at the highest level since August 2018. The RBI has maintained policy stance at 'withdrawal of accommodation'.

Razorpay becomes India's first payment gateway to support credit cards on UPI

- Razorpay, India's full-stack payments and banking platform for businesses announced the platform's readiness to support credit card transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). With this launch, Razorpay becomes India's first PG to support credit cards on UPI.
- Customers of HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank & Indian Bank will be the 1st to enjoy the benefits.

Reserve Bank of India issues framework for Indian banks' foreign biz

- RBI has put in place a framework to allow overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market.
- The framework also specifies the applicability of these instructions to International Financial Services Centres in India, including Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.

UPI volume cap deadline extended by 2 yrs in relief for PhonePe, Google Pay

- In a major relief to payment firms like PhonePe and Google Pay, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) extended the volume cap deadline for third-party application providers (TPAPS) by two years, until December 31, 2024.
- In November 2020, NPCI came up with a directive capping the share of transactions a TPAP could process at 30 per cent of the volume of transactions handled on UPI, effective January 1, 2021, which was to be calculated on the basis of the volume of transactions processed during the preceding three months (on a rolling basis).
- However, it gave the existing TPAPs, such as PhonePe and Google Pay, which exceed the desired market cap, two additional years, starting January 2023, to comply with the directive. According to the latest data released by NPCI, PhonePe processed over 47.26 per cent of the transactions done through UPI in October.
- Google Pay processed about 34 per cent of transactions through the UPI. Both these players have a combined market share of over 81 per cent in volume terms of total transactions processed on UPI.

NSE Launches New Nifty Bharat Bond Index

- The National Stock Exchange's subsidiary NSE Indices has launched one more index under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series.
- The Bharat Bond Index series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year.

- Nifty Bharat Bond Index — April 2033 - has been launched within the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series. In December 2019, NSE Indices launched the first two indices in the Bharat Bond Index with maturities in April 2023 and April 2030, and in July 2020, further two indices with maturities in April 2025 and April 2031 were launched.

RBI comes out with four-tiered regulatory framework for urban cooperative banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks.
- The Reserve Bank of India had constituted the Expert Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks, under the Chairmanship of Shri N. S. Vishwanathan, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank to examine the issues in urban cooperative banking sector and to review regulatory/ supervisory approach for strengthening the sector. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, RBI had released the Revised Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) on July 19, 2022. The four-tiered regulatory framework, based on size of deposits of the UCBs, will come into force with immediate effect.

Rs. 1,45,867 crore gross GST revenue collected for November 2022

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of November 2022 stood at Rs 1,45,867 crore, according to the data shared by finance ministry. The revenue for the month of November are 11% higher than the GST revenue in the same month last year, which itself was Rs 1,31,526 crore. This is the ninth straight month when collections from GST has remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore.
- The gross GST revenue collected in November 2022 came in at Rs 1,45,867 crore of which CGST is Rs 25,681 crore, SGST is Rs 32,651 crore, IGST is Rs 77,103 crore (including Rs 38,635 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹10,433 crore (including Rs 817 crore collected on import of goods). The government has settled Rs 33,997 crore to CGST and Rs 28,538 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement.
- The total revenue of Centre and the state after regular settlements in the month of November 2022 is Rs 59678 crore for CGST and Rs 61189 crore for the SGST. In addition, the Centre had also released Rs 17,000 crore as GST compensation to States/UTs in November 2022.

SBI board approves infrastructure bonds worth ₹10,000 cr

- State Bank of India plans to raise Rs 10,000 crore worth of infrastructure bonds during the current financial year. SBI confirmed the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Board of State Bank of India to seek approval for raising infrastructure bonds to Rs 10,000 crore through public issues or private placement.
- The planned insurance worth Rs 10,000 crore includes a greenshoe option of Rs 5,000 crore. The infrastructure bonds are likely to be of 10 years tenure according to the plans. Infrastructure bonds typically have an edge in such a scenario as the money raised through

the issuance of these bonds will be excluded while maintaining a cash reserve ratio (CRR). With these, the banks will have more funds to lend.

- State Bank of India is an Indian Multinational public sector bank and financial services statutory body headquartered in Mumbai. SBI is the 49th largest bank in the world by total assets and ranked 221st in the Fortune Global 500 list. It is only Indian Bank on the list. The bank was founded on 1st July 1955.

Yes Bank buys 9.9% stake in JC Flowers ARC, to acquire additional stake

- Yes Bank has signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), acquiring a 9.9 percent stake in the ARC at Rs 11.43 per share on 28th November 2022. A subsequent acquisition of the additional shareholding of 10 percent is subject to requisite regulatory approvals.
- Yes Bank's board has approved the sale of stressed loans worth Rs 48,000 crore to JC Flowers. The bank intends to participate as a minority shareholder in the ARC. It is said that this will be ancillary to the main line of business of the bank. As of 31st March 2022, JC Flowers ARC had Rs 595 crore in assets under management with an annual turnover of Rs 19.9 crore.
- For the three-month ended 30 September 2022, the net profit of Yes Bank dropped by 32.2 percent year-on-year to Rs 152.8 crore. Total income during Q2 FY23, was higher at Rs 6,394.11 crore as against Rs 5,430.30 crore in the same period a year ago. Gross non-performing assets came down to 12.89 percent of gross advances as against 14.97 percent in the year-ago period.