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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Centre bans PFI, affiliates for 5 years, says major threat to internal security

- The Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates were banned by the Centre for a period of five years, days after law enforcement agents tried in a campaign to suppress the activities of the group. The Ministry of Home Affairs used the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to enact the ban, claiming that the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates pose a “major threat to internal security of the country” and are connected to terrorist organisations like the ISIS.
- Centre also mentioned, they also promote “anti-national sentiments... radicalise a particular section of society with the intention of creating disaffection.”
- After the ban, the Popular Front of India (PFI) made an announcement that it was breaking apart.
- According to the law, if the Central Government is satisfied following an investigation that “any person has custody of any moneys, securities, or credits which are being used or are intended to be used for the purpose of the unlawful association, the Central Government may, by order in writing, prohibit such person from paying, delivering, transferring, or otherwise dealing in any manner.”
- The Popular Front of India (PFI), is an Indian Muslim political organisation. It is an extreme and exclusivist brand of Muslim minority politics is practised.
- Popular Front of India (PFI) was established in 2006 as a result of the union of the National Development Front (NDF) and the Karnataka Forum for Dignity (KFD).
- It promotes accommodations for Muslims. The group staged demonstrations in 2012 in opposition to the purported detention of innocent people under the UAPA statute.

About Popular Front of India (PFI):

Founded: 22 November 2006

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: OMA Abdul Salam

General Secretary: Anis Ahmed

Adani Green commissions world's largest wind-solar plant

- Renewable energy major, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) commissioned the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power plant with a 600 MW capacity in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The hybrid plant comprises a 600 MW solar and 150 MW wind plant. The plant has a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) at Rs 2.69/ unit.
- This 600 MW Hybrid plant is housed in two AGEL subsidiaries namely Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer Two Ltd (AHEJ2L) and Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer Three Ltd (AHEJ3L).
- The co-located hybrid power plant will not only reduce intermittency of RE power but shall also help the Nation in optimal utilisation of the transmission network. Earlier this year in May, AGEL had operationalised India's first hybrid power plant with a capacity of 390 MW at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.
- “With the successful commissioning of this 600 MW plant, AGEL now has a total operational generation capacity of 6.7 GW, including operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1 GW, the largest in the world,” the company said in its stock exchange filing on Thursday. This puts AGEL's total renewable portfolio at 20.4 GW.

About Adani Group:

Founded: 1988

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

Founder: Gautam Adani

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Sweden's Saab To Set Up Facility In India To Make M4 Rocket Launcher For Indian Army And Export

- Swedish defence firm Saab announced its plan to set up a manufacturing facility in India for the Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired weapon system under the NDA government's 'Make in India' initiative to bolster indigenous defence manufacturing, a company official said. Production at the new facility is expected to begin in 2024, even though the firm is yet to reveal the location.
- A new company, Saab FFV India, will make the latest rocket launchers in India for the Indian armed forces, along with components for users of the weapon system around the world, the company said. The facility will be the firm's first manufacturing facility for the Carl-Gustaf M4 weapon system outside Sweden. Saab is currently in talks with the army to take the proposal forward. The Carl-Gustaf weapon system has been in service with the Indian Army since 1976, and its earlier M2 and M3 variants have been licence-produced in India.
- The company is looking at the 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) route to set up the new venture, but will pursue the 74% FDI option with an Indian partner if the former doesn't work out.

About Sweden:

Capital: Stockholm

Currency: Swedish krona

Prime Minister: Magdalena Andersson

About Indian Army:

Founded: 1 April 1895, India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Notable commanders: Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa, OBE; Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, MC; General K. S. Thimayya, DSO

Gurugram To Get "World's Largest Safari", Park To Cover Over 10,000 Acres

- World's largest jungle safari park to be developed in Haryana. The World's largest jungle safari park is spread across an area of 10000 acres in the Aravalli Mountain Range of Gurugram and Nuh District. This project will be the largest such project in the world. The proposed area to build the World's largest jungle safari park is Aravalli hills.
- The park will also include a large herbarium, an aviary, four zones for big cats, a large area for herbivores, an area for exotic animal/birds, an underwater world, natural trails, visitors, tourism zones, botanical garden, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc.
- For the making of the World's largest jungle safari park an Aravalli Foundation will be set up which will manage the project. The design and operation will be managed by an international EOI, and two more companies with international experience.

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

Telangana govt enhances ST reservation from 6% to 10% with immediate effect

- The Telangana government issued an order to increase the reservation for the Scheduled Tribe communities from 6 percent to 10 percent. The order issued by the Tribal Welfare Department informed that the enhanced reservations would apply in the educational institutions and to services under the state government with immediate effect.
- In 2017, the Telangana Assembly passed a bill enhancing the reservation of the ST population to 10 percent.
- The latest order has increased the reservation for various sections in the state up to 54 percent.
- Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has announced the increase of the ST Quota to 10 percent.
- The reservation report, highlights the fact that the ST population has risen more compared to others since 1986 when 6 percent reservation was announced.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

CBI launches 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda'. Operation Garuda will help to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle networks with international linkages through the rapid exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking and coordinated law enforcement action across international jurisdictions through Interpol.
- Operation Garuda is a Global Operation that was initiated in close coordination with Interpol and Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Operation Garuda was initiated to combat the smuggling of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, with a special focus on the Indian Ocean Region.
- In this operation apart from CBI and NCB, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Manipur also participated in Operation Garuda.
- During this special operation, 6600 suspects were checked, 127 new cases were registered, and 175 persons including six absconder's offenders were arrested.

About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1 April 1963

Founder: Government of India

Centre Extends AFSPA In Districts Of Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland For Six Months

- AFSPA in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, has been applied to 12 districts in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for an additional six months, according to the federal government. In order to aid the military forces in carrying out the anti-insurgency operations, it has also been expanded in some areas of five more districts of the two northeastern states.
- The AFSPA will be extended for six months starting in nine districts of Nagaland: Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, and Zunheboto.
- The AFSPA will be also extended for six months starting in 16 police station areas in four additional districts: Kohima, Mokokchung, Longleng, and Wokha. This was announced in a notification by the Home Ministry.

About Nagaland:

Founded: 30 November 1963

Capital: Kohima (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio

Governor: Prof Jagdish Mukhi

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Capital: Itanagar (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

Governor: B. D. Mishra.

25 Per Cent Extra Seats To Be Created For Foreign Students In Universities, HEIs: UGC's New Guidelines

- UGC Guidelines for International Students: The University Grants Commission (UGC guidelines) said that higher education institutions (HEIs) nationwide would now be able to add up to 25% extra seats for international students and must have a transparent admissions procedure for them. Last month, the draught of "Guidelines for Admission and Supernumerary Seats of International Students in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes in Higher Educational Institutions in India" was made available to the public for comment.

- Over and beyond their overall sanctioned enrolment for undergraduate and graduate programmes, HEIs may generate up to 25 percent of supernumerary seats for overseas students.
- The choice on additional seats must be made by the relevant higher education institutions in accordance with the detailed directives and laws issued by the regulatory agencies, taking into account the infrastructure, faculty, and other criteria.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

Founded: 1956

Sector: Higher education

First executive: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: D. P. Singh (Chairperson)

Telangana govt introduces 'Aasara' pension as social safety net to poor

- The Telangana government has introduced 'Aasara' pensions as a part of the state's welfare measures and social safety net strategy. The 'Aasara' pensions aim to secure life for all the poor. It is a welfare scheme for the older section of the state, widows, physically disabled, and beedi workers to avail pension facilities. Under the Asif Nagar Mandal jurisdiction 10,000 new Aasara pensions have been sanctioned.
- The Aasara pension scheme was launched on 8th November 2014 by the Government of Telangana.
- The scheme provides pensions to old people, windows, patients suffering from elephantiasis or AIDS, physically disabled persons, beedi workers, and single women.
- On 7th March 2022, the Finance Minister of Telangana allocated Rs. 11,728 crores to the Aasara Pension scheme.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

Kiren Rijiju, Anurag Singh Thakur launch Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 on Gandhi Jayanti at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi

- In honour of Gandhi Jayanti, Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 was officially introduced at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The third edition of Fit India Plog Run, one of the largest national activities initiated by the Government of India at the height of the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020, was jointly introduced by Union Ministers of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.
- October 2, marked the beginning of the third iteration of the Fit India Freedom Run, which will last until October 31.
- Along with a sizable number of participants, the event also included the former health minister of India, Shri Harshvardhan Goel, the secretary of sports, Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi, the director general of the Sports Authority of India, Shri Sandip Pradhan, and the ambassador for Fit India, Ripu Daman Bevi.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

L. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Education Ministry launches PM Modi's young authors mentoring scheme YUVA 2.0

- The Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors, known as YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), was launched by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education on October 2. In order to promote India and Indian literature abroad, it is an author mentoring programme for young and aspiring writers (under 30 years old).

- YUVA 2.0 aims to artistically and ingeniously emphasise the viewpoints of the younger generation of authors on the issue of “Democracy (institutions, events, people, constitutional ideals – past, present, future)” as part of the India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- In light of the last edition’s enormous effect, which includes broad participation from young and aspiring authors in 22 more Indian languages in addition to English, YUVA 2.0 is now being produced.

Ahead of festive season, KVIC to organize a mela of traditional handloom and handicraft products at Delhi’s Dilli Haat from 1-15 Oct

- Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME, is organizing a Scheme of Fund for the Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) Mela at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The SFURTI Mela will be organized from 1st October 2022 to 15th October 2022.
- The national-level exhibition of Traditional products from SFURTI clusters is being organized for the first time to promote Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. SFURTI is initiated by MSME Ministry to promote cluster development.
- Under the SFURTI Mela, traditional artisans are organized into clusters for manufacturing value-added traditional products to enhance their income.
- The clusters will cover traditional sectors including handloom, handicrafts, khadi, coir, agro-products, etc.
- Till now, SFURTI has supported 498 clusters across the country directly benefiting around three lakh artisans.

HM Amit Shah announces Scheduled Tribe status for Pahari community in J&K

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announces that Pahari Community in Jammu and Kashmir will get a Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and political reservations before Assembly elections. The abolition of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 paved the way for providing reservations to deprived sections of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The ST quota in J&K carries 7% spots in government jobs and educational institutions. The Gujjars and Bakerwals community were getting ST benefits since 1991.
- The Paharis were given a 4 percent quota in the OBC category from January 2020. The Centre formed the Justice Sharma Commission in March 2020, however it seemed to upset the Gujjars and Bakerwals.

First green tech based incubation centre of India to come up at NIT Srinagar

- At the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, a technology company incubator centred on green technology (Green Technology incubation facility) called the “Greenovator Incubation Foundation” will soon open. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is supporting a three-year initiative known as Inclusive TBI (i-TBI) for educational institutions, idea generators, innovators, and entrepreneurs to support innovative ideas, startup initiatives, and promote self-employment and job creation through incubation.
- All of the money required to establish the Green Technology incubation facility centre will be provided by the Department of Science and Technology. Startups will have access to the co-working space, which includes conference spaces, a prototype lab, and other amenities.
- In addition to office space, financial support in the form of seed money would be provided on an individual basis with equity in accordance with DST criteria.
- Saad Parvez, the center’s CEO, described the forthcoming centre as the first of its type in the area and claimed that it would foster ideas that would lead to entrepreneurship and self-employment.

ECLGS: Finance Ministry increases loan limit to Rs 1,500 cr for aviation sector

- The Union Finance Minister allowed airlines to avail of up to Rs 1,500 crore loan under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). The ECLGS will help them to recover their cash flow problems. Earlier, an airline could only avail of a loan of not more than Rs 400 crore under the ECLGS. In 2020, the Centre started to provide collateral-free and government-guaranteed loans to businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Finance Minister’s decision will likely benefit the financially affected airlines. It is a positive approach for the airlines to secure their working capital and funds for operation.
- The Department of Financial Services has informed that it has enhanced the maximum loan amount eligibility for airlines under the ECLGS to 100 percent of their total credit outstanding. The modification in the policy aims to give necessary collateral-free liquidity at reasonable interest rates

Centre sets up 9-member taskforce for monitoring cheetahs in Kuno National Park

- The Center has established a Task Force to oversee the introduction of cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park and other suitably specified places. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would support the Cheetah Task Force's operations and provide all essential assistance. Principal Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh's Forests and Tourism, as well as Dr. Amit Mallick, Inspector General of the NTCA in New Delhi, will be among the task force's nine members.
- The Task Force will be active for two years, according to a statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.
- Additionally, the Task Force for Cheetah Introduction Project Monitoring will keep an eye on the cheetahs' adaption to the Kuno National Park ecosystem and their hunting prowess.
- Additionally, it will advocate for the construction of tourism-related infrastructure in the surroundings of Kuno National Park and adjacent Protected Areas.

Justice Dinesh Sharma to head UAPA tribunal related to the ban on PFI

- The government of India has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma of the Delhi High Court as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates. Once an organisation is banned under the provisions of UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there are sufficient grounds for the decision.
- The office memorandum, issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry on October 3, mentioned that Justice Sharma's time as head of the UAPA tribunal will count as "actual service". Chief Justice S.C. Sharma of the Delhi High Court appointed Justice Sharma to head the tribunal that will examine the ban.

To boost traditional sports, CM Baghel inaugurated 'Chhattisgarhiya Olympics'

- Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the state's own Olympics. The aim is to provide a centerstage to the village level sports so that a feeling of pride for the culture is inculcated. Secondly, to channelise the energy of the local youths which is very important for our society, Baghel inaugurated the grand multi-sport event at Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur, claiming to revive the age-old-tradition of traditional games namely 'langdi', 'bhaura', 'bati' (kancha), and 'pitthul'. The event will continue till January 6, 2023 and as many as 14 types of traditional sports have been included in the team and individual categories of separate age groups.
- The traditional sports competition of Chhattisgarh will be held in group and singles categories. A total 14 types of traditional sports have been included in the Chhattisgarh Olympics 2022-23.

About Chhattisgarh:

Capital: Raipur

Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

PM Modi declares Gujarat's Modhera as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared Modhera village in poll-bound Gujarat as the country's first 24x7 solar-powered village. Modhera, which is famous for a centuries-old Sun temple built during the Chalukya, will also be known as a "solar-powered village", Modi said.
- Addressing a rally, Modi said, "We shall no longer pay for electricity, but will instead sell it and earn from it. Earlier, the government supplied power to residents; now, with the installation of solar panels, citizens will now produce their own electricity."
- The Modhera village is located 25 km from the Mehsana district of Gujarat, and about 100 km from the state capital of Gandhinagar. The village has a ground-mounted solar power plant, and over 1,300 rooftop solar systems with 1kW capacity have been installed on houses to generate electricity.

First seminar of Agni Tattva campaign under LiFE mission held in Leh

- Power Foundation of India in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) is currently running a campaign to create awareness on Agni Tattva under LiFE - Lifestyle for environment. This campaign includes conferences, seminars, events, and exhibitions across the country involving educational institutions, communities, and

relevant organisations to create awareness of the core concept of Agni Tattva, an element that is synonymous with energy and is amongst the five elements of Panchmahabhoot.

- The first conference of the Agni campaign was organised in Leh yesterday, on the theme of 'Sustainability and Culture'. It witnessed participation from key stakeholders working in the areas of energy, culture, and sustainability, from diverse fields such as administration, policymakers, academics, and start-ups.
- The conference was inaugurated by Shri R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Ladakh always had a sustainable lifestyle, however, increased modernisation is leading to an imbalance in the ecosystem of the region, and this not only adversely impacts the region but could also alter the monsoon cycle of the entire country since it is inter-linked with the Himalayan ecosystem. He further added that the UT administration of Ladakh has laid out a clear roadmap to reverse this imbalance and move toward sustainable development. He emphasised several key areas.

Pakistan to join closing ceremony of SCO anti-terror exercise hosted by India

- Pakistan has confirmed that it will attend the Shanghai cooperation organisation's anti-terror exercises in India. Pakistan, which is a part of SCO will take part in counter-terror drills in Haryana's Manesar in October. These exercises will be conducted under the ambit of the SCO regional anti-terrorism structure (RATS).
- A three-member Pakistani delegation will take part in the meeting in Delhi. While the SCO as a grouping came into existence in 2001, India and Pakistan became members of it in 2017.
- India will be hosting the SCO RATS council meeting on October 14th this year in Delhi. New Delhi has also proposed holding a SCO joint anti-terrorist exercise (JATE) in Manesar this year.
- 37th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS) took place in Tashkent under the chairmanship of India.

India's space economy expected to be worth USD 12.8 billion by 2025

- India's space economy is likely to be worth nearly \$13 billion by 2025, with the satellite launch services segment set to witness the fastest growth due to increasing private participation, according to a report released.
- India's space economy was pegged at \$9.6 billion in 2020 and is expected to touch \$12.8 billion by 2025, according to the report titled 'Developing the Space Ecosystem in India: Focusing on Inclusive Growth'. In dollar terms, the satellite services and applications segment would be the largest with a turnover of \$4.6 billion by 2025, followed by ground segment at \$4 billion. The satellite manufacturing stands at \$3.2 billion and launch services at \$1 billion.
- The growing demand for smaller satellites is set to boost satellite manufacturing in the country. It will attract global start-ups in the sector to help incubate space tech companies here, said the report released by the Indian Space Association (ISPA) and Ernst and Young.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates Water Sports Center in Himachal Pradesh

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated a Water Sports Center in the Koldam Barmana, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. The Water Sports Centre, the very first of its kind in Himachal Pradesh, has been jointly initiated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between SAI and NTPC during the event. The centre will be dedicated to training athletes in water sports like Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking.
- Anurag Thakur said that this water sports centre at NTPC Koldam would be a big sports facility for the children of Himachal Pradesh in future. He said that this water sports center has a straight range of 3 km, which is found in some places. Many of our water sports athletes will come here to learn. Good coaches have also been arranged. There are very good facilities here.

About Himachal Pradesh:

Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Ethanol subsidy scheme extended till March 2023

- The Centre has extended the timeline for disbursement of loans up to March 31 under the ethanol blending programme interest subsidy scheme, notified first in 2018, to facilitate entrepreneurs to complete their projects while availing of government support.
- The Food Ministry issued a notification on October 6 stating the applicants who have submitted their applications to DFPD after the date of notification of the scheme but within the cut-off date prescribed in the notification. Loans were disbursed to them prior to the in-principle approval of DFPD, will also be eligible for interest subvention under the scheme. The applicants have been asked to complete their projects within two and half years after receiving their first instalment, said the notification.
- Immense benefits can accrue to the country by 20% ethanol blending by 2025, such as saving Rs 30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year, energy security, lower carbon emissions, better air quality, self-reliance, use of damaged foodgrains, increasing farmers' incomes, employment generation, and greater investment opportunities.

5th edition of Megha Kayak festival begins in Ri Bhoi

- Meghalaya is all set to host the four-day long mega global adventure sports spectacle, 'Megha Kayak Festival, 2022' starting October 13 at the picturesque Umtrew River at Umtham Village. The 2022 edition of the festival will witness over 100 participants from close to 20 countries across the globe, featuring some of the best-known athletes. The festival will include white water kayaking events in three competition categories – Downriver Time Trial, Extreme Slalom and Downriver Freestyle for professionals as well as intermediate and amateur racers.
- 'Megha Kayak Festival' is receiving an overwhelming response with participation assured from leading adventure water sports nations like New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Canada to name a few.

About Meghalaya:

Capital: Shillong;

Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma;

Governor: D. Mishra (additional charge).

PM Modi flags off 4th Vande Bharat Express train in Himachal's Una

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the fourth Vande Bharat Express Train of India. He also launched a slew of development projects in Himachal Pradesh. PM Modi flagged off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express Train from Amb Andaura to New Delhi. He also laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park.
- In Chamba district, he laid the foundation stone of two hydropower projects and launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in Himachal Pradesh.
- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur highlighted the ninth visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Himachal Pradesh in five years.
- The Vande Bharat Express Train launched in Himachal Pradesh is much lighter and capable of reaching higher speeds in a shorter duration.

Rajnath Singh launches website for citizens to contribute to Armed Forces fund

- Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh will be launching the 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' (MBKS) website for the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF) during a function at the National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi. The AFBCWF is a Tri-service fund utilised to grant immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia to the next of kin and dependents of Battle Casualties. Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan to be the 'Goodwill Ambassador'.
- The Chief of Defence Staff, all three Service Chiefs, Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees and other prominent officials of the MoD, corporate heads, chairman & managing directors of banks, personnel from the sports field and celebrities are expected to attend the function. On occasion, the ten of thousands of fallen heroes and soldiers disabled in active military operations will also be felicitated. Parents and relatives of many war-decorated soldiers have also been invited.

Eastern Naval Command conducts offshore security exercise 'Prasthan'

- 'Prasthan' an Offshore Security Exercise was conducted by the Eastern Naval Command in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Kakinada. 'Prasthan' is a half-yearly exercise that was conducted in the KG basin to validate SOPs, address various contingencies and strengthen the command and control organization toward Maritime security.
- It aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defense.
- The exercise aims to refine the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response actions to several contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area.
- The Prasthan exercise is conducted every six months and it is an important element of ensuring offshore security as per the Defence Ministry.
- The exercise was conducted onboard Drill rigs Platinum Explorer and DDKG of ONGC and RIL located about 40 nm south of Kakinada.

Kurdish politician Abdul Latif Rashid elected as new president of Iraq

- The Iraqi Parliament chose Kurdish politician, Abdul Latif Rashid to lead the country. Rashid won more than 160 votes against 99 for the incumbent Saleh. Rashid, 78, is a British-educated engineer and was the Iraqi minister of water resources from 2003-2010. Outgoing President Saleh reportedly walked out of the parliament building as the votes were tallied.
- Rashid was born in 1944 in the northeastern Sulaymaniyah region of Iraq. He graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Liverpool in 1968. He went on to complete his engineering doctorate in 1976 from the University of Manchester.
- Rashid has a long history in Iraqi politics. He served as the minister of water resources from 2003 to 2010 and then as the senior adviser to the President. He can speak speaks Kurdish, Arabic and English.
- Rashid is a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party. He was also the former spokesperson for the PUK in Britain.

About Iraq:

Capital: Baghdad

Currency: Dinar

President: Abdul Latif Rashid

Prime Minister: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's First Aluminum Freight Rake

- Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's First Aluminum Freight Rake - 61 BOBRNALHSM₁ at Bhubaneswar Railway Station today. The rake's destination is Bilaspur.
- This is a dedicated effort for Make in India program as it has been fully designed and developed indigenously in collaboration with RDSO, HINDALCO and Besco Wagon.
- The tare is 3.25 tons lower than normal steel rakes, 180 ton extra carrying capacity resulting in higher throughput per wagon.
- The reduced tare will reduce carbon footprint as lower consumption of fuel in empty direction and more transport of freight in loaded condition. A single rake can save over 14,500 tonnes of CO₂ over its lifetime.
- Iron industry consumes a lot of Nickel and Cadmium which comes from import. So, proliferation of Aluminum wagons will result in less import. At the same time, this is good for local aluminum industry.

India to host 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL from 18th to 21st Oct

- India is hosting the 90th General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL from 18th to 21st of October in New Delhi.
- The General Assembly is INTERPOL's supreme governing body, comprising representatives from each of 195 member countries. It meets once a year.
- India is one of the oldest members of Interpol and joined the organization in 1949. All member countries of INTERPOL have agreed to ensure and promote the widest possible assistance between all criminal police authorities in the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.
- The role of INTERPOL is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place.

Gwalior: Shah inaugurates 'Gatha Swaraj Ki' gallery in Scindia Museum

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a gallery-cum-exhibition depicting the history of prominent Maratha commanders at the sprawling Jai Vilas Mahal of Scindias, the erstwhile rulers of Gwalior. Shah was in Gwalior to lay the foundation for the terminal building and expansion of the Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport.
- Shah visited the museum in the palace and inaugurated the 'Gatha Swaraj ki-Maratha Gallery' depicting the history of the main Maratha rulers including the Scindias, Gaikwads, Holkars, Nealkars, Bhosales and the Pawar.
- As per the booklet about the gallery, the word "Swaraj" was first used by Sakharam Ganesh Deoskar in a Bangla book- "Shivajir Mahatva" on the life of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1902. The word "Swaraj" was used by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Veer Savarkar, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh and Indian National Congress among others. Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the royal descendant, his wife Priyadarshini Raje and their son Mahanaryaman welcomed Shah in the palace.

India stands third in the world in terms of fish production: MoS Dr. L Murugan

- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugan has recently said that India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. India is the 3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture nation in the world after China.
- He said, India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. Making specific reference to Karnataka, the Union Minister said that 734.77 crore rupees was allocated to the state under the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) from 2020-21 till date for the development of infrastructure facilities.
- The vision is to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector.
- The main motto of PMMSY is 'Reform, Perform and Transform' in the fisheries sector.
- Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is the implementing agency.

Centre approves India's 1st cable-cum-suspension bridge across Krishna river

- The central government has approved the construction of an iconic cable stayed-cum-suspension bridge across the Krishna river connecting Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and passing through the Nallamala forest range. The decision was announced by the union minister for road transport and national highways Nitin Gadkari. Gadkari said the iconic bridge will have several unique features like the longest glass pedestrian walkway across a river, gopuram-like pylons, signature lighting and a large navigational span.
- The two-storeyed cable bridge with a four-lane carriageway across the Krishna river was approved last week by the standing committee on finance for the union ministry of road transport and national highways.
- The bridge begins at Somasila at Kollapur in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district and Atmakur in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.
- At present, the people from Telangana are forced to travel for a long distance via Kurnool to reach pilgrim centres like Mahanandi, Ahobilam, Tirupati.

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World Cup hosts Qatar set to host 2023 AFC Asian Cup

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Executive Committee has confirmed the Qatar Football Association (QFA) as the host association for the AFC Asian Cup 2023. The 11th AFC Executive Committee meeting was chaired by AFC President Shaikh Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.
- He congratulated the QFA on their successful bid and also conveyed the appreciation of the Asian Football Family to the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) and the Korea Football Association (KFA) for their proposals.
- Qatar is the reigning AFC Asian Cup Champions and will be hosting the most prestigious men's tournament for the third time.
- The AFC Executive Committee also deliberated upon the bidding proposals for the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

India Gate, the flagship brand of KRBL, has been recognized as the world's Number one

- India Gate, the flagship brand of KRBL, has been recognized as the world's No. 1 Basmati Rice Brand in a market study conducted by a leading global research company. The quantitative study by Mordor Intelligence covers research of White and Brown Basmati Rice Category across continents like the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Middle East & Africa. The research has been done using methodologies like Primary & Secondary Research, Data Triangulation, and Insight Generation.
- Mordor Intelligence, a leading global research company founded in 2014 has been conducting studies providing insights to 4000+ enterprises across 100+ countries across multiple industries.
- Since its introduction in 1998, India Gate Basmati Rice has been working continuously to deliver its purpose of enriching lives through Basmati Rice, a nutritional wonder of nature.
- Over the years, India Gate has developed a successful global consumer franchise, as evidenced by the fact that it is exported to over 90 countries and sells 8+ cr. packs annually.
- The grains of India Gate Basmati Rice is aged to perfection, which makes them longer, fluffier, non-sticky, and full of beautiful aroma, setting them apart from the others.

PM inaugurates PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

- The PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. More than 13,500 farmers from all around the country and about 1,500 agri entrepreneurs are expected to attend the two-day event.
- The Prime Minister will officially open 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK) under the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers.
- PMKSK will provide agri-inputs like fertilisers, seeds, and implements; testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers; awareness-raising activities for farmers; details on various government programmes; and regular capacity building for retailers at block/district level outlets.
- During the occasion, the PM will also introduce the One Nation One Fertilizer initiative, Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of new strategic air base in Gujarat's Deesa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Indian Air Force (IAF)'s new airbase at Deesa in Banaskantha district of Gujarat and described it as an effective center of India's security. He said the Deesa air base, mere 130 kilometers from the Indo-Pak border, will be able to give a better response to any threat coming from the western side.
- Although the land for Deesa airbase was allotted an in-principle approval given to Indian Air Force (IAF) by the Vajpayee government way back in 2000, the project was put on a back burner by the UPA government for the next 14 years. Although the project was revived when Narendra Modi took over as PM, it was the 2017 massive floods in Banaskantha that really kick-started the project.
- It was then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who got the airbase approved by the government along with the ₹1,000 crore funding.
- While PM Modi said the Deesa airbase will provide faster offensive capability to the IAF in this sector, the new airfield will also plug a crucial tactical gap between forward air bases at Naliya, Bhuj in Gujarat, and Phalodi in Rajasthan.
- The Deesa air base will be the fire wall between enemy aircraft taking off from Mirpur Khas, Hyderabad, Shahbaz F-16 airbase in Jacobabad in Pakistan with Gujarat's more than a trillion dollar industrial complex in and around Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Vadodara as target to economically hit India in the worst-case scenario. Deesa will also make Pakistani cities of Hyderabad, Karachi, and Sukkur vulnerable with its deep penetration strike aircraft.

India, France re-elected as President, Co-President of International Solar Alliance

- In the third assembly of ISA, Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh has been re-elected as the President of International Solar Alliance. France Minister of State for Development Chrysoula Zacharopoulou has been re-elected as Co-President.
- The Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance has been attended by 34 ISA Members ministers. 53 Member countries and 5 Signatory and Prospective Member countries participated to the Assembly.
- India and France were re-elected as the President and Co- President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly held on 14 October. Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. The representatives of Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region; UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region, and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.

PM Modi launches Mission LiFE movement at Kevadiya in Gujarat

- Mission LIFE movement is launched by PM Modi in order to protect the environment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning. After the global launch of Mission LiFE at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in the presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the PM addressed the crowd and asserted that lifestyle changes can help to mitigate climate change.
- The PM noted, reiterating India's commitment to combating the threat of climate change, that a circular economy and reduce, reuse, recycle principles have been ingrained in Indian culture for thousands of years.
- India is the best example of economic progress and environmental protection.
- The PM referred to Mahatma Gandhi's idea of trusteeship and said that the Mission LiFE invites us to be environmental trustees.
- PM Modi praised Gujarat's initiatives in the fields of environmental preservation and renewable energy.

Windergy 2023 to be Held in Chennai in Next Year

- The 5th edition of India's only comprehensive International Trade Fair and Conference, Windergy India 2023 will be held from 4th October to 6th October 2023. The Windergy India 2023 will be organized by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd, the three-day trade fairs and conference will provide a vibrant platform to meet and interact with policymakers, regulatory authority, international and domestic technology, solution and services providers from the wind power industries.
- Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) was established in 1998 and is the apex business association and voice of the Indian wind Industry. IWTMA has been at the forefront of the policy framework and regulatory intervention with proactive engagement with Central and State policymakers, Investors, and Stakeholders.

Indian, US militaries conduct "Tiger Triumph" humanitarian assistance exercise

- The Indian and US militaries carried out a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise in Vishakhapatnam in line with the growing strategic cooperation between the two countries. The Tiger Triumph exercise was the second collaboration between the Indian and US Militaries to coordinate disaster relief in the region.
- The first exercise took place over the course of nine days in November 2019 and featured more than 500 US Marines and sailors. The first exercise included 1200 Indian sailors, soldiers, and Airmen.
- This year, the military exercise involved fifty combined participants, and it focused on staff planning, with an emphasis on processes for streamlining diplomatic, operational, and logistical coordination.
- Tiger Triumph marked the third time in 2022 that Indian and US militaries have worked together in Vishakhapatnam.

‘Diye jalao, patake nahin’: Delhi govt kicks off campaign for green Diwali

- Delhi government has launched the ‘Diye Jalao, Patake Nahin’ (light up lamps, not firecrackers) campaign at Central Park in New Delhi. The Delhi government on Friday lit 51,000 diyas at Central Park in Connaught Place here to mark the launch of its campaign for a pollution-free Diwali. The campaign aims at promoting a quieter and pollution-free Diwali.
- Volunteers take part in the Delhi government’s campaign for a pollution-free Diwali. Diwali is one of the biggest festivals in India. People across the country mark the festival in special ways by making rangolis, organising Diwali parties and preparing delicious dishes and sweets. However, air and noise pollution have been a cause of concern on this auspicious occasion. Bursting crackers is a major cause for pollution.

India successfully testfires new-gen nuclear-capable 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile off Odisha Coast

- The Agni Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile was successfully tested by India on October 21 off the coast of Odisha. Around 9.45 this morning, a test launch of the ballistic missile took place. The missile successfully completed the test, covering its full range, and all of its test goals were achieved.
- The Agni Prime, also known as “Agni-P,” is a two-stage canisterized missile from the Agni class that is nuclear-capable and has a maximum range of 2,000 kilometres.
- The Agni Prime missile has updated guidance and propulsion technologies and weighs 50% less than the Agni 3 missile.
- This test has demonstrated the system’s accuracy and dependability.
- Agni Prime underwent its first test on June 28, 2021, and it underwent its second test on December 18, 2021.

PM Modi launches recruitment drive ‘Rozgar Mela’ for 10 lakh personnel

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a mega recruitment drive, Rozgar Mela, for ten lakh personnel today. On this occasion, appointment letters for various posts of Central Government were handed over to 75 thousand of newly inducted appointees in the first tranche.
- While addressing the new appointees through video conferencing, the Prime Minister said, this is another step to provide employment opportunities to youth. He said, several steps have been taken by the government to provide employment and self employment opportunities in the last eight years. He said, India is marching towards becoming self-reliant in every sector and the target of becoming a developed nation can be achieved with the contribution of everyone. He said, India is the fifth biggest economy now and this feat has been achieved due to the reforms undertaken in the last eight years. He said, the government has set a target to spend 100 lakh crore rupees on infrastructure development in the country. He said, works for creating robust infrastructure in the country are creating several employment opportunities for the people.

14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme Held In New Delhi

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs today organised 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of Tribal Youth in New Delhi.
- The aim of the programme is to sensitize tribal youth to rich cultural heritage of the country and to enable them to appreciate the concept of unity in diversity.

- Its objective is also to expose them to development activities and industrial advancement and help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self-esteem.
- 220 selected youth in the age group of 18 to 22 years are participating in the programme from Left Wing Extremism-affected districts of Sukma and Rajnandgaon of Chhattisgarh, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and Jamui of Bihar.
- The duration of each Tribal Youth exchange Programme is of 7 days.

Punjab govt. announces restoration of old pension scheme

- The Punjab Government decided to restore the old pension scheme for its employees. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that the government has decided to implement the old pension scheme as a Diwali gift for its employees. The decision was taken as an in-principle decision to the effect of the cabinet meeting. The decision aims to benefit lakhs of employees.
- Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that the employees will be given the option to join the old pension scheme.
- The government was considering restoring the scheme for government employees for a month.
- Restoration of the old pension scheme was discontinued in 2004 and it has been one of the major demands of state government employees.

Uttar Pradesh: Ayodhya all set to celebrate Diwali with spectacular arrangements, PM Narendra Modi to be the chief guest

- Lord Rama, an avatar of the almighty Vishnu, is a popular Hindu deity. Lord Rama was born at Ayodhya, according to the ancient Indian epic, the Ramayana. Ayodhya Ram Mandir Diwali 2022 is very special as it is going to be celebrated as Ayodhya Deepotsav. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took part in the Ayodhya Deepotsav.
- The Babri Masjid, a mosque built by the Mughals in the sixteenth century, is thought to be located near the Ram Janmabhoomi, the reputed birthplace of Rama. In the 1850s, a fierce disagreement developed.
- The remains of a Hindu temple were discovered during archaeological excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) between 1978 and 2003.

Country's first Migrant Monitoring System launched for information on migrant women –

- India's first 'Migration Monitoring Systems' was inaugurated by the Maharashtra Women and Children Development Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha in Mumbai. The website-based Migration Tracking System will track the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant beneficiaries. The Migration Monitoring Systems aims to provide information about migrant pregnant women, lactating women, and children.
- The system provides updated information about migrant pregnant women, lactating women, and children in a single system.
- Maharashtra Women and Children Development Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha launched the 'Migration Monitoring Systems'.
- The state department has created website-based Migration Tracking System (MTS) to track the movements of vulnerable seasonal migrant beneficiaries through individual unique identification numbers.
- The information about seasonal migrant women and children will be available on a single platform with the 'Migration Monitoring Systems'.

In Kerala, 'honesty shops' on school campuses help inculcate virtues among children

- Honesty Shops have been opened in 15 schools in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. The Honesty Shops are a part of the Student Police Cadet (SPC) project which aims to provide valuable lessons on truth, and integrity for students. In these honesty shops there is no salesman at the counters and students can drop the money for each item in the collection box kept in the shop.
- The honesty shops have been launched under the Student Police Cadet (SPC). The SPC project was conceived to inculcate better civic sense among students and mold them as responsible youth.
- The objective of the Honesty shops is to provide students a chance to experience the virtue of honesty. The schools have switched off the CCTV facilities towards the shop to instill confidence among the students.

Hon'ble Prime Minister launches the first phase of "Rozgar Mela"

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 22 launched the Rozgar Mela recruitment drive to hire 10 lakh personnel. In the first tranche, 75,000 new appointees will be given jobs. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 government ministries and departments. They will be appointed across various levels viz. Group A, Group B (Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C.
- The Prime Minister's Office said this will be a significant step of the government towards providing job opportunities for the youth and ensuring the welfare of the citizens. It said that as directed by the prime minister, all ministries and department are working towards filling up existing vacancies against sanctioned posts. The recruitment will take place across central armed forces personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, LDCs, Stenos, PAs, income tax inspectors, MTS among others.

Jal Jeevan Mission: UP ranks at the bottom, Gujarat achieve 100 percent household tap water supply

- Gujarat has been declared as a 100 percent 'Har Ghar Jal' state. In Gujarat, households in rural areas have access to safe drinking water through taps under the 'Har Ghar Jal' mission. About 91,73,378 houses in the state have water connections according to the government record. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the state and people of Gujarat who has shown their enthusiasm for the Jal Shakti mission.
- Gujarat has achieved this milestone on the occasion of the Gujarati New year. The 'Har Ghar Jal' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.
- The 'Har Ghar Jal' aims to make available 55 liters of water per person every day to each rural household through household tap connections by 2024.

Every state to have an National Investigation Agency office by 2024: Home minister Amit Shah

- Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Housing and Cooperation, spoke today at the start of a two-day "Chintan Shivir" in Surajkund, Haryana. The Chintan Shivir is being attended by Chief Ministers of the States, Home Ministers of States, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators of Union Territories. Utilizing all internal security resources to their fullest potential is necessary in order to combat the issues facing the country.
- In his speech, Shri Amit Shah stated that this Chintan Shivir, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is being held to give the nation a unified platform to fight threats like cybercrime, the proliferation of drugs, and cross-border terrorism jointly.
- Because crimes are evolving and growing more international in scope nowadays, all States will need to come up with a coordinated approach to combat them.

Odisha CM launches first common agricultural credit portal for farmers

- Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has launched a common credit portal SAFAL' (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) for the welfare of farmers. SAFAL is an abridged application for agricultural loans that will enable farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to access over 300 term loan products from more than 40 partner banks. It has also been integrated with Krushak Odisha and will have access to 70-plus model project reports. The application can revolutionise credit provisions for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.
- The application is a one-stop solution for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Small Finance Banks.
- The portal will ease the loan application process benefiting both the farmers and banks significantly, the chief minister said. It will also reduce information asymmetry by sending farmers real-time notifications at every stage of their loan application.

About Odisha

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena rolls out 1-time amnesty scheme for properties in city

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has launched a one-time property tax amnesty scheme “SAMRIDDHI 2022-23”, which will provide a major relief to lakhs of residential and commercial property owners in the city. SAMRIDDHI, an acronym for Strengthening and Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi, will start on October 26 and end on March 31, 2023, with no further extensions.
- The scheme aims at solving thousands of pending court cases since the unit area method for property tax calculation came into existence from 2004.
- The scheme will benefit both the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the city’s residents.
- Under this scheme, the residential properties will have to pay tax for 1+5 years (the ongoing financial year and last five years), while the commercial properties will be able to pay taxes for 1+6 years (current year + last 6 years).

New elephant reserve, India's 33rd, to come up in Uttar Pradesh

- The Centre has approved the setting up of the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh. The Terai Elephant Reserve is the 3rd Elephant Reserve in India which is spread over 3,049 sq km. The Terai Elephant Reserve includes protected areas, forest areas, and corridors for the conservation of wild elephants.
- The Terai Elephant Reserve will be developed in the joint forest areas of Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserve. This will cover the conservation of four wild species including tiger, Asian elephant, swamp deer, and one-horned rhinoceros.
- The Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that the move will help conserve transboundary migratory elephant populations.
- The reserve through implementing human-elephant conflict mitigation strategies will protect the villagers living in the Indo-Nepal border area of Uttar Pradesh.

NATIONAL NEWS

Poland chooses US to build its first nuclear power plant

- Poland has chosen the U.S. government and Westinghouse to build the central European country's first nuclear power plant, part of an effort to burn less coal and gain greater energy independence.
- Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said late Friday on Twitter that Poland would use the "reliable, safe technology" of the Westinghouse Electric Company for the plant in Pomerania province near the Baltic Sea coast. The exact location remains to be identified.
- Protests by residents and environmentalists, the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine and budget shortages led to the scrapping of the project.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine this year and its use of energy to put economic and political pressure on European nations have added urgency to Poland's search for alternative energy sources.

A check over of the U.S.'s much anticipated National Security Strategy

- The United States has launched its much anticipated National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to bring out their NSS, to communicate the executive's vision of national security to the legislative. As a comprehensive document, the NSS reflects certainty about how the government of the day views the national security agenda.
- The Biden administration's NSS primarily focuses on the current decade as a 'decisive' one in which the U.S. seeks to sustain U.S. leadership, improve the U.S. economy, build on a vast network of alliances and partnerships; counter China as its strategic competitor and Russia as a disruptor, and boost U.S. competitiveness and defend democracy. The document portrays the ambitious agenda of the Biden administration to cover a comprehensive set of transnational challenges tying the domestic with the international.

Lula defeats Bolsonaro to again become Brazil's president

- Brazil's electoral authority said that Luiz Incio Lula da Silva of the leftist Worker's Party defeated incumbent Jair Bolsonaro to become the country's next president. With 98.8 per cent of the votes tallied in the runoff vote, da Silva had 50.8 per cent and Bolsonaro 49.2 per cent, and the election authority said da Silva's victory was a mathematical certainty. Da Silva's inauguration is scheduled to take place on January 1, 2023.
- Da Silva the country's former president from 2003-2010 has promised to restore the country's more prosperous past, yet faces headwinds in a polarised society. His victory marks the first time since Brazil's 1985 return to democracy that the sitting president has failed to win reelection. His inauguration is scheduled to take place on January 1.

Sharjah International Book Fair opens under the theme 'Spread the Word'

- Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi has opened, the 41st edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), which is taking place from November 2 to 13 at the Expo Centre Sharjah, according to the Emirates News Agency (WAM). Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, was also present at the inauguration of the event, which is organized by the Sharjah Book Authority, under the theme 'Spread the Word.'
- This year's SIBF edition features 2,213 publishers from 95 countries, including 1,298 Arab and 915 foreign publishing houses. Around 150 prominent Arab and foreign writers, thinkers, innovators, and artists from 15 countries will participate in the fair's activities, across 1,500 events and various dialogue sessions, including 200 cultural events.
- The Sharjah Ruler took a souvenir photo with the scholars who contributed to the project of the 'Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language' from linguistic academies in the Arab world.
- He also honoured the cultural personality for this edition, the Sudanese historian, Professor Yusuf Fadl Hasan.

Switzerland creates world record for operating the longest passenger train!

- In a feat, Switzerland has created a world record by operating the longest passenger train on the planet! The world's longest electric passenger train is designed to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the country's first train system. The longest passenger train, it ran in the Swiss Alps with 100 coaches!
- The longest train ran through the UNESCO World Heritage Site for 24.9 km. As per International Rail Journal, the RhB took nearly eight months for the preparation of this gala spectacle. Weighing a colossal 2990 tons, the train managed to maintain an average speed of 30-35 km per hour.

Highlights of the world's longest train:

1. The Swiss transport company, Rhaetian Railway (RhB), operated the train on the Bernina/Albula trail from Preda to Bergen.
2. The length of the train is 1.9 km!
3. There are 100 contemporary and 25 four-car Capricorn EMUs.
4. During its journey, the train crossed 22 tunnels and 48 bridges.
5. Switzerland's Albula Line is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
6. The train weighed a massive 2990 tons.

Indonesia hands over G20 Religion Forum presidency to India in Bali

- Indonesia on Thursday handed over the Presidency of the R20 summit, the religious grouping of the Group of 20 Forum, to India which New Delhi will host in 2023.
- The handover ceremony was held for government and religious leaders from India which will host the G20 Religion Forum in 2023.
- R20 is part of a series of G20 events initiated under Indonesia's G20 Presidency.
- It is being held from November 2-3 this year in Bali, Indonesia to mobilize global leaders to help ensure that religion functions as an open and dynamic source of solutions, rather than problems, in the 21st century.
- India and Indonesia share two millennia of close cultural and commercial contact. The Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faith travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India. The stories from the great epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata form sources of Indonesian folk art and dramas.

Netanyahu and far-right tipped to win Israel election

- Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu sealed his return to power, as the final vote count from elections this week gave him and his far-right allies a clear majority in parliament. Results released by the electoral commission said that with 99 per cent of votes counted, Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party had earned 32 seats in Israel's 120-seat parliament, the Knesset.
- Combined with 18 for two ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and 14 for the rising extreme-right alliance called Religious Zionism gave the bloc supporting Netanyahu 64 seats.
- The parties backing centrist caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid won 51 seats, a definitive win for Netanyahu that spells an end to Israel's unprecedented era of political deadlock, which forced five elections in less than four years.
- While many candidates cited security as a concern, none pledged to revive moribund peace talks with the Palestinians. Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said the projected results highlighted "growing extremism and racism in Israeli society".

TRENDS: Russia becomes India's top oil supplier in October 2022

- Surpassing traditional suppliers Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Russia has emerged as the top oil supplier to India in October. This comes amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine that has also seen many Western nations issue sanctions against Russian Federation.
- The data shows that Russia, which made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India in the year to March 31, 2022, supplied 935,556 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in October — the highest ever. Russia now supplies almost 22% of India's total crude imports, ahead of Iraq's 20.5 per cent and Saudi Arabia's 16 per cent.
- India's appetite for Russian oil swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.
- India imported just 36,255 barrels per day of crude oil from Russia in December 2021 as compared to 1.05 million bpd from Iraq and 952,625 bpd from Saudi Arabia.

- In June, Iraq was India's top supplier with 1.04 million bpd of oil. Russia in that month became India's second biggest supplier.
- Imports dipped marginally in the following two months. They stood at 876,396 bpd in September before rising to 835,556 bpd in October.
- Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a new satellite-carrying rocket, seeking to demonstrate the hard-line force's prowess even as anti-government protests rage across the country.
- The Ghaem 100, Iran's first three-stage launch vehicle, will be able to place satellites weighing 80 kg (180 pounds) in an orbit 500 km (300 miles) from the earth's surface, IRNA said.
- Amirali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Guard's aerospace division, which developed the Ghaem-100, said the rocket would be used to launch Iran's Nahid satellite for the Telecommunications Ministry.
- Iran has one of the biggest missile programs in the Middle East. The country says its satellite program, like its nuclear activities, is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications. Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space. The program, however, has had several failed satellite launches in recent years, blamed on technical issues.
- Iran successfully launched its first military satellite in April 2020, drawing a sharp rebuke from Washington.

Netherlands emerged as the top buyer of Indian petro-products amid Russia-Ukraine War

- The Netherlands has emerged as the top destination for India's petroleum product exports such as petrol and diesel in the first half of the current fiscal year. This change comes in the wake of the Ukraine war, with India continuing to buy discounted crude oil from sanctions-hit Russia.
- This bump in exports has also resulted in the Netherlands becoming the third biggest market for India's overall exports, thereby replacing China. China is now displaced to the 4th position, accounting for just 3.3% of total outbound shipments.
- India is a key Asian refining hub, with an installed capacity of nearly 250 million tonnes per annum across 23 refineries. South Africa and Brazil also ramped up refined petroleum product purchases including those of ATF from India in H1, making it to the top 10 petroleum product export markets for Indian refiners.

US Treasury removes India from its Currency Monitoring List after two years

- The US Department of Treasury removed India along with Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from its Currency Monitoring List. China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan are the seven economies that are a part of the current monitoring list, the Department of Treasury said in its biannual report to the Congress.
- China's failure to publish foreign exchange intervention and broader lack of transparency around key features of its exchange rate mechanism makes it an outlier among major economies and warrants Treasury's close monitoring, said the report.
- The countries that have been removed from the list have met only one out of three criteria for two consecutive reports, it said.
- The move came on a day when Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen visited New Delhi and held talks with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. On her first visit to India, United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen quoted President Joe Biden, saying that India is an "indispensable partner to the United States".

India announces additional contribution of \$5 million to ASEAN-India science and technology fund

- India announced an additional contribution of USD 5 million to the ASEAN-India science and technology fund to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.
- The announcement came during the three-day visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia for ASEAN-India and East Asia summits. He addressed the ASEAN-India summit. Vice President Dhankhar highlighted the global concerns on food and energy security, and emphasised the role of the East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.
- ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration formally started in 1996 with the establishment of the ASEAN India S&T working group (AIWGST).
- Initially, the collaborative S&T projects and activities between India and ASEAN were supported through ASEAN India Fund (AIF) but in 2008, a dedicated ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) with an

equivalent amount of USD 1 million was established jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Science and Technology (DST) to support R&D (Research and Development) projects and associated project development activities.

- The AISTDF was enhanced to an equivalent amount of USD 5 million through an announcement by the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.

G7 'global shield': Bangladesh among first to receive climate funding

- Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh will be among the first recipients of funding from a G7 'Global Shield' initiative to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters, the programme announced at the COP27 summit in Egypt.
- The Global Shield(GS), coordinated by G7 president Germany, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought. It is being developed in collaboration with the 'V20' group of 58 climate vulnerable economies. Germany has contributed \$175.17 million in funding to Global Shield while other countries including Denmark and Ireland have contributed a little over \$41 million.
- The GS will close urgent protection gaps in countries by designing, funding, and facilitating interventions.

Natasa Pirc Musar: Slovenia elects lawyer as first female president

- Natasa Pirc Musar, won the second round of Slovenia's Presidential elections. Natasa Pirc Musar becomes the first female President of the country. She won 58.86 percent of votes in the runoff, while the opposition right-wing politician and the former Foreign Minister Andze Logar won 46.14 percent of votes.
- The new President of Slovenia, an EU, and NATO member state will replace the Borut Pahor. Borut Pahor has been active in politics for 30 years.
- Borut Pahor was formerly a fashion model who served two five-year terms and is often referred to in public as the Instagram President for his use of the social network.
- Natasa Pirc Musar is the new President, he formerly was a TV representative who became a lawyer and campaigned on human rights rules of law and social welfare issues.
- Natasa Pirc Musar is a Slovenian Attorney and book author, former Information Commissioner, Journalist, and the former President of Slovenia's Red Cross.

India-Russia-Iran plan trilateral meet on Afghanistan on sidelines of Moscow format meet

- **India participated in the fourth Meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan**, which was held in Moscow on November 16. Special envoys and senior officials from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also participated in the meeting.
- "During the meeting, the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan, including the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government, efforts to counter threats of terrorism and ensuring regional security," Ministry of External Affairs said.
- It was introduced in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism for consultations among special representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran and India.
- The Moscow format meeting's main objective is to facilitate the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan and secure peace in that country as soon as possible.

Indian delegation and Taliban officials had come face-to-face for the first time at the Moscow Format meeting in Russia in 2021. JP Singh, the joint secretary who heads the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran desk in the external affairs ministry, had led the Indian delegation at the Moscow Format.

Ukraine, Russia extend Black Sea grain deal for 120 days

- Russia and Ukraine have agreed to extend a UN-brokered grain export deal for another 120 days, officials announced. World leaders praised the breakthrough for helping "avoid global food shortages" at a crucial time.
- Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said that the Black Sea grain deal between Ukraine and Russia will be extended for another 120 days.

- He said continuing the grain export agreement brokered by Turkey with the UN was “another important step in the global fight against the food crisis.”
- Russia’s Foreign Ministry also confirmed that the deal would be extended “without changes in terms of scope” to the current agreement.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the agreement “by all parties to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative to facilitate the safe navigation of export of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukraine.”
- Guterres also emphasized the necessity to remove remaining obstacles to export food and fertilizer from Russia. “Both agreements signed in Istanbul three months ago are essential to bring down the prices of food and fertilizer and avoid a global food crisis,” Guterres said.

FIFA World Cup 2022: VP Jagdeep Dhankhar arrives in Qatar's Doha to attend the opening ceremony

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has joined the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other dignitaries in the inauguration of FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Dhankhar is in Doha for a two-day visit to represent India at the inauguration of FIFA’s showpiece event. Besides attending the inaugural ceremony of the Football World Cup, the Vice President will also interact with members of the Indian community during the visit. The 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor will host the opening ceremony on 20 November 2022 just before the first match between host Qatar and Ecuador.
- Besides attending the inaugural ceremony of the Football World Cup, the Vice President will also interact with members of the Indian community during the visit. The Vice President’s visit would be an opportunity to join a close and friendly country Qatar as it hosts a major sporting event and also acknowledge the role played and support extended by Indians in this World Cup.

Kazakh President Tokayev wins re-election with 81.3% of vote

- Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has secured a second term in a snap election, winning 81.3 percent of the vote. The Central Asian nation’s Central Election Commission made the announcement citing preliminary data.
- Tokayev had been widely expected to extend his rule over the oil-rich nation by seven more years with a strong mandate to continue his increasingly independent foreign policy, as the former Soviet republic navigates the Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- Tokayev faced no real opposition candidates in a nation where critics are sidelined and all five of his competitors were virtually unknown.
- Tokayev won his first election in 2019 with the backing of his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbayev, but the two fell out this year amid violent unrest in the nation of 20 million. Present vote consolidated his power as an independent leader.
- In less than a year, Tokayev suppressed the worst anti-government demonstrations in his country’s history, neutralised his all-powerful predecessor, and stood up to Russia’s President Vladimir Putin.

New Zealand Supreme Court rules voting age of 18 is discriminatory

- New Zealand’s voting age has been ruled discriminatory by the country’s highest court. The case was brought by advocacy group make it 16 in 2020, in a bid to lower the voting age from 18 to 16.
- The Supreme Court found the current voting age of 18 was inconsistent with the country’s Bill of Rights, which gives people a right to be free from age discrimination when they turn 16.
- The group argues there is no reason to stop 16 year olds voting when they can drive, work full-time and pay tax.
- Political parties in New Zealand have mixed views on the subject. The Green Party wants immediate action to lower the voting age to 16, but the largest opposition party, the National party, does not support the shift.
- “Obviously, we’ve got to draw a line somewhere,” National party leader Christopher Luxon said. “We’re comfortable with the line being 18. Lots of different countries have different places where the line’s drawn and from our point of view, 18 is just fine.”

India takes over as Council Chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

- India will take over the chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence for 2022-23 at a meeting of the body in Tokyo, the Ministry of Electronics and IT said. This development comes on the heels of assuming the Presidency of the G20, a league of the world's largest economies.
- In the election to the Council Chair, India had received more than a two-thirds majority of first-preference votes while Canada and the United States of America ranked in the next two best places in the tally – so they were elected to the two additional government seats on the Steering Committee, the ministry said in a statement.
- GPAI is an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and the use of Artificial Intelligence. GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries, including the US, UK, European Union, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, and Singapore. India joined the GPAI in 2020 as a founding member.

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In a first, turbaned Sikh appointed deputy mayor of Canada's Brampton

- Brampton city in Canada got its first turbaned Sikh deputy mayor with the appointment of Harkirat Singh. Harkirat Singh, who represents wards 9 and 10, has been appointed deputy mayor from 2022-26. The deputy mayor presides at council and other committee meetings and assumes ceremonial and civic event duties on behalf of the mayor if the mayor is absent or unavailable.
- In the present Canadian Parliament there are 18 Sikhs members. Currently Harjit Sajjan, Bardish Chagger are the two Sikhs who are ministers in the Justin Trudeau government in Canada. Prior to his role as councillor, he served a four-year term as school trustee at the Peel District School Board.

Cuttack Bali Yatra enters Guinness Book of World Records

- Cuttack Baliyatra has made it into the Guinness World Record after achieving the feat of making 22,000 paper boats in 35 minutes. During the Baliyatra festival, more than 2,100 students from 22 schools made paper boats and created a world record at an event organized at Barabati Stadium by the district administration and Cuttack Municipal Corporation.
- The world record was attempted to attain global recognition for Cuttack's Baliyatra, the largest open-air trade fair in the state.
- The headquarters of the Guinness World Records in London was contacted for an attempt to make 10,000 paper boats in just 15 minutes.
- The record book authorities had issued the protocol for organizing the event and the administration roped in around 3,000 students who have also imparted training on making paper boats.

Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba elected for consecutive 7th time from Dadeldhura district

- In Nepal, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has elected for the consecutive 7th time from the home district of Dadeldhura. The counting of votes continues for parliamentary and provincial elections in the country. Senior Nepali Congress leader, Mr. Deuba defeated an independent candidate Sagar Dhakal by a margin of over 12 thousand votes. The 77-year-old Nepali Congress president Deuba is currently holding the post of Prime Minister for the fifth term.

The parliamentary and provincial elections were held on 20th of November in Nepal. It was the second general election since the promulgation of the constitution in 2015. Deuba secured 25,534 votes against his nearest rival Sagar Dhakal, 31, an independent candidate who received 1,302 votes. Deuba has never lost any parliamentary election in the five decades of his political career

Europe Names Its First Disabled Astronaut

- The European Space Agency has named the first ever "parastronaut" in a major step towards allowing people with physical disabilities to work and live in space. The 22-nation agency said it had appointed British Paralympic sprinter John McFall to take part in a feasibility study during astronaut training to assess the conditions needed for people with disabilities to take part in future missions.
- Notably: McFall, who lost his right leg due to a motorcycle accident at the age of 19, won a bronze medal in the 100 metres at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.
- The announcement came as ESA appointed a new set of astronauts for the first time since 2009 after whittling down 22,500 valid applications. ESA posted openings last year for people fully capable of passing its usual stringent psychological, cognitive and other tests who are only prevented from becoming astronauts due to the constraints of existing hardware in light of their disability. It received 257 applications for the role of astronaut with a disability. McFall will work with ESA engineers to understand what changes in hardware are needed to open professional spaceflight to a wider group of qualified candidates, the agency said.

Qatar seals 27-year LNG deal with China as competition heats up

- QatarEnergy announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China, calling it the "longest" ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia while Europe scrambles for alternative sources. The state energy company will send four million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec).
- Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar's gas, which is increasingly being sought by European countries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Negotiations with

European countries have struggled as Germany and others baulked at signing the type of long-term deals made with Asian nations. North Field is at the centre of Qatar's expansion of its liquefied natural gas production by more than 60 percent to 126 million tonnes a year by 2027.

India calls for peace, security and prosperity in Indo-Pacific

- India and Asean in a joint statement reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety, freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region, and also commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS.
- They called for establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership and enhancing cooperation against terrorism as Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed the 19th Asean-India Summit in Phnom Penh.
- India hailed the deep cultural, economic and civilizational ties that have existed between India and South East Asia from time immemorial and stated that the India-ASEAN relationship forms the central pillar of India's ACT-EAST policy. India reiterated its support to ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific.
- As part of maintaining "ASEAN-Centrality", the two sides reaffirmed the importance of deepening dialogue and coordination through ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN-India Summit, the East Asia Summit, the Post-Ministerial Conference with India (PMC+1), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

India, Australia wargames Austra Hind 22 to begin on November 28, 2022

- The bilateral training exercise "AUSTRA HIND 22" between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army begins at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The exercise will continue till 11th of December. This is the first exercise in the series of AUSTRA HIND with participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies. During the exercise, participants will engage in a variety of tasks ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, sharing basics of special arms skills and raiding a hostile target. The joint exercise, besides promoting understanding and interoperability between the two armies, will further help in strengthening ties between India and Australia.

The Australian Army contingent comprised soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division. The Indian Army is represented by troops from the DOGRA Regiment. The exercise "AUSTRA HIND" will be a yearly event that will be conducted alternatively in India and Australia. The aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations in Semi deserts terrain under a UN peace enforcement mandate.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX launches first Falcon Heavy mission since 2019 from Florida

- SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, the world's most-powerful active rocket, lifted off for the first time in more than three years, from Florida's Cape Canaveral, with Elon Musk's company sending a group of satellites into orbit for the U.S. Space Force.
- The rocket system, representing three Falcon 9 boosters strapped side-by-side, lifted off at a SpaceX launch pad. The rocket's two side boosters were due to land in synchrony on adjacent concrete slabs along Florida's east coast roughly eight minutes after liftoff. The Heavy carried a handful of classified payloads toward geostationary orbit for the U.S. Space Force on a mission called USSF-44.
- USSF-44 is the fourth launch for the SpaceX Falcon Heavy overall and its first since June 2019. That low flight rate stands in stark contrast to the company's Falcon 9 workhorse, which has flown more than once per week this year on average. And while the overwhelming majority of those Falcon 9 launches have used pre-flown boosters, Falcon Heavy launched on three brand-new first stages.

ISRO plans to return to Mars, explore dark side of moon with Japan

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has turned its attention to Venus and is collaborating with Japan to examine the moon's dark side, following trips to the moon and Mars. ISRO's next mission at the Akash Tattva conference here was that the space agency also intended to send a probe to Mars.
- A Japanese rocket will launch an ISRO-built lunar lander and rover into orbit with a planned landing site close to the south pole of the moon.
- "The rover will then move to the area of the moon that is always in shadow and never receives sunlight."
- The examination of the area was fascinating since anything that had persisted in the PSR zone was analogous to something that had been frozen for aeons.
- The Aditya L-1 will be a special mission in which a payload-carrying 400-kg class satellite will be deployed in an orbit around the Sun so that it may continually view the star from a location known as the Lagrange Point L-1.

India's first privately built rocket set for suborbital launch with 3 payloads

- India's first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is poised to create history as it undergoes final launch preparations at the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)'s launchpad in Sriharikota for launch between November 12-16. The mission 'Prarambh', meaning 'the beginning', since it is the first mission for Skyroot, was unveiled by ISRO chairman S. Somanath in Bengaluru after the technical launch clearance from the Space regulator IN-SPACe.
- Skyroot, a two-time national award winner, is the first start up to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO in this regard. Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian Space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai. "Vikram-S rocket getting launched is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles.

NASA's next-generation Artemis mission heads to moon on debut test flight

- The United States space agency NASA has launched its Artemis-1 mission from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. About eight minutes after launch, the core stage's engines cut off and the core stage separated from the rest of the rocket. After this, the Orion spacecraft was propelled by the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS). NASA also deployed the four solar arrays of the Orion spacecraft. After completing "translunar injection", Orion separated itself from the ICPS and is now on its way to lunar orbit.
- For the first time in 50 years since the end of the Apollo program, the launch of Artemis 1 is an ambitious US mission to return astronauts to the surface of the Moon.
- The Artemis 1 launch will also be the first flight of NASA's 21st century moon-exploration program.

- With Artemis 1 on the surface of the Moon, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, business approaches and capabilities that are essential for future explorations, including Mars. The launch aims to further aid in the study of the Moon, its origin and history.

India's first privately built rocket, Vikram-S, launched by ISRO

- Vikram-S Rocket, India's first privately developed rocket launched from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at the Sriharikota launchpad. The launch of Vikram-S Rocket by ISRO is a historic moment.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is developed by Hyderabad-based start-up Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, and it is a 6-meter tall and hits a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometers. After five minutes of launch, the Vikram-S Rocket splashed into the Bay of Bengal. The mission was titled Prarambh.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is a single-stage solid fuelled, sub-orbital rocket developed over two years by incorporating advanced technologies that include carbon composite structures and 3D printer components.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is equipped with a gross lift-off mass of 545kg, and a payload mass of 80kg. Vikram-S carried three customer payloads which will map the measurement and validation of certain flight parameters and payload integration processes.
- The Skyroot firm was launched in June 2018 by two engineers Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka. The firm aims to open space for all, he is pushing the boundaries of today's techno. It is working towards a future where space becomes a part of our lives and claims that such a transition will transform humankind like never before.
- Initially, Skyroot built ticket components to send satellites into space. After the Indian government opened the sector to private firms, it promptly signed up with ISRO, which allows the such players to use the agency's launching facilities. The start-up formally entered the space and technology industry with an agreement with ISRO in September 2011.

SPORTS

Akanksha Vyavahare creates Weightlifting National Records in 40kg category at Khelo India tournament

- Akanksha Vyavahare, who is a Maharashtra-based weightlifter has created three new national records in the 40kg weight category at the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament. Akanksha Vyavahare was also a part of the Target Olympics Podium Scheme and created records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total.
- Akanksha has improved her existing snatch national record by lifting 60kg. She recorded 71 kg in the clean jerk and the process registered a total lift of 131 kg.
- The opening ceremony of the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament was felicitated by Tokyo Olympics Silver medalist Mirabai Chanu.
- Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal in Phase 1 of the Khelo India Weightlifting Tournament in Himachal Pradesh.

India beat Australia 5-4 in shootout, claim 3rd Sultan of Johor Cup crown

- Indian junior men's hockey team defeated Australia to win the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 in a shootout 5-4 after a 1-1 draw at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. This is the third time India has won the Sultan of Johor Cup. India scored the first goal with Sudeep Chirmako's field goal in the 14th minute. However, Australia came back in the second quarter as Jack Holland equalised with India.
- In the shootout, both teams ended with 3-3 scoreline, forcing the match into sudden death. Uttam Singh scored twice in the shootout, including in sudden death, while Vishnukant Singh, Ankit Pal, Sudeep Chirmako also sounded the board for India. For Australia, Burns Cooper, Foster Brodee, Brooks Joshua and Hart Liam entered their names on the scoresheet.

- The Indians have won the age group tournament twice in 2013 and 2014 and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019. The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022: Spain Successfully Defend The World Cup Title By Defeating Colombia 1-0

- Spain, defending champions won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup against the first-time finalists Colombia. Spain won the match after an own goal in the 82nd minute of the finals by Colombian defender Ana María Guzmán Zapata. The final match of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was played between Spain and Colombia in the Patil Sports Stadium. Spain won by 1-0 in the finals of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup against Colombia.
- Spain took the lead with Christina's goal; however, it was rebounded by the Colombian goalkeeper.
- The score remained 0-0, until the own goal from Colombia in the prime time of the game.
- The two teams played against each other in the group phase in which Spain won by 1-0.
- FIFA President Gianni Infantino along with other officials of the Asian Football Federation and All India Football Federation (AIFF) was also present during the finals.
- India was the host of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup this year and unfortunately team India was not able to clear the group stages after losing three matches.

Max Verstappen wins record-breaking 14th race of the season at Formula One's Mexican Grand Prix

- Red Bull driver Max Verstappen finished in first place at the Mexican Grand Prix 2022 to claim his record-setting 14th win of the season. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton and Red Bull's Sergio Perez finished second and third respectively. Verstappen 14th victory of the season sees him pass Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel for the most race wins in a single season in Formula One history. Verstappen is now the most successful driver in the history of the Mexican GP, having secured his fourth title. It was the 34th race win of his career & 14th win of the 2022 season.
- Earlier in October, Verstappen claimed his second career world championship at the Japanese Grand Prix, and last week he won the US Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, which saw him share the record for the number of season race wins. With his victory in Mexico, Verstappen also broke the record for the most points accumulated in a single season, previously set by Lewis Hamilton in 2019.

Suryakumar Yadav becomes 1st Indian player to score 1,000 T20I runs in a calendar year

- Star Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav has become the first Indian player to score 1,000 T20 International runs in a calendar year. The batter accomplished this feat in his side's final Super 12 stage match against Zimbabwe in Melbourne cricket ground (MCG), Australia. In the match, Suryakumar put his perfect finishing touches to make sure India finished their innings on a high. He scored 61 not out of just 25 balls, consisting of six fours and four sixes. In 28 innings this year, Suryakumar has scored 1,026 runs at an average of 44.60.
- Suryakumar Yadav has now joined Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan on the elite list of batters who have scored more than 1000 T20I runs in a calendar year. Rizwan, who has 924 runs in 23 T20Is this year, scored a total of 1326 runs in 29 matches in 2021. Surya is only the second player in T20I history to have scored more than 1000 runs in one calendar year. Now he has a total of 1026 runs in 28 T20I matches this year.
- Surya made his T20I debut for India against England in March last year, and since then he has been on a roll. He has played a total of 39 T20I matches in total for India, in which he has scored 1270 runs.

ICC Player of the Month 2022: Virat Kohli, Nida Dar awarded for October 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for October 2022. India veteran batter Virat Kohli has been named as the ICC men's Player of the Month for October. Meanwhile, Pakistan's veteran all-rounder Nida Dar has been selected as ICC Women's Player of the Month, thanks to her sensational form in the Women's Asia Cup.
- Both Kohli and Dar were elected winners following a global vote conducted among media representatives, ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and fans registered at icc-cricket.com.

- Virat Kohli has been in phenomenal touch this past month, delivering brilliant performances throughout the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup and has been an integral part of India's semifinal qualification. The 34-year-old played four innings in October and had 205 runs in his kitty, including a match-winning 53-ball unbeaten 82 against Pakistan in India's Super-12s opener.
- Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza and South Africa's David Miller were the other nominees for the award along with Kohli, but the Indian batter beat them to claim the title.
- For her key contributions to Pakistan's semi-final surge in the Women's Asia Cup in Bangladesh, Nida Dar takes home the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for October.
- Scoring 145 valuable runs at an average of 72.50 during the month and taking eight key wickets, the influential all-rounder underlined her importance to the Pakistan cause despite falling short in the knockout stages.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Charlotte Edwards, Abdul Qadir inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the latest legends who join the prestigious list of cricketing greats that make up the ICC Hall of Fame. Following a voting process that included existing Hall of Famers, media representatives plus senior executives from the Federation of International Cricketers (FICA) and the ICC, West Indies great Shivnarine Chanderpaul, England Women's team legend Charlotte Edwards and Pakistan legend Abdul Qadir become inductees number 107, 108 and 109 respectively.
- Shivnarine Chanderpaul is one of the most instantly recognisable figures in the history of West Indies cricket. With an unorthodox batting technique, he made his debut at 19 and quickly began to excel against opposition bowlers.
- Over the course of a 20-year international career, Charlotte Edwards became one of the most significant players in the history of women's cricket. Starting her international journey as a 16-year-old, she soon announced herself by striking a world-record unbeaten 173 against Ireland in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in Pune.
- Qadir passed away in 2019 at the age of 63, but his influence of the game in Pakistan and the wider world is still felt strongly today. Often labelled the saviour of leg-spin bowling during the 1970s and 80s, Qadir was renowned for outfoxing some of the greatest batters in the game with his dynamic action and majestic variation.

Bhagat, Ramadass bag gold at BWF Para Badminton World Championships

- Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass won gold medals in singles at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships in Tokyo. The reigning Paralympic gold medallist Bhagat beat compatriot Nitesh Kumar 21-19, 21-19 in 53 minutes in an all-Indian SL3 final.
- This is Bhagat's fourth World Championships gold in singles and sixth overall in the marquee event.
- Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar went down 21-14, 18-21, 13-21 to Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani-Ukun Rukaendi in the SL3-SL4 men's doubles final.
- Manisha Ramadass beat Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-15, 21-15 in half an hour in the SU5 final.
- Bhagat has won a total of six gold, two silver, and three bronze medals in singles and doubles in the six championships he has played.

Uttar Pradesh to Host Khelo India National University Games in 2023-24

- Uttar Pradesh government to host Khelo India National University Games in 2023-2024 in four cities. Khelo India National University Games will be conducted in four cities of Uttar Pradesh including Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, and Noida.
- In the Khelo India National University Games, 4,500 athletes will participate representing 150 universities across the country.
- There will be 20 disciplines including basketball, judo, kabaddi, wrestling, swimming, boxing, rowing, etc.
- Uttar Pradesh has got the opportunity to host the National University Games for the first time after Odisha and Karnataka.
- Disciplines like kabaddi, judo, archery, and fencing will be organized in Noida and rowing will be organized in Gorakhpur.

Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain wins gold at Asian Boxing Championships

- Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain beat Ruzmetova Sokhiba of Uzbekistan 5-0 in the Asian Boxing Championships 2022 women's 75kg final for her first continental gold medal in Amman, Jordan on Friday.
- Lovlina Borgohain won bronze medals in the 2017 and 2021 Asian Boxing Championships and was competing in her first final. While for Ruzmetova Sokhiba of Uzbekistan, it was her second straight silver medal.
- As many as six Indians - five women and one man - qualified for the finals at the Asian championships.
- World championships silver medallist Saweety Boora and 2022 bronze winner Parveen, along with competition debutant Alfiya Pathan won gold medals while Minakshi had to settle for silver.
- Saweety Boora, who won silver at the Asian Championships in 2015 and bronze last year, defeated Gulsaya Yerzhan of Kazakhstan 5-0 in the women's 81kg. Parveen, 22, beat Kito Mai of Japan 5-0 in women's 63kg for her first Asian medal.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Mumbai beats Himachal in low-scoring final to clinch maiden title

- Domestic giants Mumbai produced a near-perfect performance to beat Himachal Pradesh by three wickets in the final and won their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy title at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The 15th edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, a Twenty20(T20) competition that is played in India, was held from 11th October 2022 to .
- Put into bat first, Himachal posted a total of 143/8 in 20 overs with Ekant Sen (37 off 29) top-scoring for them. In reply, Mumbai chased down the target in 19.3 overs with three wickets in hand. Sarfaraz Khan scored 36 runs and Tanush Kotian claimed three wickets, which paved the way to win the trophy.
The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic T-20 cricket championship in India, which is organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from the Ranji Trophy. The tournament is named after a former Indian test cricketer Syed Mushtaq Ali. The first match was held in 2006-07 and the trophy was won by Tamil Nadu under the captaincy of Dinesh Karthick and also Rohit Sharma scored the first ever T20 century in the match. Until now, Tamil Nadu is the most successful team of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, by winning it thrice.

2022 IBSA Blind Football Asia/Oceania Championships

- Kerala Governor Arif Muhammad Khan inaugurated the IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 at Kochi, Kerala. The IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 is being held from 11th November 2022 to .
- This is the first time in India that a para football event will have 10 men's teams and 2 women's teams. This para football event is a qualifier for the World's Championships Birmingham 2022 and the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 will be India's biggest para football event. The event will help to spread awareness about the game.
- Ten teams are participating in the event including India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Australia, and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan vs England, T20 World Cup Final 2022: ENG crowned champions, beat PAK by five wickets

- England were crowned the champions after they defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets in the final at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Australia. They are the first team to hold the ODI and T20 World Cups at the same time after their memorable win over New Zealand in the 2019 50-over final at Lord's. England also emulated West Indies to become only the second team in the history of the competition to lift two titles in the T20 World Cup.
- England were in the box-seat after captain Jos Buttler won the toss and elected to field first, restricting Pakistan to just 8-137. Ben Stokes used all his experience to score 52 from 49 balls just when his team needed it most as England chased down Pakistan's meagre total of 137/8 with six deliveries remaining at the MCG.
- T20WC Men's Player of the Tournament: Sam Curran (12 wickets in six matches). Sam Curran was adjudged the man of the match for his performance where he took three wickets for just 12 runs from his four overs in the game.

West Midlands to host Kabaddi World Cup in 2025

- The Kabaddi World Cup will be held in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom. The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be hosted out of Asia for the first time announced by the World Kabbadi Federation (WKF).
- The region will host the sport's most prestigious global tournament which will feature the world's best kabaddi players from leading men's and women's teams from India, Iran, and Pakistan. The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will take place in the West Midlands during the first quarter of 2025.
- The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be the first edition after the 2020 edition that could not be held due to Covid-19.
- The previous three editions of the Kabaddi World Cup were all held in India with the hosts emerging as the winner of the three editions.
- Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be organized by England Kabbadi, Scottish Kabaddi, and the British Kabbadi League.

Sri Lanka to host U-19 Men's T-20 World Cup 2024

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the venue for Under-19 Men's and Women's T-20 World cup. ICC announced that the 2024 Under -19 men's T-20 World Cup will be hosted by Sri Lanka while the 2026 edition will be staged in Zimbabwe and Namibia.
- The 2025 Under -19 women's T20 World Cup will be held in Malaysia and Thailand, and 2027 Under -19 women's event will be jointly hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal.
- The hosts are selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden.
- ICC also declared the qualification pathway for the 10-team 2024 women's T20 World Cup. Eight teams will qualify for the event automatically comprising the top three teams from each group from 2023, T20 World Cup.

Switzerland beat Australia to win first Billie Jean King Cup title

- Switzerland won their first Billie Jean King Cup title on Sunday after Belinda Bencic beat Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in straight sets in the second match of the finals to give them an unassailable 2-0 lead.
- Jil Teichmann had earlier prevailed 6-3 4-6 6-3 over Storm Sanders in a thrilling contest to put Switzerland ahead before Olympic champion Bencic saw off Tomljanovic 6-2 6-1 to clinch the best-of-three contest.
- The teams also clashed in the semi-finals of last year's event in Prague, where Teichmann overcame Sanders and Bencic defeated Tomljanovic before Switzerland went on to finish runners-up to Russia.
- Olympic champion Bencic, who had not dropped a set all week, was in complete control against Tomljanovic and delivered a commanding performance, swiftly wrapping up victory in an hour and 15 minutes.
- In a brilliant battle between two left handers, Teichmann dominated affairs in the first set but Sanders, struggling with a leg injury and needing court-side treatment, twice rallied from a break down in the second in a stirring revival.

Asian Airgun Championship: India bags 4 more Gold medals in Korea, taking total tally of yellow metal to 17

- India won four more Gold medal in air pistol events to take their gold tally to 17 in the Asian Airgun Championship in at Daegu in Korea yesterday. Shiva Narwal won the men's 10m air pistol, while Sagar Dangi picked up the junior men's gold.
- Shiva got the better of experienced Korean Park Daehun in the men's air pistol final, taking him down 17-13 in a close contest. He also had the Korean's number in the ranking round where he topped with 253.7. Park was second with 250.2.
- In addition, both the men's and women's youth teams also won their respective competitions to make it another successful day for India.
- India's Vijayveer Sidhu also picked up a bronze in the event, after he finished the ranking round in third place with 248.0.
- In the junior men's air pistol, it was a 1-2 finish for India, as Sagar Dangi overcame Samrat Rana 17-13 to claim gold.

- India's third gold came in the men's 10m air pistol Youth event, when the trio of Sandeep Bishnoi, Sahil and Amit Sharma beat a Korean team 16-8 in the gold medal clash.

Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang elected in IOA Athletes Commission

- Olympic medallists MC Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang were among 10 eminent sportspersons elected as members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Athletes Commission. All the 10 elected members of the apex body, five men and as many women, won unopposed in the polls. Under the new constitution of the Indian Olympic Association which was adopted on November 10, the athletes commission is to have equal representation of male and female members.
- Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan, table tennis player Sharath Kamal, women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, fencer Bhavani Devi, rower Bajrang Lal and former shot putter Om Prakash Singh Karhana are the other six members of the elected panel.
- All the 10 members, out of which five are female, are Olympians. Keshavan is the only Winter Olympian. The immediate task of the Athletes Commission would be to identify eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) who would then be voting members of the IOA's General Assembly. One of the criteria is that the sportsperson should have retired from the sport, and should have won a medal in the Olympics, Asian Games or Commonwealth Games.

Paris 2024 Olympic Games: The meaning behind the mascot

- The Phrygian cap, the symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present**, was unveiled as the mascot for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Olympic Phryge ((pronounced fri-jee-uhs) is a bit smaller, the Paralympic Phryge is a bit slimmer and has a blade on his right leg because it is a Phryge with an impairment.
- The Paralympic mascot is different in that one of the legs is a runner's blade. The Paris Games organisers defended the fact that the toy replicas of the mascot are almost all made in China. One of the mascot's eyes is blue and one of the two is draped in two ribbons in the colours of the French flag, in the style of a cockade, or knot of ribbons, which was another symbol of republicanism during the Revolution.
- The mascots were unveiled in a press conference in Paris by Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet, Beijing 2008 wheelchair tennis men's doubles champion Michael Jeremiasz and Gwladys Epangue, a bronze medallist in taekwondo from Beijing 2008.

Achanta Sharath Kamal becomes first Indian to be elected in ITTF's Athletes' Commission

- Star Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first player from India to get elected in the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). The online elections took place between 7 to 13 November 2022. 10 athletes were elected for the ITTF Athletes' Commission for a four-year term from 2022 to 2026. Eight athletes were elected from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America, and Oceania region and two were highest-voted para-athletes.**
- Amongst all elected players Sharath Kamal got the second highest votes after 2012 table tennis World Cup silver medallist Elizabeta Samara of Romania. Sharath Kamal was also recently elected as the member of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Sharath has already been selected for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sports recognition this year. He also received the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in 2019.**

Vice president Dhankhar to attend FIFA world cup inauguration in Qatar

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will attend the FIFA World Cup opening ceremony in Qatar. The two-day visit is as per the invitation of the ruler of Qatar, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that Dhankhar will visit Qatar on November 20-21.
- After attending the opening ceremony of the World Cup, he will interact with the Indian diaspora in Qatar. The Ministry of External Affairs explained that it should be an opportunity to acknowledge the role and support played by Indians in the World Cup. The Ministry said that India-Qatar relations are strong in the fields of trade, energy, security, health, culture, education and defence.
- 2023 will mark 50 years of India-Qatar diplomatic relations. Qatar plays a major role in India's energy sector. India is a major partner in the food security of the Gulf countries.

FIFA World Cup 2022 kicks off in Qatar

- The 22nd FIFA men's world cup was formally declared open at a colourful ceremony held at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar on 20 November. It is for the first time that an Arab country is hosting the football tournament. 32 teams will play for the most coveted prize in international football, with the final scheduled to take place on December 18 at the Lusail stadium, the biggest one among the eight stadiums being used to host the World Cup. On December 18, 2022, Qatar's National Day, the opening game takes place at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor between Qatar and Ecuador.
- The 22nd FIFA men's world cup will be held in Qatar from 20 November to 18 December 2022.
- It is the first time that an Arab country will host the tournament. A total of 32 teams will participate in the world cup. La'eeb is the official mascot of the Cup. It is inspired by the keffiyeh, a traditional headdress worn by Arab men.

Max Verstappen wins 2022 F1 finale in Abu Dhabi

- Formula One (F1) world champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull team won the season ending F1 Abu Dhabi race in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The battle for second place remained a major story with Charles Leclerc and Sergio Perez entering the race tied at 290 points, but it was Leclerc who came out on top with a second-place finish on the Yas Marina Circuit.
- Max Verstappen was his record 15th title of the 2022 season. He also ended the 2022 season as the world F1 champion. He won his first F1 world championship title in 2021. He also holds the record for winning a maximum 15 races in a single season. He broke the previous record of 13 race victories in a season jointly held by seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher (2004 season) and four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel (2013 season).

Jagadeesan breaks world record for highest ever List A score

- Tamil Nadu batter Narayan Jagadeesan broke the world record for the highest individual score in men's List A cricket by hammering 277 off 141 balls against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Chinnaswamy in Bangalore. Tamil Nadu became the first team to breach the 500- mark in List A cricket before winning the Group C match by 435 runs, making it the highest victory margin at this level. The previous record was Somerset's 346-run win over Devon in 1990.
- This was after the 26-year-old Jagadeesan became the first-ever player to score five consecutive centuries in men's List A cricket. He also went past Alistair Brown and Rohit Sharma to set a new record for the highest individual score.
- Brown's previous high of 268 for Surrey came against Glamorgan in 2002. The Indian record for highest List A score of 264 by Rohit in an ODI against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in 2014.
- Jagadeesan's first wicket partnership of 416 with Sai Sudharsan (154) is the highest stand for any wicket in List A cricket.

Bhukya, Patri win National U-13 badminton titles

- Telangana's Nishanth Bhukya and Odisha's Tanvi Patri became the boys and girls' singles' champions at the 34th Under-13 National Badminton Championships, notching contrasting wins at the UP-Badminton Academy.
- Fourth-seeded Bhukya came from behind to beat Andhra Pradesh's Akhil Reddy Boba 19-21, 21-12, 22-20 in 44 minutes whereas Patri took just 22 minutes to brush aside local challenger and 15th-seeded Divyanshi Gautam 21-7, 21-10.
- Patri won her maiden National U-13 Ranking Tournament in Maharashtra earlier this month, and Patri was in sublime touch against Agra's Gautam.
- Tossing and placing the shuttle well, Patri kept Gautam on her toes with cross-court volleys to take the first game.
- In the second round, Gautam tried to narrow the lead after trailing 5-9, dribbling the shuttle at the net, Patri was too good in her placements and forced Gautam to commit a series of unforced errors before wresting the game as well as the match.

- In the boy's final, Bhukya found Boba quite tough to handle in the first game as the Andhra shuttler raced to a 15-11 lead before winning the game at 21-19.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first male player to score in 5 World Cups

- Cristiano Ronaldo creates history as he became the first male player to score in five World Cups in Portugal's opening game in Qatar against Ghana. Cristiano Ronaldo scored in the 65th minute from the penalty spot to open the scoring at Doha's stadium 974, which was also the 118th goal of his country.
- The 37-year-old striker converted a penalty in the 65th minute to give Portugal a 1-0 lead.
- He has now scored a goal in every World Cup since 2006 when he again converted a penalty against Iran in the group stage.
- Ronaldo scored at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and another at the 2014 tournament in Brazil, and four in 2018 Russia.

Canada wins maiden Davis Cup title, ousts Australia 2-0 in final

- Canada won their first Davis Cup title after Felix Auger-Aliassime beat Australia's Alex de Minaur by 6-3, 6-4 in the second match of the finals. Felix Auger-Aliassime, who is world number six, had to guard against three break points in the first set but also found his rhythm in the eighth game.
- Auger-Aliassime retained his balance in the second set as he defended two break points in the second game.
- He impressively fought his way back from 0-40 to hold his serve in the sixth game. Earlier Denis Shapovalov gave Canada, beaten finalist in 2019 to Spain, the first point with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Thanasi Kokkinakis.
- Shapovalov has dropped both his singles matches this week and needed treatment on his back during a three-set loss in the semi-finals to Italy's Lorenzo Sonego.
- The 2022 Davis Cup is the 110th edition of the Davis Cup, a tournament between national teams in men's tennis. It is sponsored by Rakuten. The Russian Tennis Federation were the defending champions, but they and Belarus were eliminated from competing in international events due to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Indian Players won men's and women's singles, mixed doubles, doubles and team titles in Championship

- Indian players won men's and women's singles, mixed doubles, doubles, and team titles in USIC International Railway Sports Association Table Tennis Championship. The Table Tennis Championship was organized by Northwestern Railway Sports Association under the aegis of the Railway Sports Promotion Board from 21st November to 2 in Jaipur.
- In the Table Tennis Championship give teams participated including the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Switzerland, and India.
- The championship was inaugurated by Mr. Gautam Arora, AGM, NWR on 2.
- The event was felicitated by Chairman CTT, USIC Mr. Sebastian Picca, Director Activity Mr. Kevin Leburne, Secretary Railways Sports Promotion Board Mr. Prem Lochab, and General Secretary northwest Railways Sports Association Mr. Anuj Kumar Tayal.
- Indian players made the country and Indian Railway proud by securing the first position in men's and women's team events.

IBA Youth World Championships: Ravina wins gold as Indian pugilists finish dominant campaign with 11 medals

- Young Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade recorded a commanding 5-0 win to bag gold at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain. Vishwanath won India's first gold at the championship after defeating Ronel Suyom of the Philippines in the men's 48kg final.
- Bhawan Sharma bagged a silver medal in the women's 48kg category as she conceded a 0-5 loss against Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva.
- The IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championship 2022 was held at La Nucia from 14th November to 2.

- To promote the sport and the spirit of boxing in all its forms, in the light of its education, culture, and sports values, and to encourage the development of boxing throughout the world.
- To promote the highest standards concerning the organization, judging, referring, coaching, training, education, and medical and anti-doping controls in the sport of boxing.

Madras Boat Club women lift Adyar trophy

- The Madras Boating Club women won the 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta, which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta was held on 2, and they were awarded the Adyar Trophy. The Men's category was bagged by Colombo Rowing Club, and they were awarded Deepam Trophy.
- The first-ever Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta was held in 1898 and is considered the oldest sporting encounter held between Sri Lanka and India.
- The Madras Boat Club and the Colombo Rowing Club host the Regatta and this year Colombia Rowing Club's turn to host the Indian team.
- The main event of the Regatta is the men's boat race, considered the second oldest boat race in the world.
- The overall winners of the men's event are awarded with the prestigious Deepam Trophy while the women's championship is awarded Adyar Trophy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX launches first Falcon Heavy mission since 2019 from Florida

- SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, the world's most-powerful active rocket, lifted off for the first time in more than three years, from Florida's Cape Canaveral, with Elon Musk's company sending a group of satellites into orbit for the U.S. Space Force.
- The rocket system, representing three Falcon 9 boosters strapped side-by-side, lifted off at a SpaceX launch pad. The rocket's two side boosters were due to land in synchrony on adjacent concrete slabs along Florida's east coast roughly eight minutes after liftoff. The Heavy carried a handful of classified payloads toward geostationary orbit for the U.S. Space Force on a mission called USSF-44.
- USSF-44 is the fourth launch for the SpaceX Falcon Heavy overall and its first since June 2019. That low flight rate stands in stark contrast to the company's Falcon 9 workhorse, which has flown more than once per week this year on average. And while the overwhelming majority of those Falcon 9 launches have used pre-flown boosters, Falcon Heavy launched on three brand-new first stages.

ISRO plans to return to Mars, explore dark side of moon with Japan

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has turned its attention to Venus and is collaborating with Japan to examine the moon's dark side, following trips to the moon and Mars. ISRO's next mission at the Akash Tattva conference here was that the space agency also intended to send a probe to Mars.
- A Japanese rocket will launch an ISRO-built lunar lander and rover into orbit with a planned landing site close to the south pole of the moon.
- "The rover will then move to the area of the moon that is always in shadow and never receives sunlight."
- The examination of the area was fascinating since anything that had persisted in the PSR zone was analogous to something that had been frozen for aeons.
- The Aditya L-1 will be a special mission in which a payload-carrying 400-kg class satellite will be deployed in an orbit around the Sun so that it may continually view the star from a location known as the Lagrange Point L-1.

India's first privately built rocket set for suborbital launch with 3 payloads

- India's first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is poised to create history as it undergoes final launch preparations at the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)'s

launchpad in Sriharikota for launch between November 12-16. The mission 'Prarambh', meaning 'the beginning', since it is the first mission for Skyroot, was unveiled by ISRO chairman S. Somanath in Bengaluru after the technical launch clearance from the Space regulator IN-SPACe.

- Skyroot, a two-time national award winner, is the first start up to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO in this regard. Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian Space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai. "Vikram-S rocket getting launched is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles.

NASA's next-generation Artemis mission heads to moon on debut test flight

- The United States space agency NASA has launched its Artemis-1 mission from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. About eight minutes after launch, the core stage's engines cut off and the core stage separated from the rest of the rocket. After this, the Orion spacecraft was propelled by the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS). NASA also deployed the four solar arrays of the Orion spacecraft. After completing "translunar injection", Orion separated itself from the ICPS and is now on its way to lunar orbit.
- For the first time in 50 years since the end of the Apollo program, the launch of Artemis 1 is an ambitious US mission to return astronauts to the surface of the Moon.
- The Artemis 1 launch will also be the first flight of NASA's 21st century moon-exploration program.
- With Artemis 1 on the surface of the Moon, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, business approaches and capabilities that are essential for future explorations, including Mars. The launch aims to further aid in the study of the Moon, its origin and history.

India's first privately built rocket, Vikram-S, launched by ISRO

- Vikram-S Rocket, India's first privately developed rocket launched from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at the Sriharikota launchpad. The launch of Vikram-S Rocket by ISRO is a historic moment.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is developed by Hyderabad-based start-up Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, and it is a 6-meter tall and hits a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometers. After five minutes of launch, the Vikram-S Rocket splashed into the Bay of Bengal. The mission was titled Prarambh.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is a single-stage solid fuelled, sub-orbital rocket developed over two years by incorporating advanced technologies that include carbon composite structures and 3D printer components.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is equipped with a gross lift-off mass of 545kg, and a payload mass of 80kg. Vikram-S carried three customer payloads which will map the measurement and validation of certain flight parameters and payload integration processes.
- The Skyroot firm was launched in June 2018 by two engineers Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka. The firm aims to open space for all, he is pushing the boundaries of today's techno. It is working towards a future where space becomes a part of our lives and claims that such a transition will transform humankind like never before.
- Initially, Skyroot built ticket components to send satellites into space. After the Indian government opened the sector to private firms, it promptly signed up with ISRO, which allows the such players to use the agency's launching facilities. The start-up formally entered the space and technology industry with an agreement with ISRO in September 2011.

OBITUARY

Women's rights activist & SEWA founder Ela bhatt passed away

- Renowned women's rights activist Ela Bhatt, the founder of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), died here on Wednesday due to age-related issues, her associates said.
- Bhatt, 89, a Padma Bhushan recipient, was a pioneer in the field of women empowerment and had received international recognition due to her work.
- "It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of our beloved and respected founder, Smt. Elaben Bhatt, a pioneer in advocating for women workers' rights, we strive to carry her legacy forward," SEWA Bharat tweeted.

Arunachal Pradesh BJP legislator passes away

- Jambey Tashi, MLA from Lumla assembly seat in Arunachal Pradesh, passed away due to following illness. He was 48. Tashi was the sitting MLA from the Lumla Assembly constituency of Tawang district. He was holding the post of Advisor to the Planning and Investment Minister of the state. He died in a hospital in Guwahati.
- Born on October 7, 1974, Tashi was actively involved in social activities right from the beginning and became an Anchal Samiti member in 2001. He was elected to the legislative assembly from his home constituency Lumla in 2009 unopposed and was appointed as Chairman State Medicinal Plants Board till 2011 and later became Parliamentary Secretary for Civil Aviation. He was re-elected to the legislative assembly for the 2nd term and held the post of Parliamentary Secretary.

Independent India's first voter, Shyam Saran Negi, passes away in Himachal Pradesh

- Three days after casting his vote for the 34th time, India's oldest voter Shyam Saran Negi died on November 5, 2022 at his home in Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh. He was 106. Negi, who was the Election Commission's brand ambassador, voted for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election through postal ballot on November 2. It was the last vote for the man who was 31 when India gained Independence.
- The Election Commission has mourned the demise of the first voter of Independent India, Shyam Saran Negi. The Commission said, he was not just the first voter of Independent India, but a man with exceptional faith in democracy. He inspired millions to vote, even before his demise, he voted for the ensuing Himachal Pradesh Assembly Elections through postal ballot on the 2nd of this month, the Commission said.

Mahendra Kumar Sharma, pioneer of Indian women's cricket, passes away

- Mahendra Kumar Sharma, the man who pioneered women's cricket in India through the registration of the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI) in 1973, has passed away.
- He leaves behind a huge legacy in women's cricket. In 1973, he registered WCAI under Societies Act in Lucknow, which kickstarted the journey of women's cricket in the country.
- WCAI was in existence for the next 32 years until BCCI took over the operation of women's cricket in India in 2006.
- For the first five years of its existence, Sharma was the founding secretary of WCAI. He was in charge when India got to host its first-ever women's cricket world cup in 1978. This was when the organisation was largely dependent on donations from individual and the government.
- WCAI also got to host the 1997 edition of the tournament, which was won by Australia.

Batman legend Kevin Conroy tragically passes away at the age of 66

- Kevin Conroy, an actor and voice actor best known for playing Batman in several animated movies and series, has passed away at the age of 66. Kevin played Batman in a variety of projects, and Mark Hamill took on the role of the Joker. The acclaimed animated series, which launched in 1992 and continued until 1996, is where Conroy first voiced Batman.
- His portrayal of Batman in various other DC productions, including the video games Injustice and Batman: Arkham, has received a lot of positive attention. He also appeared in several DC Universe Animated Original

Movies, including Batman: Gotham Knight (2008), Superman/Batman: Public Enemies (2009), Justice League: Doom (2012), Batman: The Killing Joke (2016), and Justice League vs. the Fatal Five (2019).

Karnataka: PM Modi mourns death of mathematician RL Kashyap

- 85-Year-old Renowned mathematician and great scholar Padma Shri Awardee Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayan Kashyap or RL Kashyap passed away. RL Kashyap translated around twenty-five thousand Sanskrit mantras into English language. Apart from Mathematics, RL Kashyap has also made many important contributions to the field of Veda. He received many international awards for his immense contributions to the fields of science and technology. Kashyap also wrote more than 250 research papers.
- RL Kashyap was the founder of a spiritual organization called Sakshi Trust and was among the recipients of the Padma Shri award in 2021, which seeks to recognize achievements in all fields and disciplines that involve the element of public service.
- RL Kashyap was a mathematician who also studied electrical engineering. In the later days, Kashyap worked as a professor of Electrical engineering at America's Perdue University. He also developed the Ho-Kashyap rule, A pivotal algorithm in Pattern recognition, with another professor in Harvard, Yu-Chi Ho. After presenting Kashyap Information Creation (KIC) which is related to the discipline of maths, Kashyap came to the fore on the world stage.

Mehran Karimi Nasseri, Who Inspired 'The Terminal,' Dies in Paris Airport

- An Iranian refugee, Mehran Karimi Nasseri, who lived for 18 years in Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris and whose intriguing tale inspired the 2004 Steven Spielberg film "The Terminal," passed away in that same airport. The cause of death, in Terminal 2F, was a heart attack, a representative for the airport. His exact age was not immediately known, but he was in his late 70s.
- His days were punctuated by the rhythm of flights and the presence of travelers, whose numbers swelled in the morning and dwindled at night, leaving him mostly alone to sleep on his preferred curved bench. Airport employees would routinely give him their meal coupons, and flight attendants would give him toiletries left over by first-class passengers. The New York Times Magazine noted in a 2003 profile of Mr. Nasseri that he seemed "both settled — and ready to go."

Gulam Abbas Moontasir, a legend of Indian basketball, dies aged 80

- The former India basketball captain and Arjuna awardee, Gulam Abbas Moontasir, passed away in Mumbai. He was born in Mumbai in 1942. He started playing in Nagpada by the American missionaries, later he started getting inclined towards basketball. From Nagpada Basketball Association to the International stage, he has always been an aggressive player with a unique physical style on the court.
- His basketball debut came in 1960 in an exhibition game against Australia. He captained the national team in the 1969 and 1975 Asian Basketball Championships in Bangkok. He was part of the Indian team at the 1970 Asian Games, which finished sixth after topping a group that also contained China, Thailand and Malaysia. In the same year, Muntasir was selected in the Asian All-Star team and received the Arjuna Award, the first basketball player to receive this honour. He was suspended for three years due to constant bickering with referees and officials in the country. He was also among the country's sports icons who shot for the 1987 film 'Freedom Run' to promote national integration.

Veteran Punjabi actress Daljeet kaur khangura passed away

- Daljeet Kaur, a veteran actor well-known for her lead roles in several superhit Punjabi movies, died in Punjab's Ludhiana district on Thursday.
- The 69-year-old was suffering from brain tumour for the past three years and was in a deep coma for the last one year, according to her cousin, Harinder Singh Khangura.
- Daljeet was one of the most famous faces of Bollywood. She took a break from acting after she lost her husband Harminder Singh Deol in a tragic road accident. After several years, in 2001, she decided to step back into the industry, and it didn't take long before she again turned everyone's favourite with her work.

Rasna founder Areez Khambatta passes away at 85

- The founding chairman of the popular drink Rasna, Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta has passed away. The 85-year-old industrialist, who was suffering from a prolonged illness. Decades back, his father Phiroja Khambatta started a modest business which Areez took to being the largest concentrate manufacturer in the world, with a presence in over 60 countries. He created affordable soft drink packs of Rasna in the 1970s as an alternative to soft drink products sold at high costs. It is sold at 1.8 million retail outlets in the country.
- Khambatta was the former chairman of the World Alliance of Parsi Irani Zarhostis (WAPIZ). He also served as the past president of the Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat and the vice president of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India.

Veteran Actor Vikram Gokhale Dies At 77

- Veteran Bollywood actor Vikram Gokhale passed away recently at the age of 77. He was seen in many popular Bollywood movies like Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Mission Mangal, Aiyaary, Bhool Bhulaiya, and others. For his contribution to Theatre acting, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, conferred him with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2011. A veteran of screen and stage, Vikram Gokhale was a noted actor in Marathi theatre and cinema before making his debut in Hindi films at the age of 26 in Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Parwana (1971).
- Over a career spanning more than 40 years, he appeared in various films, most notably Agneepath (1990), Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam (1999), Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007), Natsamrat (2015), Hichki (2018), and Mission Mangal (2019). In 2010, he received the National Award for Best Actor for his work in the Marathi film Anumati.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Samsung's de facto leader, Jay Y. Lee, formally takes the top job

- Samsung Electronics Co. officially appointed Lee Jae-yong as its executive chairman, formalizing the all-encompassing leadership role he has long played at South Korea's largest business. The 54-year-old, Lee has been vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, the crown jewel of South Korea's biggest business conglomerate, since 2012. He takes over a position previously held by his father, Lee Kun-hee, who died two years ago after being incapacitated by a 2014 heart attack.
- The appointment comes as Samsung, the world's biggest maker of memory chips and smartphones, faces mounting business headwinds amid a sharp downturn in worldwide tech demand, caused by soaring inflation, interest rates and a gloomy economic outlook. Samsung reported a 31% drop in third-quarter profit and said geopolitical uncertainties were likely to dampen demand until early 2023, as the global economic downturn slashed appetite for electronic devices.

About Samsung

Founded: 13 January 1969

Founder: Lee Byung-chul

Headquarters: Suwon-si, South Korea

Mata Amritanandamayi appointed as Chair of C20

- The Government of India has appointed Mata Amritanandamayi as the Chair of Civil 20 (C20), an official engagement group of the G20. The G20 members consist of 19 countries plus the European Union and C20 is its platform for civil-society organisations (CSOs) to bring forth non-government and non-business voices to the G20 leaders. India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the G20 Leaders' Summit will take place in New Delhi. Mata Amritanandamayi said she was grateful to the Indian government for arranging such a high-level representation of the voices of the common people.
- In the initial C20 online meeting the Mata said poverty in rural areas was a key issue to address while moving ahead as a society. "Hunger, conflict, extinction of species, and environmental destruction are the most

important issues facing the world today. We should put in sincere effort to develop solutions. If scientists of all fields—computer science, mathematics, physics, engineering and so on—would all work together, then we would be able to create more innovative methods of predicting environmental catastrophes, and thereby we would be able to save many lives. Often, we see a lack of multidisciplinary and integrated effort. This is the need of the hour,” she said.

Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta takes over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum

- Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta has taken over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), post-superannuation of Arun Kumar Singh. According to Bharat Petroleum’s official statement, Gupta has an illustrious career spanning over 24 years at the company, in various Finance roles, V R K Gupta is Director (Finance) in the company and holds the additional charge of Director (HR).
- Under his able leadership, BPCL swiftly completed the merger of BORL and BGRL, wholly owned subsidiaries, with BPCL, along with smooth onboarding of BORL and BGRL employees into the BPCL family.
- He is currently a Board member in BPRL (Bharat Petro Resources Limited) and Fino Paytech Limited and was also a Board member in the recently amalgamated companies BORL (Bharat Oman Refineries Limited) & BGRL (Bharat Gas Resources Limited), as well as, MAFFL (Mumbai Aviation Fuel Farm Facility Private Limited).
- Gupta joined BPCL in August 1998 and has a well-rounded experience across Finance functions covering Commercial Finance, Corporate Accounts, Risk Management, Business plan, Budgeting, Treasury operations, etc.

Two CRPF women officers promoted to IG rank for the first time

- Two women officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Seema Dhundiya and Annie Abraham, have been promoted to the rank of Inspector General for the first time on Wednesday after their induction into the force in 1987.
- Inspector general Seema Dhundiya will head the Bihar Sector of the CRPF while IG Annie Abraham will be posted as the head of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the CRPF.
- Notably, the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF is being headed by a woman officer for the first time since its raising in 1992.
- Speaking to HT, IG Annie Abraham said, “No doubt about it, that it is a great achievement so far.”
- Abraham added, “The paramilitary forces are extremely challenging for women. We remain in one of the most difficult areas of the country, and that is precisely what we are there for- be it counter-insurgency, be it anti-terrorism, be it elections. So, it is absolutely challenging for women on account of meeting the typical expectations of the family, as well as to meet the professional requirements. Both the things have to be managed and it’s a fine balance that women have to keep.”

FICCI names Subhrakant panda as next president

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Wednesday named Subhrakant Panda as its next president.
- Panda, the Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), currently serves as the senior vice-president of FICCI.
- In a statement, FICCI said Panda would succeed Sanjiv Mehta as president of the apex chamber at the conclusion of its 95th AGM to be held on December 16-17.
- Panda said, “I consider it a privilege to helm this great institution at a crucial time. Even as the India growth story gathers momentum, there is work to be done pushing the reforms agenda further, besides engaging with stakeholders on important issues such as decarbonisation and sustainability.”
- Panda has been active in FICCI for two decades and was the first chairman of the FICCI Odisha State Council.

MoE sets up panel to strengthen assessment, accreditation of higher educational institutions

- The Ministry of Education has set up a high-level panel to strengthen the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions, on November 4, 2022. The panel will be headed by Dr K Radhakrishnan,

Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur. He is also the chairperson of the Standing Committee of IIT Council.

- “The mandate of the committee includes strengthening the assessment and accreditation processes and preparing a road map for the National Accreditation Council envisioned in the National Education Policy, 2020. India has one of the largest and diverse education systems in the world,”.
- “Accreditation plays a vital role in making quality assurance an integral part of the functioning of higher educational institutions. Accreditation assists the institutions to understand their strengths and weaknesses through an informed review process, thus facilitating identification of internal areas of planning and resource allocation by them,” the official said.

K V Kamath becomes an independent director for Reliance Industries

- Reliance Industries has appointed K V Kamath as the Independent Director of the company for a period of five years. The Board of Directors has, at its meeting held, based on the recommendation of the human resources, nomination and remuneration committee considered and recommended to the shareholders for approval the appointment of Shri K. V. Kamath.
- KV Kamath has also been appointed as an Independent Director and non-executive Chairman for Reliance Strategic Investment Limited (RSIL). RSIL will be renamed as Jio Financial Services Limited (“JFSL”) and the scheme of demerger approved by the board of directors for demerger of the financial services business.
- Currently the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), Kamath has served as Chairman of Infosys. In 2015 he was appointed as the first President of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS countries from where he retired in 2020. Under his leadership, ICICI Bank transformed itself into a diversified, technology-driven financial services group across banking, insurance and asset management in India, and a global presence. He retired as Managing Director and CEO in 2009 and continued as the Chairman of ICICI Bank till 2015.

Hockey: Macau's Tayyab Ikram elected as new FIH president

- Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) CEO, Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of Macau was elected as the new president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), succeeding India's Narinder Batra as its full-time chief. Ikram defeated Marc Coudron of Belgium 79-47 in the 48th FIH Congress held virtually. Out of 129 national associations, 126 casted valid votes. The duration of Ikram's term will be for two years, in order to complete the mandate of the previous chief, Batra, who resigned on July 18.
- Seif Ahmed was the acting president of the FIH following Batra's resignation from the top post after the Delhi High Court asked him to stop functioning as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief. Batra, who became the FIH president in 2016, resigned from the post in July. He also gave up his International Olympic Committee (IOC) membership which was directly linked with his IOA position.

KISHOR K BASA APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS AUTHORITY

- Professor Kishor Kumar Basa has been appointed as the chairman of the National Monument Authority (NMA). The Department of Culture of the Government of India issued an official notification in this regard. He will have a tenure of three years. Basa is the vice chancellor of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo University in Baripada and also the chairman of the Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA), which is the largest anthropological association in India. He had been teaching archaeological anthropology and museum studies since 1980 and was the former head of the department of Anthropology at Utkal University.
- Basa was the recipient of the Surajmal Saha Memorial Gold Medal for securing the 1st position in the whole of Odisha in the HSC Exam in 1973 and Professor Ghanshyam Dash Memorial Gold Medal for 1st Class 1st in BA History (Honours) exam in 1977 at Utkal University. He secured his PhD from the University of London in 1991.

Former Karnataka HC Chief Justice appointed as Law Commission of India chairperson

- The central government appointed chairperson and members of the Law Commission over two and a half years after it was constituted. Retired Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi appointed as the chairperson of the commission.

- The Law Commission is constituted for three years and the 22nd Law Commission was notified on February 24, 2020. The law panel has been lying vacant since the retirement of former Supreme Court judge Justice BS Chauhan in 2018.
- The government has said the issue related to the Uniform Civil Code might be taken up by the 22nd law panel.
- Former Kerala High Court judge Justice KT Sankaran, Professor Anand Paliwal, Professor DP Verma, Professor Raka Arya and M Karunanithi have been appointed as members of the commission.
- Justice Rituraj Awasthi was a judge of the Allahabad High Court and retired in July this year as the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court. He had headed the HC bench which upheld the ban on wearing hijab by Muslim girls in government colleges in Karnataka.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud sworn in as 50th Chief Justice of India

- Senior-most Supreme Court judge and Chief Justice of India-designate Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is all set to become the 50th head of the Indian judiciary when President Draupadi Murmu would administer the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Justice Chandrachud, born on November 11, 1959, was elevated to the top court on May 13, 2016.
- He has been part of several Constitution benches and landmark verdicts of the top court including on matters relating to the Ayodhya land dispute, the right to privacy and adultery. Justice Chandrachud was also part of the benches which delivered path-breaking judgements on decriminalising same-sex relations after it partially struck down Section 377 of the IPC, the validity of the Aadhaar scheme and the Sabarimala issue.
- Recently, he was among the two judges of the apex court Collegium which had objected to the method of “circulation” adopted for eliciting the views of its members on the appointment of judges to the top court.
- After completing his BA with Honours in Economics from St Stephen’s College, New Delhi, Justice Chandrachud did his LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, and obtained an LLM degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences (SJD) from Harvard Law School, USA.

Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra becomes ‘Friendship Ambassador’ of Switzerland Tourism

- Switzerland Tourism has appointed Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as the ‘Friendship Ambassador’. In his new role, the talented Indian sports superstar will showcase and promote the adventurous, sporty, and stunning outdoors of Switzerland to Indian travellers. As Switzerland Tourism’s ‘Friendship Ambassador’, Chopra will share his experiences in the country to showcase it as the ideal destination for outdoors and the best destination for hiking, biking, soft and extreme adventure and of course snow sports, for everyone be it beginners or seasoned pros.
- The athlete also donated his gold-winning javelin to The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland in September this year. The museum founded by the International Olympic Committee in 1993 showcases the richness and diversity of Olympism through history, culture, design, technology, and sociology with sports as the main element. Mary Kom’s gloves as well as Dhyan Chand’s hockey was already a part of the exhibits at the Museum.

Greg Barclay unanimously re-elected as ICC Chairman for two-year term

- New Zealand’s Greg Barclay unanimously re-elected as the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman for another two-year term after his rival, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) chairman Tavengwa Mukuhani, pulled out of the contest late. Barclay, who served his first stint as ICC chair between 2022 and this November, will now be in the position until 2024. Barclay, an Auckland-based commercial lawyer, was originally appointed as the ICC Chair in November 2020. He was previously the Chair of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and was a director of the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2015. In July, Barclay publicly expressed his desire to continue for a second term.
- Besides Barclay’s re-election, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah was elected as the head of ICC’s all powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee at the board meeting. Shah will have the responsibility of heading ICC’s most important committee. All the major financial policy decisions are taken by the F&CA committee before it is ratified by the ICC board.

Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi appointed CEO of Prasar Bharati

- Senior IAS officer, Gaurav Dwivedi was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. A 1995-batch officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, Mr. Dwivedi will have a five-year tenure from the date he assumes charge. Earlier, Mr. Dwivedi was the Chief Executive Officer of MyGovIndia, the citizen engagement platform of the government. He has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for his excellent work in administration. He replaces Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
- Shashi Shekhar Vempati was the CEO of Prasar Bharati from 2017 to 2022. After Mr. Vempati completed his five-year tenure, Director General of Doordarshan Mayank Agrawal was given the additional charge of CEO Prasar Bharati in June this year.
- Prasar Bharati is India's state-owned public broadcaster, headquartered in New Delhi. It is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and Akashvani All India Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Govt appoints Arvind Virmani as full-time member of NITI Aayog

- Former Chief Economic Advisor, Arvind Virmani has been appointed as a full time member of NITI Aayog. The other existing Members of NITI Aayog are VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul. While Suman Bery is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran is the incumbent CEO of the think tank. The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Shri Arvind Virmani, Founder, Chairman, Foundation for Economic Growth & Welfare as Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog with immediate effect and until further orders, on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog.
- Virmani was Chief Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry from 2007-09. He was Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) till end 2012. He served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on monetary policy from February 2013 to August 2016.

IFS Officer Bandaru Wilsonbabu Appointed as Ambassador of India to the Union of Comoros

- Bandaru Wilsonbabu, presently the Indian ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar has been concurrently accredited as the next ambassador to the Union of Comoros, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2004 batch, Wilsonbabu earlier served as the joint secretary in the Eurasia division. Ties between India and Comoros have grown manifold during the past three years.

T20 World Cup fallout: BCCI sacks 4-member selection committee led by Chetan Sharma

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has dissolved the four-member National Selection Committee headed by Chetan Sharma after India team's uninspired performance in T20 World Cup. Apart from chief selector Chetan Sharma, other members of the selection committee were Sunil Joshi, Harvinder Singh and Debashish Mohanty.
- The BCCI invited fresh applications for the position of National Selectors for the senior men's team and deadline to submit the applications is 28th November. A release by cricket's apex governing body in the country mentioned the criteria for those who wish to apply for the positions.
- A release by cricket's apex governing body in the country mentioned the criteria for those who wish to apply for the positions. "Should have played a minimum of 7 Test matches or 30 First Class matches, or 10 ODI and 20 First Class matches," read the official BCCI statement. "Should have retired from the game at least 5 years ago and no person who has been a member of any Cricket Committee (as defined in the rules and regulations of BCCI) for a total of 5 years shall be eligible to be a member of the Men's Selection Committee," the release added.

Retired IAS Arun Goel assumes charge as new Election Commissioner of India

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed retired IAS Arun Goel as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office. A Punjab cadre officer of the 1985 batch, Goel will join Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey in the poll panel. Till recently, Mr Goel was the heavy industries secretary and has also served in the Union Culture ministry. He was to retire on December 31, 2022, but his voluntary retirement came into effect on November 18.

- Former Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra had retired in May this year, handing charge to Rajiv Kumar. The poll panel has been a two-member body since and had to handle several crucial issues including the demands for disqualification of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The poll panel will have its full strength when it decides the election schedule for Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Karnataka in the coming months.

Pakistan PM picks Lt Gen Asim Munir as new army chief

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed Lieutenant General Asim Munir as the new army chief of the country, replacing incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Information minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced the appointment on Twitter ending weeks of speculation over what some call the most powerful position in the South Asian nation.
- Pakistan's military has directly ruled the country of 220 million people for nearly half of its 75-year history.
- Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad will take charge as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee
- PM Sharif held a cabinet meeting earlier where he selected Munir from a list of six nominees for the top military post.

Romal Shetty Designated As CEO Of Deloitte India

- Senior consultant Romal Shetty has been nominated CEO-designate of Deloitte India after a months-long selection process, according to an email sent to the firm's partners late. The nomination committee, after considering multiple candidates, zeroed in on Shetty, who leads Deloitte's consulting practice in India. The next step is for its Indian equity partners to confirm his candidacy.
- Romal Shetty has 20 years of experience in advisory services across large-scale transformation programs covering the business and technology domain and has worked in over 30+ countries across risk and consulting domain. Shetty's key focus areas are financial and operational turnaround, customer experience, product innovation, revenue management, analytics, business continuity, risk management, cost reduction, managed services and process reengineering. He is a Fellow Member of the ICAI and a Certified Information Systems Auditor.

PT Usha all set to become first woman president of Indian Olympic Association

- PT Usha was elected to become the president of the Indian Olympics Association (IOA). The Minister of Law and Justice of India announced on Twitter to congratulate the legendary Indian athletes. PT Usha becomes the first woman president of the IOA.
- She also expressed her intentions to run for IOA on 2. She was the only contender for the election of the top position in the sports organization.
- PT Usha is one of the most accomplished athletes in India. She has won 11 medals including four gold at the Asian Games between 1982 and 1994. She also won four gold medals at the Seoul Asian Games in 1986.
- She has participated in 200m, 400m hurdles, and 4×400 relays. Umesh Sinha the returning officer for the IOA elections has reported that the process was underway on 25th November.

IMPORTANT DAYS

30 October 2022: 113th Birth anniversary of Homi Jehangir Bhabha

- 113th Birth anniversary of Indian nuclear physicist Homi Jehangir Bhabha who is also known as the father of the Indian nuclear program. He was born on 30 October 1909 in Bombay, Bombay Presidency, British India (now Mumbai, Maharashtra, India). His invaluable contributions to the field of science continue to inspire generations of young minds in the country. Homi J Bhabha was born into a prominent wealthy Parsi family.
- On 24 January 1966, Bhabha died when Air India Flight 101 crashed near Mont Blanc. The official reason for the crash-A misunderstanding between Geneva Airport and the pilot about the aircraft's position near the mountain. However, there are assassination claims like the involvement of a foreign intelligence agency to paralyse India's nuclear program.
- Homi J Bhabha was the founding director and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).
- Homi J Bhabha was also the founding director of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET). It is now named the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in his honour.

World Cities Day 2022: 31st October

- World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on 31st October each year and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme. A different city hosts the event each year. This year's global observance is planned in Shanghai, China under the theme "Act Local to Go Global."
- Urbanisation is a marker of national economic growth. Such development, however, faces social, economic, demographic and environmental challenges. Some of the most visible challenges to rapid urbanisation are displacement of original inhabitants, felling of trees, animals losing their habitats, issues of healthcare, food supply and pollution. World Cities Day helps address these challenges by bringing together all stakeholders of local and global urban development.

World Thrift Day 2022: 31st October

- World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on October 31, across the world. World Thrift Day, also often called World Savings Day. However, India does this a day earlier, marking it on October 30 every year. The day is significant as it is an occasion to generate awareness about the concept of saving money in a bank (so as to enrich the money supply in the country) instead of keeping it locked away at home.
- This year, the theme of World Thrift Day is "Saving prepares you for the future", closely linked with last year's theme that focused on the importance of savings. The day is often observed by conducting informative campaigns and releasing schemes that promote savings. The focus of this theme will be to emphasise the importance of being financially prepared for a rainy day instead of impulsively spending all at once.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day 2022: 31st October

- The National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated every year on October 31st to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year will mark the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who is also known as the Iron Man of India.
- The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas provides an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation towards upholding the unity, integrity, and security of our country. In honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the government of India constructed the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel near the Narmada River in Gujarat which symbolizes the strength of unity in India. The main objective of the celebration is to uplift the nation's unity and spread awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to Indian history.

World Vegan Day 2022: 01st November

- World Vegan Day is celebrated every year on November 1 to encourage people to follow the vegan lifestyle and spread awareness about veganism. The day is dedicated to the practice of abstaining from use of animal products and exploitation of animals. All across the world, World Vegan Day is celebrated a day after Halloween. Halloween falls on October 31, and a day after is celebrated as World Vegan Day to advocate the benefits of avoiding and banning the exploitation of animals, extending our love and care to other species and the natural environment.
- According to World Vegan Day, this year's theme will be based on the animal rights-focused campaign 'Future Normal'.
- Veganism is said to have existed for more than 2000 years. Prominent figures like Pythagoras, the famed Greek mathematician, and philosopher believed in veganism which commits to not harming animals ever.
- World Vegan Day originated in England in 1994, when vegan animal rights activist Louise Wallis established the day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vegan Society.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2022: 2nd November, Theme, History and Significance

- November 2nd has been observed as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) since 2013. The day came into existence when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution in December 2013. The day draws attention to impunity, i.e., culprits going unpunished, to crimes against journalists. It took a couple of years of work and extensive lobbying from IFEX (formerly International Freedom of Expression Exchange) and others to get the Resolution for marking the day passed.
- The main event to celebrate the 2022 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is a High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the Safety of Journalists with the theme "Protecting Media to Protect Democracy" in Vienna, Austria. This year's slogan is Knowing the "Truth is Protecting the Truth".
- IDEI brings attention to crimes against media persons and how criminals often get away with such offences. To observe the day, states are urged to do their best to contain violence against journalists, to ensure accountability, and bring perpetrators to justice.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2022 – 31st October to 6th November

- Central Vigilance Commission observes Vigilance Awareness Week during the week in which 31st of October, the birthday of the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls. This year, Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 31st October to with the following theme: "Corruption-free India for a developed Nation".
- As a precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week 2022, the Central Vigilance Commission had carried out a three-month campaign highlighting certain preventive vigilance initiatives as focus areas for all the Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations.
- The Central Vigilance Commission has the mandate under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 to fight corruption and to ensure integrity in public administration.

World Tsunami Awareness Day 2022: 05th November

- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction. UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system. The date of November 5 was chosen to mark the story of "Inamura-no-hi" (burning of the rice sheaves) in western Japan. This earthquake occurred in 1858.
- The theme of World Tsunami Awareness Day 2022 in Asia-Pacific: Early Warning and Early Action Before Every Tsunami. This day is celebrated to raise awareness for early warnings and actions to protect people, save lives, and prevent the hazard from becoming a disaster.

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 6 November

- On November 6th, the UN observes the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. The day seeks to make people aware of the consequences that war and conflict have on the environment. This day was established to protect the environment as a source of security and

peace and to prevent its use in military conflicts. We are all encouraged to speak up and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our threatened planet, even in the face of armed aggression.

- The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about the environmental consequences of war and conflict. War and armed conflict have a wide range of negative effects on the natural environment.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2022: 7th November

- National Cancer Awareness Day 2022 is celebrated every year on 7th November in India. This day is important because it educates people about the serious risk of cancer. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second most deadly disease that causes death among people.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second most deadly disease that causes death among people. The condition of people dying of cancer is a serious threat to India. In the year 2020, 8.5 lakh people in India died of cancer. For this reason, National Cancer Awareness Day 2020 is celebrated every year on 7 November to raise awareness about this type of cancer.
- In India, the need for awareness about this condition arises from the fact that a large number of cancer cases are detected at a later stage, thus reducing the chances of survival. The objective of celebrating this day at the national level is to increase education and awareness among the people regarding cancer disease and to sensitize all the stakeholders including the government to take action.

CV Raman's 134th birthday: Remembering India's first Nobel Prize-winning physicist

- CV Raman was born on 7th November 1888, in Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu, and died on 21st November 1970, in Bangalore. CV Raman was one of India's greatest scientists. Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was a physicist who made discoveries that were broader than modern science and were called the Raman Effect, the phenomenon of change of wavelength of light when a beam is scattered in a medium.
- CV Raman was born on 7th November 1888, in Tamil Nadu's Trichinopoly. He completed his Master's degree in Physics from the Presidency College, University of Madras, in 1907, and worked as an accountant in the finance department of the Indian government. In 1917, he joined the University of Calcutta as a professor of Physics. Raman initially worked as a student in the field of optics and acoustics. Raman continued his research at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Calcutta while he worked as a professor at the university. He later became an honorary scholar at the association.

World Radiography Day 2022: 8th November

- Every year on November 8, World Radiography Day is observed to honour the discovery of X-radiation, also known as X-rays. This day in 1895 saw the completion of German scientist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's discovery of X-radiation, or X-rays. For this accomplishment, he was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901. This year, we will be celebrating the 11th International Day of Radiology on 11 November and this is observed by all the medical imaging professionals from across the world.
- The theme of International Day of Radiology 2022 is "Radiographers at the Forefront of Patient Safety." This theme aims to encourage all radiologists, radiographers, radiological technologists, and professionals to recognize and promote the essential role of radiology in the treatment of a patient.
- World Radiography Day celebrates the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays in 1895 and is used as a platform to raise public awareness of radiographic imaging and therapy. Radiographic imaging plays an important role in the diagnosis and the treatment of patients but it is equally crucial that the radiation level is kept to the minimum required so that it improves the health of patients instead of harming them.

Infant Protection Day 2022: 7th November

- Every year, November 7 is celebrated as Infant Protection Day. This day is celebrated with the sole purpose of raising awareness about the safety of newborn lives and giving them proper care. The day has been set to discuss how to best safeguard and nurture young children at one of their most important and vulnerable developmental stages.

- The main reason behind the commemoration of Infant's Protection Day is to take steps to protect the lives of infants. On this day, the government hopes to raise awareness about the protection and nurturing that infants require. This day also seeks to provide every child with the strong health and immunity they deserve.
- While highlighting the need of improving immunological support, this day also emphasises the measures that the government should take into account in order to promote effective healthcare systems.
- According to the data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 30 per 1,000 live births in 2019 at National Level.

National Legal Services Day 2022: History, Significance, Theme, Objectives, Purpose & More

- National Legal Services Day is marked every year on 9th November to celebrate the commencement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on this very day in 1995. This day was established with a mandate to offer support and help to weaker sections of society including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, women, disabled persons, natural calamities victims, and human trafficking victims.
- National Legal Services Day is crucial in raising public knowledge about various provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act as well as litigants' rights. The Day is commemorated to educate citizens about the various aspects of the Legal Services Authorities Act and litigants' rights. Each jurisdiction arranges legal help camps, Lok adalats, and legal aid programmes on this day.

Uttarakhand Foundation Day : History, significance & More

- Uttarakhand Foundation Day is observed on November 9 every year. Also known as Uttarakhand Divas, it is celebrated to mark the establishment of the 27th state of India. Uttarakhand did not come into existence with India's independence. It is one of the newer states that was created under the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000.
- The state of Uttarakhand has very rich natural resources which include glaciers, rivers, dense forests and snow-capped mountain peaks. It also houses the four most sacred and revered Hindu temples also known as the Char Dham of Uttarakhand. Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. The capital of the state is Dehradun and the winter capital is Gairsain.
- When Uttarakhand Kranti Dal was formed, with the aim of achieving statehood, a widespread movement to achieve statehood swept the region in 90s. It kept on for years. Subsequently, the state of Uttarakhand was formed, initially as Uttaranchal. The then-president, K. R. Narayanan, approved the bill on August 28, 2000, which later turned into an act. Finally, on January 1, 2007, Uttaranchal was officially renamed Uttarakhand.

Public Service Broadcasting Day 2022: 12th November

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is being celebrated on 12th November every year to commemorate the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to All India Radio in Delhi in 1947. On 12 November 1947, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the displaced people (a refugee from Pakistan), who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition. Gandhiji had reportedly said that he saw the medium of radio as Shakti, the miraculous power of God. Gandhiji began his speech saying, "My brothers and sisters who are suffering, I do not know if only you or some other people are also listening to it."
- The day was declared as Public Service Broadcasting Day or (Jan Prasaran Diwas) in 2001, after it was conceptualised by Suhas Borker, Convenor, Jan Prasara. Prasara Bharati has been given the responsibility of public service broadcasting, deepen democratic traditions and provide opportunities to all diverse communities and cultures. Mahatma Gandhi had decided to visit the studio of All India Radio, to convey his message through radio, as he couldn't visit refugees of Partition stationed at Kurukshetra in Haryana.

World Pneumonia Day 2022: 12th November

- World Pneumonia Day is a global event observed every year on 12 November to spread awareness and educate people to combat Pneumonia disease, which is a world's biggest infectious killer of adults and children, responsible for the majority of death of children below five around the world. The day is also focused on creating ample opportunity and encourage for the global action mainly in the low and middle income countries to fight the toll due to pneumonia and other respiratory infection.

- This year 2022, World Pneumonia Day theme is based on the Worldwide Pneumonia Awareness Campaign – “Pneumolight 2022”, with a theme and slogan “Pneumonia Affects Everyone”, with an aim to amplify the effect of awareness campaigns by illuminating monuments worldwide. This year 2022, with the support of 42 countries 228 monuments will be illuminated to mark the World Pneumonia Day, with an intention to raise visibility of World Pneumonia Day, 2022 globally.

World Kindness Day 2022: 13th November

- World Kindness Day is celebrated on November 13 every year. The day inspires people to appreciate the kindness and positive power in society. Kindness has no constraints and goes far beyond the feelings of race, religion, politics, and gender. This day help us to move forward in a helpful and kind spirit toward the people. There are many ways in which a person can show kindness toward the other person.
- One can be kind to their parents who are providing for you or your teachers who are making you a better human being. People these days celebrate this day by sending messages through social media platforms. It's an international holiday that is observed in many countries including but not limited to the U.S., Canada, Australia, Italy, and India.
- This year the day is being celebrated with the theme is ‘Be kind whenever possible.’
- The purpose of World Kindness Day as outlined by the World Kindness Movement is “to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us.”

Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar offers floral tributes at statue of Birsa Munda at the Parliament premises

- November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas or Tribal Pride Day to honour tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda. On November 10, 2021, the Union Cabinet declared November 15 as ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Divas’ marking the birth anniversary of the revered leader and saluting his contributions to India's freedom movement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a museum in Ranchi in memory of Birsa Munda also known as Dharti Aaba. PM Modi said that observance of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the glorious tribal culture and contribution to national development.
- He was Born in 1875, Birsa Munda led a rebellious movement against British colonial rule and conversion activities in the areas of the Bengal Presidency, which today are part of Jharkhand.
- His rebellion in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada, and Bandgaon helped in the revival of traditional tribal culture. Birsa Munda gave the slogan of ‘Abua Raj Ete Jana, Maharani Raj Tundu Jana,’ which translates as “Let the queen's kingdom end and our kingdom be established.”

National Press Day 2022: 16th November

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India (PCI). The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in the country. The Press Council of India also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.
- Independent Press is often called the voice of the voiceless, a connecting link between the all-powerful rulers to the downtrodden ruled. It brings out the ills and malaise of the system and helps the government find the solutions to these, in the process strengthening the values of the democratic system of governance. No wonder why it's called one of the four pillars of a strong democracy, and the only one where commoners directly participate. The other 3 are the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary – a gang of select few.

International Day for Tolerance 2022: 16th November

- International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 every year with an aim to build tolerance among diverse cultures and spread the message that tolerance is an integral part of society. The day is specifically recognized to educate people about the harmful consequences of intolerant society and its impact on the nation.
- The significance of celebrating the day is to raise awareness about the tolerance and its impact on cultures and socio-economic groups. Tolerance should be promoted on both personal as well as professional level to make the world a better place to live. Tolerance and non-violence are essential criteria for cohabitation. The

goal of the day is to get people to appreciate the beauty of many viewpoints, ethnicities, faiths, and ideologies while also recognising the cultural diversity that exists. The main goals of this global movement are to promote the behaviour of respecting others' rights and freedoms and to inform people about the negative repercussions of intolerance.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) runs from 18 to 24 November every year. It's an international initiative to increase awareness of the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines. The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance, encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- This year, the theme of WAAW is "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together." World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is a global campaign that is celebrated annually to improve awareness and understanding of AMR and encourage best practices among the public, One Health stakeholders and policymakers, who all play a critical role in reducing the further emergence and spread of AMR.

Naturopathy Day:

- National Naturopathy Day is observed in India every year on November 18th, to promote positive mental and physical health through drug-free therapy. National Naturopathy Day was established on November 18th 2018 by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India. On November 18th 1945, Mahatma Gandhi became the Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the agreement aimed at making the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people, therefore, this day was chosen to be observed as National Naturopathy Day.
- Central Council for Research in yoga and naturopathy is organizing the 5th Naturopathy day at World peace dome MIT Art, Design and Technology University campus, Pune. On this Occasion an International Conference on Yoga and Naturopathy is being organized by CCRYN. This conference will see renowned speakers in the field of naturopathy and from "World Naturopathic Federation". The Theme for this year's event is "Naturopathy: an Integrative medicine". In this conference we will learn about developments in the field of naturopathy from eminent researchers and practitioners in relation to education, research, integrative medicine, public health in addition to exploring newer avenues and areas in naturopathy.

Indian Army Celebrates 242nd Corps of Engineers Day

- Indian Army is celebrating the 242nd Corps of Engineers Day on 18th November. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande have conveyed their best wishes to all ranks of the Corps of Engineers on the occasion. On the occasion of Corps day, Engineer-in-Chief and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Engineers Lt Gen Harpal Singh has called upon the Corps to put in bigger efforts to be prepared for the future challenges and rededicate towards being a reliable, versatile and omnipresent arm of the Army.
- The Corps of Engineers provides combat engineering support, develops infrastructure for armed forces and other defence organisations and maintains connectivity along our vast borders besides providing succour to populace during natural disasters. These tasks are executed through four pillars of the Corps – Combat Engineers, Military Engineer Service, Border Road Organisation and Military Survey.
- The Corps of Engineers has three groups, i.e. Madras Sappers, Bengal Sappers and Bombay Sappers which were amalgamated into the Corps on 18 Nov 1932. Since its inception, history is replete with colossal exemplary contributions of the Corps of Engineers both in war and peace.

World Toilet Day 2022: 19th November

- The United Nations observes World Toilet Day on November 19 annually. The main aim is to raise public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and hand washing. The 2022 campaign 'Making the invisible visible' explores how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources.

- The central message of World Toilet Day 2022 is that safely managed sanitation protects groundwater from human waste pollution. Currently, the world is seriously off track to meet the promise of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2: to ensure safe toilets for all by 2030.
- The 2022 theme is 'Making the Invisible Visible' and explores how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources.

World Children's Day 2022: 20th November

- World Children's Day is celebrated on November 20 annually. The day aims to promote international togetherness and awareness among children as well as to improve their welfare. November 20 marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly adopted a Declaration and Convention on children's rights. This year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wants to remind world leaders to "fulfil the promise of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".
- The theme for International children's day is, "Inclusion, for every child". This theme means that every child belonging to any society, community or nationality is entitled to equal rights.
- The United Nations (UN) says, "World Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children."

World Television Day 2022: 21st November

- World Television Day is observed on 21 November, every year. It is a day that recognizes the value and impact of television in our lives. We all know television plays a crucial role in society and in an individual's life. It is our daily source of entertainment and information. All the entertainment and information that we receive from television helps us to stay updated about the world. To highlight the importance of television as something beyond an electronic tool, World Television Day is celebrated annually on November 21.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared November 21 to be World Television Day (through resolution 51/205 of December 17, 1996) in recognition of the growing influence television has on decision-making by drawing attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security as well as its potential role in sharpening the focus on other important issues, including economic and social problems.
- On 21 and 22 November 1996 the United Nations held the first World Television Forum, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the growing significance of television in today's changing world and to consider how they might enhance their mutual cooperation. That is why the General Assembly decided to proclaim 21 November as World Television Day.

World Fisheries Day 2022: 21st November

- World Fisheries Day is annually celebrated on 21st November. This day is dedicated to highlighting the critical importance of healthy ocean ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. World Fisheries Day also explores finding solutions to the increasingly interconnected problems that the world is facing to follow sustainable models of our ocean ecosystems while safeguarding the interest and growth and development of the fisherfolk community all across the world.
- Fisheries sector play an important role in the socio-economic development of fisherfolk or coastal community in our world. The sector has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries, and is a source of cheap and nutritious food besides being a foreign exchange earner. Most importantly, it is the source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of our world. Hence it is very important to tackle the challenges faced by this industry for the development of our world and to address these problems only we have World Fisheries Day!

World Heritage Week commencing from November 19 to 25

- The Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is celebrating World Heritage week commencing from November 19 to November 25, 2022. The World Heritage Week is observed to promote the conservation of culture and heritage. The week – long celebration aims to create awareness about traditions and culture. The World Heritage Week is celebrated by UNESCO and several other international organisations. In India. The World Heritage Week is celebrated by the Archaeological Survey of India.

- Being a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, India undertakes various initiatives on World Heritage Day (18 April) and World Heritage Week (19-25 November) each year, to celebrate the spirit of the World Heritage Convention. Some of these initiatives include providing free admission at ticketed monuments, publishing books on World Heritage, involving youth and children through painting competitions and heritage walks, among others.
- The Member States of UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972. 191 state parties have ratified this World Heritage Convention including India. World Heritage sites belong to all the people of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

Prasar Bharati celebrates silver jubilee of its establishment

- Prasar Bharati celebrated the silver jubilee or 25 years of its establishment on 23 November, 2022. It was on this day in 1997, that it came into being as a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament. It comprises the Doordarshan and All India Radio. Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi said, Prasar Bharati has stood firmly with the people during the challenges faced by the country and the world.
- It is the largest statutory autonomous public broadcasting agency in India which was established in 1997.
- It was established under an Act of Parliament and consists of Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio.
- In September 1990, the Parliament passed the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act.
- This act made provision for the establishment of a Broadcasting Corporation of India named Prasar Bharati.
- The Prasar Bharati Act provides for the establishment of a Broadcasting Corporation, to be known as Prasar Bharati, and define its composition, functions, and powers. The Act grants autonomy to All India Radio and to Doordarshan, both of which were previously under government control.
- The Act received the assent of the President of India on 12 September 1990 after being unanimously passed by Parliament. It was finally implemented in November 1997.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signs MoU with FIFA and AIFF for implementing Football4Schools initiative in India

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on behalf of the Ministry of Education signed an MoU in Mumbai today with FIFA and All India Football Federation for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India. FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino and President, All India Football Federation, Shri Kalyan Chaubey signed the MoU on behalf of respective organizations. Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Nisith Pramanik; Minister for School Education and Marathi Language- Maharashtra Shri Deepak Kesarkar; Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Shri Vinayak Garg & officials of All India Football Federation were also present on the occasion.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan said that sports has been given a place of pride in NEP 2020 and the Football 4 Schools program espouses the spirit of NEP2020. Sports has been given a place of pride in NEP 2020. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has laid emphasis on mainstreaming of sports with education and Football4Schools program is a step towards translating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making sports as a way of life as well as creating well-rounded citizens, he further added.

Gujarat govt's big move for Uniform Civil Code ahead of assembly polls

- With Gujarat headed to Assembly elections and awaiting the release of the poll schedule, state Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi announced that the cabinet had decided to form a committee for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state.
- Gujarat is the second BJP-ruled state after Uttarakhand to constitute a committee of experts on the UCC. Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Assam, also ruled by the BJP, too have backed the UCC proposal.
- Addressing a press conference in Gandhinagar, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala said, "From the days of our youth, we have been making demand for Ram Janmabhoomi, for (abrogation of) Article 370, for UCC. I want

to congratulate and express my gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, he has taken the next step towards fulfilling an old demand of the BJP." "Like Ram Mandir and Kashmir, this issue (of UCC) has been passed by the Gujarat government (in the cabinet). A committee will be formed soon and based on the committee's report, the way for implementing this law will open up in the state of Gujarat."

- The committee will be constituted under the leadership of a retired judge of the High Court. The cabinet has given the Chief Minister the right to constitute the committee and it is expected to comprise three-four members. Its scope of work too will be decided.

ECI to host two day International Conference on 'Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies'

- Election Commission will host a two-day international conference beginning 31st of October in New Delhi on the theme 'Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies'. The conference will be inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. The concluding session will be chaired by Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.
- ECI leads the Cohort on Election Integrity – which was established as a follow on to the 'Summit for Democracy' held in December last year. Nearly 50 Participants from Election Management Bodies from 11 countries are expected to join the event. These include Armenia, Mauritius, Nepal, Cabo Verde, Australia, Chile, Federal States of Micronesia, Greece, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the US. Many more countries will be represented by their Missions in New Delhi.

Cabinet approves signing of a MoU between India and Denmark on cooperation in the field of Water Resources Development and Management

- The Union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Denmark on cooperation in the field of Water Resources Development and Management.
- The areas of cooperation envisaged in the MoU are digitalization and ease of information access; integrated and smart water resources development and management; aquifer mapping, groundwater modelling, monitoring and recharge; efficient and sustainable water supply at household level; river and water body rejuvenation; water quality monitoring and management; climate change mitigation and adaptation among others.
- "The MoU will broadly strengthen cooperation in the field of water resources development and management; rural water supply; and sewage/wastewater treatment through direct collaboration between officials, academics, water sectors and industry in the areas under scope of cooperation," the Cabinet said in a press release.
- In September 2020, the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched a Joint Statement on establishment of Green Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Union Minister Bhupendra Patel to lead Indian delegation at COP 27 in Egypt

- Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Patel will lead Indian delegation to attend the 27th Session of Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27). The conference is scheduled to be held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6th to 18th November. At COP 27, countries come together to take action toward achieving the world's collective climate goals as agreed under the Paris agreement and the convention. Heads of States and Government will attend the conference. India is fully engaged with the process and is supportive of the efforts by Government of Egypt for substantive outcomes at COP 27.
- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry said, India is committed to both domestic action and multilateral cooperation on climate change, and will continue to fight all global environmental concerns in the call to protect humanity's planetary home. India is looking forward to substantial progress in the discussions related to climate finance and clarity on its definition. The goal of 100 billion US Dollars per year of climate finance by 2020 and every year thereafter through 2025 is yet to be achieved.

Guyana President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to be chief guest at 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention at Indore

- Guyana President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali will be the chief guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. It will be held from 8th to 10th January next year in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal. Member of Parliament of Australia, Zaneta Mascarenhas will be the guest of honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which will be held on 8th January next year.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated once in every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. The 9th of January was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion because it was on this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.

Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022 inaugurated in Kochi

- The 15th iteration of Kerala's Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference, which is taking place in Kochi, comes to an end. Among those attending the farewell event are Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, State Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore, and State Transport Minister Antony Raju.
- The UMI-2023 will be introduced during the event, and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and MOS Housing & Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore will present the Awards for Excellence in Urban Transport.
- The conference is attended by senior officials from the federal and state governments, decision-makers, managing directors of metro rail companies, chief executives of transportation companies, and foreign experts.
- "Azadi @ 75 — Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility" will be the main emphasis of the meeting.
- The event places a lot of attention on developing state and local capacity to deal with issues related to urban transportation.

Urban Mobility India Conference 2022: Challenges and Solutions to India's Urban Public Transport System

- In Kerala, the 15th edition of the Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo opens in Kochi on 4th of November. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan jointly inaugurated the three-day conference.
- The meet is focus on the theme, 'Azadi @ 75 — Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility'.
- Senior officers from the central and state governments, policymakers, Managing Directors of Metro Rail Companies, Chief Executives of transport undertakings, and international experts are participating in the conference.
- A total of 12 sessions were held on day two, including research symposiums on topics like 'Electric and Clean Urban Mobility', 'Sustainable Transport Planning' and 'Urban Transport Governance'. The Plenary Session was on 'Strengthening the Ecosystem to Accelerate Shift to Public Transport'.

The 42nd INCA International Conference will be hosted by Dehradun

- Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.) inaugurated the 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) in Dehradun. The 42nd International Congress is being organized by the National Hydrographic Office from 9th November to 11th November 2022 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The theme of the 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association is Digital Cartography to Harness Blue Economy.
- INCA is devoted to the cause of Cartography as a graphic mode of communication. It has its fold many eminent scholars, professionals, and industrialists as Honorary fellows, life fellows, life members, members, associate members, and student members. The majority of its members are practicing Cartographers from Multiple Organizations and Universities.

Kochi to host 18th international telemedicine conference

- Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) and Kerala Chapter hosts the 18th Edition of the International Telemedicine Conference at Amrita Hospital, Kochi. The inaugural ceremony was felicitated by Mr. S.

Somnath, Chairman of ISRO, Mr. Mohanan Kunnummal, Vice Chancellor, of Kerala University of Health Science, and Dr. Rethan Kelkar, IT Secretary of Kerala. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. S. Somnath, Chairman, of ISRO.

- Telemedicon 2022 is an annual global conference for healthcare professionals, providers, health insurance providers, online pharmacy chains, industrialists, academic scientists, research scholars and scientists, and medical and engineering stakeholders from various fields of telemedicine, telehealth, e-health, m-health, and digital health. The conference is held in collaboration with government agencies, private organizations, and national and international professional societies.
- The core theme of the Telemedicon 2022 is 'Strengthening Health Systems Through Sustainable Telemedicine and Digital Health'.

PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit to be held in Varanasi on 11 November

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to inaugurate the two-day PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit. The PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit will be held at the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul (Trade Centre and Museum) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The primary objective of the summit is to bring together greater awareness about the PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan with a focus on infrastructure development in the waterways.
- PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit is a transformative approach for improving logistics efficiency and reducing logistics costs to ensure first and last-mile connectivity.
- The Ministry has identified 101 projects estimated to cost around 62 thousand crore rupees under Gati Shakti which are aimed to be completed by 2024.
- PM Gati Shakti was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and aims to provide Multimodal connectivity Infrastructure to various special economic zones and enhance logistical efficiency.

PM Modi to gift Kullu shawl, Kanak brass set to world leaders at G20 Summit in Bali

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will gift the local artifacts made in Himachal Pradesh to the world leaders at the upcoming G20 Summit. The G20 Summit will take place in Indonesia's capital city, Bali. Himachal Pradesh is going to witness the assembly elections which are scheduled on .
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea behind this is to promote Himachal Pradesh's art and culture so that it travels in wide countries.
- PM Modi will hand over the local artifacts like Chamba Rumals, Kinnauri Shawl, Himachal Mukhate, Kangra Miniature Paintings, Kullu Shawl, and Kanak Brass Set to the World leaders.
- Prime Minister also unveiled the logo, theme, and website for India's Presidency of the G20.

India joins Mangrove Alliance for Climate at COP27 in Egypt

- The Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) is an intergovernmental alliance that seeks to expand and hasten the progress towards the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems. Its members include the UAE, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
- The alliance will raise global awareness about the role of mangroves as a nature-based climate change solution. It will ensure the rehabilitation of mangrove forests at the global level.
- India is among the first five countries to join the MAC, at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. The others are Australia, Japan, Spain, and Sri Lanka.
- The move is in line with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5- 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent, through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

NIIFL, JBIC join hands to promote and enhance Japanese investments in India

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to promote and enhance Japanese investments into India.
- The MoU outlines a partnership framework between NIIFL and JBIC which is considering the establishment of a bilateral India-Japan Fund (IJF). JBIC and the Government of India will invest in the India-Japan Fund,

which will make equity investments in environmental preservation and low carbon emission strategies,” said NIIFL.

- “In addition, JBIC will consider providing debt financing under their Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation (GREEN) initiative to investee companies of funds managed by NIIFL,” NIIFL added.
- “We are delighted to partner with JBIC for this initiative. The climate sector and the energy transition in India will offer significant opportunities for investment and the India-Japan Fund, which is expected to be operational early next year, will participate in these opportunities and promote collaboration between Indian and Japanese companies. Through this partnership we aim to support the economic and environmental cooperation between India and Japan, which should translate to increased investment by Japanese companies and investors into India,” said Chief Executive Officer, NIIFL.

India, Finland agree to explore new areas of cooperation

- India And Finland agree to carry mutual cooperation between the two countries to a new level and enhance partnership in areas such as digital partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between Finland’s Minister of Education and Culture Petri Honkonen and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh at North Block in New Delhi.
- He was accompanied by a high level delegation which later held a separate meeting with the Indian delegation in the presence of the two Ministers.
- Honkonen’s visit comes in the wake of the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin during a Summit meeting on 16 March last year.
- Minister Singh also reiterated India’s focus on collaboration even in Startups. He also recalled that following the signing of the joint declaration during the visit of Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland on 18th April 2022, both sides have initiated collaboration in Quantum Technologies. Indian side has already identified four premier institutes viz IISER, Pune, IIT Madras, TIFR Mumbai and C-DAC Pune to work with Finnish institutions on joint development of Quantum Computer.

LeadIT Summit 2022 hosted by India and Sweden at COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- India and Sweden hosted the LeadIT Summit, on the sidelines of COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. The Leadership for Industry Transition- LeadIT initiative focuses on low carbon transition of the hard to abate industrial sector.
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav emphasised that co-development is the only option to meet the targets that the world has taken for itself and without it, low carbon transition could be delayed by decades. He said, the low carbon transition of the industrial sector will not only contribute towards the reduction in required greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Minister said, it has several co-benefits that include increasing resilience to changes in climate, enhanced energy security, innovation, socio-economic development and job creation. He also highlighted that the current phase of LeadIT is set to conclude in 2023 and the next year is the time to reflect on the performance and achievements so far.
- The summit concluded with the adoption of the summit statement by the members of LeadIT which re-emphasized the commitment to continue pursuing the low-carbon transition of the industry. The members also committed to providing technical assistance to new members and emerging economies.

Official Launch of The Pandemic Fund at G20

- The G20 Presidency of Indonesia is hosting the official launch of the Pandemic Fund on the margins of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers’ Meeting in Bali, Indonesia in the presence of Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia.

- At the launch, the Pandemic Fund, now with new name and logo, will provide the latest progress the Governing Board has made since its establishment on September 8, 2022, to get operational – an important step toward strengthening global health architecture.
- Drawing on lessons from COVID-19, which exposed huge weaknesses and under investment in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR), particularly in low- and middle-income countries, the Pandemic Fund is intended to strengthen the capacity of these countries to mitigate the risks of future global health threats. It will provide a dedicated stream of long-term financing for PPR and address critical gaps through investments and technical support at the national, regional, and global levels. The Pandemic Fund is also expected to incentivize countries to prioritize this agenda and increase their own efforts.
- This is the first time the international community has come together around a funding mechanism dedicated to investing in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response in developing countries – a testament to multilateralism, said Dr. Chatib Basri, co-Chair of the Pandemic Fund Governing Board.

NCW launches Digital Shakti 4.0 for making women digitally skilled

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in cyberspace.
- Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- The Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand-up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.
- It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits.
- In line with its commitment to creating safe spaces for women and girls online, Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware of standing up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online. NCW launched it in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta, said by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs first session on 'Global Trends in Terrorist Financing and Terrorism' theme of the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the first session of the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on 'Global Trends in Terrorist Financing and Terrorism' theme in New Delhi today. In his opening address, the Union Home Minister said that terrorism is, undoubtedly, the most serious threat to global peace and security, but, the financing of terrorism is more dangerous than terrorism itself, because the 'Means and Methods' of terrorism are nurtured from such funding. Furthermore, the financing of terrorism weakens the economy of countries of the world.
- Shri Amit Shah said that India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that no reason can justify an act, such as taking innocent lives. While expressing his sympathy for the victims of terrorist attacks all over the world, he said that we should never compromise with this evil.
- Union Home Minister said that India has been a victim of terrorism for several decades, which is sponsored from across the border. He said that Indian security forces and civilians have had to deal with incidents of extremely serious terrorist violence perpetrated in a sustained and coordinated manner. Shri Shah said that the international community has a collective approach that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms, but, the forms and manifestations of terrorism are continuously evolving due to technological revolution.
- He said that today, terrorists and terrorist groups understand the nuances of modern weapons & information technology, and the dynamics of the cyber & financial space very well, and use them. He said that this transformation of terrorism from "Dynamite to Metaverse" and "AK-47 to Virtual Assets" is definitely a matter of concern for the countries of the world, and, we all have to work together to formulate a common strategy against it.

India launches official website of SCO for 2023-"For a SECURE SCO"

- India has launched the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as it will host the next SCO summit as a chairman of organisation in 2023. The website highlights the events that will be undertaken under the chairmanship of India next year.

- The theme of the event is “For a SECURE SCO”. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had floated the concept of SECURE at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China in 2018. Explaining the SECURE concept, the Prime Minister said ‘S’ for security for citizens, ‘E’ for economic development, ‘C’ for connectivity in the region, ‘U’ for unity, ‘R’ for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and ‘E’ for environment protection.
- India received the SCO rotating presidency in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. India will hold the presidency of the grouping for a year until September 2023.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his good wishes to India for hosting the 23rd edition of the summit next year. Apart from Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping also congratulated India on assuming the presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2023. “We will support India for its presidency next year,” Jinping stated at SCO Summit in Uzbekistan. Notably, India will take over the rotating annual chairmanship of the SCO, which is now held by Uzbekistan.

India, European Commission sign Intent of Cooperation pact on high-performance computing, quantum tech

- India’s Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT), European Commission signed an “Intent of Cooperation on High Performance Computing (HPC), Weather Extremes & Climate Modeling and Quantum Technologies”.
- The agreement builds on commitments by both sides for deepening technological cooperation on quantum and high-performance computing during the India-EU leaders meeting on May 8. “Moreover, the signing of the agreement assumes significance in the context of the decision to set up EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)” on April 25, an EU statement said.
- The agreement signed is aimed at facilitating collaboration on high performance computing applications using Indian and European supercomputers in areas such as bio-molecular medicines, Covid-19 therapeutics, mitigating climate change, predicting natural disasters and quantum computing, the statement said.
- MeitY secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma said high performance computing is tackling some of the world’s biggest challenges and the demand for such systems is increasing rapidly in various domains. Under this partnership, India and the EU will leverage expertise from both sides to optimise high performance computing towards developing advanced technology solutions in multiple fields.

India to set up e-office of Indian Ocean Rim Association secretariat

- India participated in the 22nd Council of Ministers’s meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held at Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.
- During his remarks, Mr. Singh reaffirmed the country’s strong commitment to strengthening IORA to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region as well as in the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted the country’s contributions as coordinator of the IORA priority areas of Disaster Risk Management and Science, Technology and Innovation towards capacity building and strengthening of IORA Secretariat.
- On the challenges posed by climate change, the Minister highlighted the initiatives of LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment and International Year of Millet in 2023.
- The COM adopted the ‘IORA’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific’ (IOIP) which would guide enhancement of IORA’s engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. India led the process of development of the IOIP. Dhaka Communique was adopted as the Outcome Document of the 22nd COM Meeting.

Union Health Ministry rolls out country’s first suicide prevention policy

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare unveiled the National Suicide Prevention Strategy — the first-of-its-kind policy formulated by the government to prevent suicides as a public health priority.
- According to the ministry, the policy that will set the stage for promotion of mental health and prevention of suicides in the coming decade.
- The goal of the strategy is to reduce suicide mortality in the country by 10 per cent by 2023. The strategy provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in the country.
- 1. it seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.

- 2. it seeks to establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years.
- 3. it aims to integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
- 4. is to strengthen surveillance of suicide and further generation of evidence through evaluation, that will ensure improvement in the programme quality.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Ex-ISRO chief K Sivan among 67 to get Rajyotsava Award

- Former ISRO Chairman K Sivan, actors Dattanna, Avinash and Sihi Kahi Chandru are among 67 personalities who will be awarded Rajyotsava Award this year, by the Karnataka government. The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a gold medal and a citation, will be distributed on November 1, the state formation day.
- This is the first time that the Karnataka government formed an expert committee to identify achievers from various fields for the awards given on November 1. Previously, the selection was made from a list of applicants. There has been criticism from some sections that awards are given to those with affiliations to the BJP and right-wing groups.
- The Rajyotsava Prashasti or Rajyotsava Awards, the second highest civilian honor of the Karnataka state of India are conferred annually by the Karnataka Government on the occasion of the establishment of the state on 1 November celebrated as the Kannada Rajyotsava.

63 personnel named for 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal 2022'

- 63 police officers from Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, and Jammu & Kashmir have been awarded the 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal' for the year 2022. The award was given by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for four special operations conducted by them in areas of terrorism, border actions, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling, and rescue operations.
- In total, 63 police officers have been awarded the special medal on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The officers belonged to Telangana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Delhi, and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The medals were awarded at the 'Run For Unity' event to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal' was constituted in 2018.

PM confers 'Friends of Liberation War Honour' posthumously on Edward M Kennedy Sr

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred the prestigious 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on former US Senator Edward M Kennedy posthumously in Dhaka for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh. The honour was handed over to his son Edward M Ted Kennedy Junior.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recalled the great contribution of Edward Kennedy Senior with gratitude. She said that Kennedy Senior took a bold stand against the genocide committed by Pakistan on innocent Bengali people despite the US government's role during the 1971 liberation war.
- Recalling the strong opposition mounted by Kennedy Senior against the US government policy of supplying arms to Pakistan, Prime Minister Hasina said that Kennedy worked hard to stop US military and economic aid to Pakistan till the end of the war. She recalled that Kennedy visited the refugee camps in West Bengal where a large number of people from the then East Pakistan had fled to escape from Pakistan army brutality.

Puneeth Rajkumar posthumously conferred 'Karnataka Ratna' award at rain-hit event

- The Karnataka government honored the late actor with the Karnataka Ratna award on . The late Kannada Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar's last film, Gandhada Gudi, was released on 28th October 2022. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, Puneeth Rajkumar's wife, received the state's highest civilian award on her husband's behalf.
- The event was also attended by Shiva Rajkumar, Appu's elder brother. Puneeth Rajkumar became the ninth recipient of the prestigious award with his posthumous honor. The award was presented by renowned actors Rajnikanth and Junior NTR, along with the Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murthy.
- Puneeth Rajkumar passed away on October 29, 2021, at the age of 46, after suffering a cardiac arrest. The news of his untimely death had sent shock waves across the country. The Sandalwood actor first starred in the 1976 film Premada Kanike as an infant. He was only six months old when he was cast in this thriller film, directed by V. Somashekar. After kickstarting his career as a child artist, he received a national award in 1985 for his performance in the film Bettada Hoovu.

Malayalam novelist Sethu chosen for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- Noted Malayalam fiction writer, Sethu (A. Sethumadhavan) has been selected for the Kerala government's prestigious 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram' this year in recognition of his overall contribution to the Malayalam language and literature. He focussed on modernising the literature by standing beyond the definitions of movements and trends.
- Apart from this, he was the recipient of several awards, including both from the Kendra Sahitya Akademi and the Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards, his well-known works include Pandavapuram, Kaimudrakal, Adayalangan, Kiratam, Araamathe Penkutty and Kilimozhikkalkkappuram. Several of his works have been translated into various Indian and foreign languages and also inspired several movies.
- A banker by profession, the 80-year-old's noted works include 'Pandavapuram' and 'Atayalangan' (novels) and 'Petiswapnangal' and 'Sethuvinte Kathakal' (short story). Sethu is also a recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award and the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for both novels and short stories.

French govt to honour Aruna Sairam with Chevalier award

- Carnatic vocalist, composer, collaborator, humanitarian and speaker, Aruna Sairam has been honoured with the French government's highest honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des award. Aruna Sairam has been selected for this award not just for her singing prowess, but also for her contribution towards the development of the Indo-France relationship.
- Aruna Sairam began her classical training under her mother, Rajalakshmi Sethuraman. She then became a disciple of legendary vocalist, Sangita Kalanidhi T. Brinda, thereby continuing an illustrious line of women singers of the Tanjore tradition for more than eight generations. Later, she was mentored by several other maestros of our country.
- Her music has erased geographical borders when she was the first to incorporate Abhang, a Western Indian musical form, into a traditional, South Indian concert. By interacting with national and international musicians, Aruna communicates beyond regional contexts, using melody as a language of human expression.

NSA Ajit Doval, late CDS Gen Rawat to be awarded with Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman

- The Uttarakhand government announced that this year's Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman would be given to National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, poet Prasoon Joshi, and three other individuals for their notable achievements. On November 9, the recipients will be honoured with the Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman.
- Every year, the government of Uttarakhand honours individuals with the Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman in recognition of their accomplishments in their various disciplines.
- Prasoon Joshi serves as the Central Board of Film Certification's chairperson.
- Films like Fanna, Bhag Milkha Bhag, Rang De Basanti, Taare Zameen Par, Black, and Delhi-6 among others have included writing by Prasoon Joshi.
- He has penned lyrics for other national initiatives, like the Dettol Swachh Abhiyan, Tata Jagriti Anthem, Poshan Anthem, etc.

International Kannadiga award for royal family's YKC Wadiyar

- Member of the erstwhile royal family, Yaduveer Krishnaraja Chamaraja (YKC) Wadiyar has been selected for the International Kannada Rathna award. It is presented annually by Dubai Kannadigas to mark Kannada Rajyothsava. The award will be presented to YKC Wadiyar during Vishwa Kannada Habba on November 19 at Sheikh Rashid Auditorium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in association with Kannadigaru Dubai Sangha as part of celebration of the 67th Kannada Rajyothsava. Besides, Vishwamanya Award would be presented to achievers in various fields.
- A decision to this effect was taken in a preparatory meeting on Vishwa Kannada Habba, chaired by the president of Namma Kundapura Kannada Balaga Gulf Sadanand Das, in Dubai recently. It was decided to present Karnataka Rathna Dr Puneeth Rajkumar Award, from this year to achievers in service in the Gulf nations, on behalf of Kannadigaru Dubai. The first award will be presented to Karnataka Sangha Bahrain.

National Fisheries Development Board Receives 'India Agribusiness Awards 2022'

- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, a vibrant organization under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India was one of the organisation to be awarded with "India Agribusiness Awards 2022" for the best Agribusiness Award under Fisheries Sector. During the event for commemorating the services & support extended to the fisheries sector by playing a crucial and exemplary role dedicated to the stakeholders for supporting various need-based projects for technology upgradation, species diversification in aquaculture, dissemination of new and improved fish varieties, promoting seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, training & capacity building etc.
- While Haryana has received the 'India Agribusiness Awards 2022' in the best state category for their contribution in the areas of agriculture.
- To bring a significant increase in fish production and productivity, improve the livelihoods of fishers, promote entrepreneurship opportunities in fisheries, employment generation, promote hygienic handling and marketing of fish and increase fish consumption.

UK: Indian-origin Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan awarded Royal Order Of Merit

- India-born Nobel laureate Professor Venki Ramakrishnan has been awarded the prestigious Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III in recognition of his distinguished service to science. The 70-year-old UK-based molecular biologist is among six appointments made to the historic order by the late Queen Elizabeth II before her death in September and the first to be appointed by Charles. The Order of Merit is an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign.
- Professor Venki was born in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu and studied biology in the US before moving to the UK where he is the Group Leader of the leading research hub MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge University.
- He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009 for his work on ribosomal structure and was knighted by the Queen in 2012. He was President of the UK's Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020.

Kerala Tourism Wins Responsible Tourism Global Award At London World Travel Mart

- The Kerala Tourism has bagged the prestigious Responsible Tourism Global award at the World Travel Mart held in London. State Tourism Minister PA Mohammed Rias received the award on behalf of the department at London. The award was given for the STREET project implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Kerala Government. The Jury made special remarks about the water street project implemented at Maravanthuruthu in Kottayam district.
- STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, and Tourism hubs, which was implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Government of Kerala on March 31, 2022. The STREET Project is an initiative that promotes water conservation and protection with public participation.
- Under the project, the deepening and cleaning of canals and other water bodies take place to promote tourism, as Kerala is famous for its backwaters and also preserve the water bodies to be maintained in good condition.

Shlok Mukherjee from Kolkata wins Doodle for Google contest 2022

- Google announces Shlok Mukherjee as the winner of the 2022 Doodle for Google competition. Shlok Mukherjee is from Kolkata and he was declared the winner for India for his inspiring Doodle titled 'India on the Centre State'. His doodle is also featured on Google.co.in on 1. Shlok Mukherjee has showcased India's scientific achievements and advancements through his doodle.
- The Doodle for Google contest has been held in India since 2009. In this competition, students from classes 1 to 10 can participate. The entries of the students are evaluated by Google executives and a jury panel consisting of industry leaders and creative thinkers.
- The theme for this year's Doodle for Google competition was 'In the next 25 years, My India will. Shlok Mukherjee received Rs 5,00,000 college scholarship, and a Rs 2,00,000 techno package for their school or nonprofit organization.
- He also got a trophy of achievement, Google hardware devices, and fun Google collectibles. For the 2022 Doodle for Google, the judging panel included Bollywood actress Neena Gupta, comic book editor, and stand-up comic Kuriakose Vaisian, social influencers and founders of Slayypoint, Abhyudaya Mohan, and Gautami Kawale, and Alika Bhatt, artist, teacher, YouTuber, Tedx speaker, and entrepreneur.

Rich haul for NMDC at PRCI Excellence Awards 2022

- National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) bagged the Champion of Champions Award, sweeping the 16th PRCI Global Communication Conclave 2022, to bring home fourteen Corporate Communication Excellence Awards. The awards were presented at the Global Communication Conclave organised by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in Kolkata.
- NMDC won Gold awards for Most Resilient Company of the Year; Internal Communication Campaign, Corporate Brochure; Best PSE Implementing CSR.
- It won Silver Awards in the categories of Best Use of CSR for Childcare; Corporate Community Impact; Best Corporate Event; Unique HR Initiatives; Annual Report; Arts, Culture & Sports Campaign
- It also won Bronze Awards for Visionary Leadership; Website of the Year; Innovative Environmental Program and Consolation Award for Best Use of Social Media.

NTPC Quality Control Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA received the "GOLD" award

- NTPC's QC Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA has won the "GOLD" award in the 47th International Convention on Quality Control Circle (ICQCC-2022). The convention is being held from 15th-18th November in Jakarta. The theme for ICQCC-2022 was "Built Back Better through Quality Efforts". NTPC QC Team presented on "Frequent Choking of Collecting tanks of AHP-IV".
- Shri Reyaz Ahamad (Facilitator), Shri Mahesh Chandra, Shri Virendra Kumar Yadav and Shri Laxmi Kant worked relentlessly towards providing unique, pragmatic, and quality solutions to the problem at hand.
- In March 2022, NTPC had been declared the "Dream Employer of the Year" at the 30th Session of the World HRD Congress. NTPC's efforts to create a future-ready workforce were recognized when NTPC was selected as a 2022 ATD BEST award winner by The Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA. The awards and recognitions are a testimony that people practices at NTPC are at par with the best companies in the world.

Dalai Lama receives Gandhi Mandela Award

- The 14th Dalai Lama was conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 at Thekchen Choeling in Dharamshala's McLeodGanj by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. The Tibetan spiritual leader, receiving the peace prize from the New Delhi-based Gandhi Mandela Foundation. The event was attended by former Chief Justice of India Justice KG Balakrishnan and former Supreme Court Justice Gyan Sudha Misra.
- This time, the awardee, Dalai Lama, was selected by a jury including former Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan and Justice Dipak Misra, former Supreme Court Judge Gyan Sudha Misra, former Chief Justice of Nepal Justice Kedarnath Upadhyay and former Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice MD Tafazzul Islam.
- The award is given to personalities who have carried forward the legacies of Gandhi and Mandela by making significant contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation.

Khalid Jawed's 'The Paradise of Food' wins the JCB Prize for Literature 2022

- Author Khalid Jawed's "The Paradise of Food", translated by Baran Farooqi from Urdu, won the fifth JCB Prize for Literature. The book, originally published as "Ne'mat Khana" in 2014, is the fourth translation to win the award and the first work in Urdu. "The Paradise of Food" tells the story of a middle-class joint Muslim family over a span of fifty years where the narrator struggles to find a place for himself, at odds in his home and the world outside.
- Jawed received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh along with a trophy, a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral and Tagra, "Mirror Melting". Baran Farooqi also received an additional Rs 10 lakh for the award. The winner was selected by a panel of five judges, consisting of journalist and editor AS Panneerselvan, author Amitabha Bagchi, author-academician Rakhee Balaram, translator-historian J Devika and author Janice Pariat.
- A shortlist like none other in the award's history, which only included translation, also featured International Booker-winning novel "Tomb of Sand" by Geetanjali Shree (translated from the Hindi by Daisy Rockwell) and "Imaan" by Manoranjan Byapari (translated from the Bengali by Arunava Sinha).

MoS for Education Subhash Sarkar confers National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22 in Akashwani Bhawan, New Delhi

- Thirty-nine schools from across the country have been awarded the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar for the 2021-22 academic session. Minister of State for Education Dr Subhash Sarkar conferred National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22 in New-Delhi.
- The schools selected from among the total 8.23 lakh entries are 28 government and aided while 11 are private schools. A total of 39 schools have been selected for the national award including 34 in the overall category and five in sub-categories by the national selection committee. The schools will get an award money of Rs 60,000 each. Besides, every school will get a certificate of participation showing the category-wise scores and overall rating of the school.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar has been instituted by Ministry Of Education to recognize, inspire and celebrate excellence in sanitation and hygiene practice in schools. The purpose of the SVP is to honor schools that have undertaken significant steps towards fulfilling the mandate of the Swachh Vidyalaya Campaign.

Urdu writer Khalid Jawed wins 2022 JCB Prize for Literature

- Author Khalid Jawed's "The Paradise of Food", translated by Baran Farooqi from Urdu, won the fifth JCB Prize for Literature. The book, originally published as "Ne'mat Khana" in 2014, is the fourth translation to win the award and the first work in Urdu. "The Paradise of Food" tells the story of a middle-class joint Muslim family over a span of fifty years where the narrator struggles to find a place for himself, at odds in his home and the world outside.
- Jawed received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh along with a trophy, a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral and Tagra, "Mirror Melting". Baran Farooqi also received an additional Rs 10 lakh for the award. The winner was selected by a panel of five judges, consisting of journalist and editor AS Panneerselvan, author Amitabha Bagchi, author-academician Rakhee Balaram, translator-historian J Devika and author Janice Pariat.
- A shortlist like none other in the award's history, which only included translation, also featured International Booker-winning novel "Tomb of Sand" by Geetanjali Shree (translated from the Hindi by Daisy Rockwell) and "Imaan" by Manoranjan Byapari (translated from the Bengali by Arunava Sinha).

Chiranjeevi named the India Film Personality of the Year 2022 at IFFI

- At the opening ceremony of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 award. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur announced that the Indian Film Personality of the Year award will be conferred upon megastar Chiranjeevi. In a career spanning nearly four decades, Chiranjeevi has acted in more than 150 films, primarily in the Telugu film industry.
- Chiranjeevi is a renowned Indian actor, film producer, philanthropist and politician who has predominantly worked in Telugu cinema. Actor Chiranjeevi has starred in over 150 films in his career. He has acted in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi movies. His debut with Punadhirallu in 1978 set the screen for him.
- In 2006, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for his contributions to Indian cinema and was presented with an honorary doctorate from Andhra University.

- In his four decade film career, Chiranjeevi has won the Andhra Pradesh state's highest film award, the Raghupathi Venkaiah Award, three Nandi Awards, and nine Filmfare Awards, Telugu.

Kathak exponent Dr Uma Sharma felicitated with 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award'

- Kathak exponent Dr. Uma Sharma has received the prestigious 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award' for Lifetime Achievement in recognition of her contribution in the field of Indian classical music and dance. She is a renowned classical dancer who has been awarded Padma Shri (1973) and Padma Bhushan (2001) for her unique contribution to the cultural tradition of this country. She received the award from former governor of Jammu and Kashmir Karan Singh and Sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan in a ceremony organized at Kamani Auditorium by Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (SBKK).
- For the last 11 years 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award' for Lifetime Achievement has been presented to honour eminent Artists who have made a lasting contribution to the field of Indian Classical Music & Dance.

Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, winner of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize 2022

- The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, for this 2022 Edition, has been given to Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong from Cameroon, President of the NGOs #AfroGiveness and Positive Youths Africa. The Prize is named after its benefactor, former Indian artist, writer and diplomat Madanjeet Singh (1924-2013) who was also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.
- Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, with 7-year experience as a journalist, strived to change the perception related to mental illness.
- With training in art therapy and psychology, she founded two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – AfroGiveness Movement and Positive Youths Africa (PYA).
- These two NGOs are peace education initiatives that aim to help traumatized survivors of interfaith and intercultural conflicts in African countries to heal using the universal language of the arts.
- They operate in nine African countries – Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and Togo.
- Through these NGOs, Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong is promoting tolerance and non-violence by reintegrating survivors from opposing sides of war and conflicts into their host communities.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Awarded for Atal Pension Yojana enrolment

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has bagged the national award from Pension Fund regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY). So far, the bank has enrolled 3,34,687 (cumulative) accounts under APY. During 2022-23, the bank enrolled 69,132 accounts against the target of 50,320.
- Notably: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is the regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India for overall supervision and regulation of pension in India.
- PFRDA has given a target of an average 80 accounts per branch, the bank has achieved an average of 110 accounts against the target. This achievement is highest among all other banks in South India. At present, the bank has 629 branches in the nine districts from Vijayapura to Mangaluru. KVGB is playing a pivotal role in implementing all the three social security schemes (PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY) launched by central Government. The bank's priority is to ensure access to social security benefits to villagers and people from unorganised sector.

NIIT Chairman and Founder Rajendra Singh Pawar honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by FICCI

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), felicitated Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman & Founder, NIIT with 'Lifetime Achievement Award 2022' at the 8th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards ceremony. The award recognises Pawar for his immense contribution and exemplary work in the field of education as well as creating the IT Training industry.
- The selection of Award was done by a high-level jury panel, Chaired by Dr R. A. Mashelkar, Indian National Research Professor and Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai and former Director General of CSIR.

- NIIT has played a key role in shaping the growth of the Indian IT sector, by creating skilled manpower to drive its momentum. Along with revolutionizing the IT Training industry, he is now also involved in establishing an innovative model in Higher Education through the not-for-profit NIIT University.
- For an outstanding contribution in his field, Pawar has been awarded the country's prestigious civilian honour, Padma Bhushan, by the President of India in 2011.

39 schools across country awarded Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar for 2021-22

- Thirty-nine schools from across the country were awarded the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar for the 2021-2022 academic session by the Ministry of Education. The schools were selected from among a total of 8.23 lakh entries. Out of which 28 were government and aided schools and 11 were private schools.
- The awarded schools include two Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, one Navodaya Vidyalaya, and three Kendriya Vidyalayas.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar honors the school that has taken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- It also provides a benchmark and roadmap for the schools to make further improvements.
- The schools are rated on six broad parameters of water, toilets, handwashing with soap, operation, and maintenance, behavioral change, and capacity building.

eGramSwaraj and Audit Online of Ministry of Panchayati Raj wins GOLD AWARD under the National Awards for e-Governance

- e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the GOLD AWARD under the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance.
- The award is a recognition of the excellent and exemplary work done by Team eGovernance and supported by Team NIC-MoPR. Various stakeholders, especially Panchayati Raj Institutions which adopted e-Panchayat applications very fast, have helped in making the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project successful by strengthening the Panchayati Raj System and making it effective, transparent and efficient.
- To strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched eGramSwaraj, a user friendly web-based portal. eGramSwaraj aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.

Film Bazaar concludes at IFFI in Goa; Bangladesh film 'Agantuk' wins Prasad DI award

- The 5-day long Film Bazaar concluded at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa with Bangladesh feature film 'Agantuk' being named the winner of the Prasad DI award. The Biplob Sarkar-directed movie was screened in the Viewing Room section, which presents Indian and South Asian films looking for film festivals, world sales, distribution partners and also finishing funds.
- From the Work in Progress (WIP) Lab section of Film Bazaar, the Kannada film 'Mithya' bagged the Prasad Post-production award, while the multilingual Nepali, Kumaoni, and Hindi film 'Bahadur' won the Moviebuff Appreciation Award.
- Two short movies, 'Perianayaki' by Bala Murali Shingade and Suchana Saha's animated film 'Priyo Ami', received the under the "Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR)" category. The French Institute Award by the French Embassy was given to 'Kissa - E - Circus' by Savita Singh which was showcased in the co-production market.

Team Purple's 'Dear Diary' Claims 75 Creative Minds Prize at IFFI

- Team Purple, with its newly minted "Dear Diary" was named the winner of the 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow talent campus, a segment of the International Film Festival of India. The winning film "Dear Diary" told a story of a woman who is forced to confront her past trauma when she meets with her sister, who wants to visit the same venue where her abuse previously took place. The films were judged by a three-member jury chaired by celebrated filmmaker Mani Ratnam along with CEO and Shorts TV founder Carter Pilcher and Armstrong Pame, deputy secretary (Films-I) at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The second edition of '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' at International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa concluded with the award ceremony of the "53-Hour Challenge". The competition provided a challenge to the 75 Creative Minds selected from all over the country to produce a short film on their idea of India@100, all in

53 hours. The event involved participants, aged between 18-35 years, who hailed from different aspects of filmmaking and from across India. Among their challenges was to work in five teams and produce a short film in the space of just 53 hours and on a budget of no more than \$1,000.

Union Minister Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan presents National Gopal Ratna Award

- Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairying Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan conferred the National Gopal Ratna Award to the farmers, Cooperatives, and technicians involved in Artificial Insemination for their exemplary contribution towards milk production in India.
- The award was conferred during the National Milk Day event at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. India is the highest milk producer with a 33 percent contribution to global production.
- There are 222 cooperatives in the countries with over 17 million farmers supplying milk. The National Milk Day was celebrated to commemorate the 101st birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, also known as the 'Father of White Revolution.'
- National Gopal Award is one of the highest National Awards in the livestock and dairy sector field. The National Gopal Ratna Award has an objective to recognize and encourage all individuals like farmers rearing indigenous animals. AI Technicians and Dairy cooperative societies, Milk Producer Companies, and Dairy Farmer's Producers Organizations working in this sector.

Sangeet Natak Akademi announces 128 winners of Akademi Puraskar

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi has announced 128 winners of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 for their significant contribution to the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional/folk/tribal music/dance/theatre, puppetry and contribution/scholarship in the performing arts. The General Council of the Akademi also announced 10 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows. While the winners of the Akademi Puruskar will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, Akademi fellows will get Rs 3 lakh each and both will also receive a tamrapatra and angavastram.
- Among the Akademi Fellows are Bharatnatyam exponent Saroja Vaidyanathan, Kerala-based Kathakali dancer Sadanam Krishnan Kutty, Manipuri dancer Darshana Jhaveri, Banaras-based Hindustani classical vocalist Chhannulal Mishra, Carnatic music clarinet player A.K.C Natarajan, Hindustani classical singer of Gwalior gharana Malini Rajurkar, two-time Grammy nominee and tabla maestro Swapan Chaudhuri and Cochin-based Hindustani and Carnatic music vocalist T. V. Gopalakrishnan, among others. With these 10 new Akademi Fellows, the tally of fellows has increased to 39.
- Apart from these, the Akademi has also announced the names of 86 artists from the field of the performing arts who have won the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), which commemorates 75 years of India's independence. These include artists above the age of 75 years who haven't been accorded any national honour in their career. These artists will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.
- Additionally, the Akademi also announced the names of 102 artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

RANKING

BPCL recognized as India's most sustainable Oil and Gas Company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices 2022

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has once again achieved the No.1 rank in the Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance in the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. This is the 3rd consecutive year that BPCL is at the top of the DJSI Indices in India having achieved a score of 65 percentage points, against an industry average score of 31 which is far better than last year's score of 59 against an industry average score of 39 on DJSI platform.
- This benchmarking is a complete assessment of economic, environmental and social criteria with a strong focus on long-term shareholder value.
- BPCL is creating a vibrant ecosystem for green energy transition and realize its aspirations for achieving Net-Zero emissions.

About Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Chairman: Arun Kumar Singh;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Founded: 1952.

Google buys Twitter-backed AI avatar startup Alter for \$100 mn: Report

- Tech giant Google has acquired Alter, an artificial intelligence (AI) avatar startup that was working on using AI to generate avatars for social media users and brands to express their virtual identity. According to TechCrunch, Google buys the startup for about \$100 million in an effort to improve its content game and compete with TikTok.
- The U.S. and Czech-headquartered, Alter started as Facemoji, a platform that offered plug-and-play technology for helping game and App developers add avatar systems to their Apps. Among its investors are Play Ventures, Roosh Ventures and Twitter, which invested \$3 million in the startup. Later Facemoji rebranded as Alter.
- According to several media reports, Google had acquired Alter, an AI Avatar Startup, two months back. However, they have not released any official statement regarding the same yet. Reportedly, some of the top executives of Alter have updated their LinkedIn profiles mentioning their collaboration with Google. However, they have not specifically hinted towards the acquisition. As per several media reports, a Google spokesperson has confirmed the acquisition of Alter by Google but has denied to unveil further details about the financial and transaction details.

Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab top 2020-21 Performing Grade Index

- Kerala, Maharashtra, and Punjab have topped the 2020-21 Performing Grade Index (PGI) that assesses school education at the district level, the Union education ministry said in a report on Thursday. Arunachal Pradesh emerged as the least performing in the seventh slot, the lowest allocated to any state this year.
- PGI analyses the school education on 70 indicators grouped under outcomes and governance management categories. The categories are further divided into domains of learning outcomes, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity, and governance. Scores of over 950 out of 1000 points come under the highest achievable level 1. The lowest grade is level 10 for scores below 551.
- Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Kerala topped PGI 2019-20. Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh have achieved level 2 (901 to 950 points) in PGI 2020-21. Kerala, Punjab, and Maharashtra have scored the highest 928 points.
- Chandigarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh scored 927, 903, 903, and 902 points. Like in previous years, no state made it to level 1.

Women attain just 74% of men's wealth at retirement; gender wealth gap in APAC largest in India at 64% : Report

- A new study revealed that India has the widest gender wealth gap (64%) as compared to other APAC countries. This is largely due to the higher burden of caregiving responsibilities. The 2022 WTW Global Gender Wealth Equity report found that opportunities for women in leadership positions are also limited, with only 3% of women in the workforce occupying senior positions in India.
- “Women also tend to assume childcare responsibilities at a young age for the region, resulting in financial impacts from which women have limited capacity to recover. Compounding this is that long term financial decisions generally rest with men and financial literacy for working women tends to be lower,” stated the report.
- South Korea has been found as the best performing country in the APAC region in terms of gender wealth gap. “In South Korea, the earnings limits embedded in social security benefits limit the accumulation of male relative to female wealth,” the report said. The report highlights that across the 12 markets in the APAC region, the gender wealth gaps ranges from 64 per cent in India to 90 per cent in South Korea.

India has cheapest manufacturing cost globally, bags 31st position: Report

- India has been ranked as the nation with the cheapest manufacturing cost ahead of China and Vietnam, according to a report. According to the US News and World Report, out of 85 nations, India has bagged the 31st position in the overall Best Countries ranking.
- The report evaluates 85 countries across 73 attributes. Attributes are grouped into 10 sub-categories, including adventure, agility, entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.
- Under the open for business sub-category, India has scored 100 per cent when it comes to cheap manufacturing costs. India featured at the 37th spot in the ‘Open for Business’ category. But in ‘favourable tax environment’, it has scored 16.2 out of 100; 18.1 in the ‘not corrupt’ category and 3.5 in ‘transparent government policies’.
- Similarly, under the ‘quality of life’ segment, India has scored 1.9 in ‘income equality’; 4.3 in ‘safe’; 2.3 in ‘well-developed public health system’; and 9.9 in ‘economically stable’ sub-parameter.

Eight warmest years on record witness upsurge in climate change impacts

- The global mean temperature in 2022 is estimated to be 1.15 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average, likely making the eight years from 2015 the warmest on record, the World Meteorological Organisation said in a report.
- The report titled ‘WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022’ released at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC stated that the rate of sea level rise has doubled since 1993 and has risen by nearly 10 mm since January 2020 to a new record high this year.
- The past two-and-a-half years account for 10 per cent of the overall rise in sea level since satellite measurements started nearly 30 years ago, the report stated. “The global mean temperature so far in 2022 has been 1.15 degree Celsius above the 1850-1900 average. If the current anomaly continues to the end of the year, the analysis would place 2022 as either the fifth or sixth warmest year on record (from 1850), and in each case marginally warmer than 2021. The eight years — 2015 to 2022 — are likely to be the eight warmest years on record,” the report read.
- Despite La Nina conditions keeping the global temperature low for the second consecutive year, this would make 2022 as either the fifth or sixth warmest year on record. The 10-year average for the period 2013-2022 is estimated to be 1.14 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline. This compares with 1.09 degrees Celsius from 2011 to 2020, as estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment report.

Reliance Industries among top 20 in Forbes' World's Best Employers rankings 2022

- According to Forbes' World's Finest Employers rankings 2022, Reliance Industries, the nation's largest corporation by revenues, profits, and market value, is India's best employer and the 20th best company to work for globally. Oil-to-telecom-to-retail conglomerate Reliance, with 2,30,000 employees, is ranked 20th – the highest-ranked Indian firm. It is ranked above Mercedes-Benz of Germany, US beverage maker Coca-Cola, Japanese auto giants Honda and Yamaha, and Saudi Aramco.

- The global ranking was topped by South Korean giant Samsung Electronics, followed by US giants Microsoft, IBM, Alphabet and Apple.
- US companies occupy rankings from 2nd to 12th, followed by German automaker BMW Group at 13th. The world's largest online retailer Amazon is ranked 14th in the list and French giant Decathlon is at 15th rank.
- There is no Indian company other than Reliance in the top 100. HDFC Bank is ranked 137th. Bajaj (173rd), Aditya Birla Group (240th), Hero Motocorp (333rd), Larsen & Toubro (354th), ICICI Bank (365th), HCL Technologies (455th), State Bank of India (499th), Adani Enterprises (547th) and Infosys (668th) are the other companies on the list.

FAO'S State of Food and Agriculture report 2022

- The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) is one of the annual flagship report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It provides comprehensive insights into the various issues related to the field of food and agriculture based on science-based assessment.
- The report assessed various drivers of agricultural automation, including the recently developed digital technologies.
- Based on 27 case studies, the report analyzed the business case for the adoption of these digital automation technologies across various agricultural production systems in the world.
- It identified various challenges that are preventing inclusive adoption of these technologies, especially by small-scale producers. It recognized two major barriers for their adoption – low digital literacy and lack of supportive infrastructure like connectivity and access to electricity.
- The report recommended policies that will enable disadvantaged groups to access the agricultural automation technologies, which will help in the creation of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

India ranks high in climate protection, bags 8th position in Climate Change Performance Index

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 released which was published by three environmental non-governmental organizations viz. Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International. India rose two spots to rank eighth out of 63 countries in the Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI). In the Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use categories, the country was rated “high”. In the Climate Policy and Renewable Energy categories, it earned a “medium” rating.
- The CCPI evaluates 59 countries and the European Union, which together generate over 90 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Using standardised criteria, the CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy. In 2022 and 2021, India stood in the 10th spot. In 2020, it ranked ninth on the list. Since signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, India has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). At the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, the country announced its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

Jal Jeevan Mission rankings: Several Uttar Pradesh districts excel, Shahjahanpur on top

- Shahjahanpur has become number one in the country in giving maximum number of tap connections in a month. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Shahjahanpur has created history in providing tap connections to every household in rural areas.
- According to the data given on the website of Jal Jeevan Mission, Bulandshahr, Bareilly, Mirzapur have also got a place in this survey. This achievement is being considered as a big leap in the matter of rural drinking water supply. In this survey, districts are selected across the country on the basis of the progress of the scheme.
- The names of Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr and Bareilly have been registered among the best performing districts of UP in October. In the ranking of districts, Shahjahanpur topped the best performing category by scoring 689990 marks. Bulandshahr is second by scoring 657180 marks and Bareilly is third in this category by scoring 619114 marks.
- In Jal Jeevan Survekshan-2023, districts across the country are selected in 5 categories. In four categories, the districts with 100 percent tap connections in a month as front runners, the districts with 75 to 100 percent tap connections as high achievers, the achievers category, the districts providing 50 to 75 percent tap connections as performers. And districts with 0 to 25 percent tap water are included in the aspirant category.

India climbs six places to 61st rank in network readiness index

- India has moved up by six slots to improve its position and rank 61st as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report prepared by a US-based Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute. In a statement issued by the Telecom Ministry, it was stated that India's overall score has improved to 51.19 in 2022 from 49.74 in 2021. The NRI 2022 report ranks a total of 131 economies that together account for about 95 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- According to the report, India ranked first in 'AI talent concentration,' second in 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country,' and third in 'Annual investment in telecommunication services,' fourth in 'ICT Services exports,' fifth in 'FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions,' and sixth in 'AI scientific publications.'
- While India's overall rank is 61st the country's rank among lower-middle-income countries is 3rd. In each of the 4 pillars of the score, India's score was higher than the average score in the group. On the other hand, India ranked 11th within the Asia and Pacific region.

Times Higher Education Employability Rankings: IIT Delhi in top 50

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has been placed at the 28th position in the Top 50 of Times Higher Education Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS). IIT Delhi is the only Indian institute to rank in the top 50. The varsity was ranked 27th last year.
- It is followed by IISc at rank 58 and IIT Bombay at rank 72. A total of seven Indian universities have ranked it in the top 250.
- Three US institutes have taken the top 3 positions including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, California Institute of Technology, and Harvard University, respectively.
- The University of Cambridge and Stanford University have retained their position of fourth and fifth, respectively.

PM Modi remains world's most popular leader with approval rating of 77 %

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 77 percent. This was revealed in a Global Leader Approval Ratings released by a US based consulting firm Morning Consult.
- The Indian PM is followed by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at 69 per cent and Australian PM Anthony Albanese at 56 per cent, on the second and third spots, respectively. US President Joe Biden and UK's new PM Rishi Sunak come lower down the list with approval ratings of 41 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively.
- While 19 per cent of those surveyed disapproved of PM Modi's leadership, the figure stood at 52 per cent and 46 per cent for Biden and Sunak, respectively. While higher approval ratings suggest that the people of the country believe that things in their country are going in the right direction, disapprovals suggest a perception that they have gone off on the wrong track.
- The latest approval ratings are based on data collected from 16th to 22nd of this month. It is based on a seven-day moving average of adult residents in each country, with sample sizes varying by country. In the earlier rating too, Prime Minister Modi had topped the ranking.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

“Delhi University – Celebrating 100 Glorious Years” authored by Hardeep Singh Puri

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India (GOI), Hardeep Singh Puri has authored a new book titled “DELHI UNIVERSITY: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years”. The Book is Published by Rupa Publications India. Amitabh Bachchan, Indian Actor, has written the foreword of the book. This Book Highlights the viewpoints of Universities most distinguished alumni and faculty of 15 contributors.
- Delhi University: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years is an eclectic collection of personal narratives and reflections of some of the University’s most distinguished alumni and faculty—Amitabh Bachchan, Kiren Rijju, Dinesh Singh, Meenakshi Gopinath, Shashi Tharoor, Bibek Debroy, Imtiaz Ali, Raian Karanjawala, Sanjeev Sanyal, Arnab Goswami, Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Lakshmi Puri, Namita Gokhale and Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Giriraj Singh unveiled a booklet on "Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development"

- Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh unveiled the booklet ‘Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development’. The ‘Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development’ booklet will provide information about all the schemes such as MGNREGA, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Awas Yojna- Grameen, PM Gram Sadak Yojna, etc. will be available to the representative and the general public.
- The ‘Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development’ book will be brought in regional languages soon.
- The Minister said that the booklet will be made available at each Gram Panchayat in the country.
- The book can form the basis for an informed discussion on the different schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development among members of the Gram Panchayats.

Book “Winning the Inner Battle” authored by Australian All-rounder Cricketer Shane Watson

- A new book titled “Winning the Inner Battle Bringing the best version of you to cricket” is authored by Shane Watson. This book will give you all of the information that you will ever need to deeply understand how to bring the best version of yourself every time your best performance is needed.
- Shane Watson is one of Australian cricket’s finest all-rounders, representing his country 298 times. Shane Watson’s new book, Winning the Inner Battle, which explores the mental side of the game through his own experiences of revitalising his career after he had considered retirement in 2015.

A Book nalanda until meet again launched by Ruskin Bond

- Gautam Borah, a senior management professional and the author of the widely acclaimed book ‘Monetising Innovation’, launches his new book ‘Nalanada – Until we meet again’ on November 13, 2022.
- The book was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond. With his new book, Gautam delivers a movie like experience that includes action, adventure, romance, passion, grit & intuition and mystery. The book will lead you to travel through all these in a jaw dropping race.
- ‘Nalanda- until we meet again’ is a gripping story of romance, vengeance, and an age-old mystery. It’s a story of Neil and Aanchal. Neil meets Aanchal at the iconic University of Oxford and they fall in love. Back in India, Aanchal joins an NGO and Neil a telecom company. Neil is propelled into a ruthless journey when he becomes a victim of corporate politics. Aanchal’s politician father charts a different path for her and she disappears.

Historian Simon Sebag Montefiore’s new book 'The World: A Family History' to release on November

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- British Historian Simon Sebag Montefiore has released a new book titled ‘The World: A Family History’. In ‘The World: A Family History’, Montefiore he tells how humanity evolved by the stories of different and famous families. The two-part book, which will be published by Hachette India, will tell the story of humankind in “a ground-breaking, single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve”.

- The begins with the story of a family some 9,50,000 years ago. In the coming pages, Montefiore takes the readers on an epic journey through the families that have shaped the world, including the Caesars, Medicis, Incas, Ottomans, Mughals, Bonapartes, Habsburgs, Zulus, Rothschilds, Rockefellers, Krupps and Churchills.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RIL Becomes First Indian Company to Post Earnings Call On Metaverse

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) posted the proceedings of its Q2 FY 2022-23 earnings call on the metaverse. This is the first time in the history of corporate India that a company has used metaverse to engage with its stakeholders.
- The RIL metaverse was produced in partnership with GMetri, a no-code metaverse creation platform. One doesn't need to wear an AR/VR headgear to access it. Using it, analysts across the world tracking the company can toggle with slides and graphics placed on different screens as per the multiple buckets in the results presentation. They can also download the RIL Q2 22-23 media release and the transcript of the media and analyst call in PDF formats.
- The RIL metaverse also has a special section comprising quotations from RIL Chairman and Managing Director, Mukesh Ambani.
- Instead of sitting at the game console and watching the game unfold on the screen, what if you can participate as the player inside the game? What if you sitting in Delhi can take dinner with your family living in Mumbai at a restaurant table located in Kolkatta? Yes, the metaverse is a virtual world where people interact via their digital avatars.

Gi technology: RBI Revokes Authorisation Certificate of Chennai-Based GI Technology

- The Reserve Bank has revoked certificate of authorisation of Chennai-based GI Technology Private Limited over governance concerns in the company. The company is in business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- Governance concerns and non-compliance with regulatory requirements" are the reasons for revocation of Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), the central bank said in a statement. Following the revocation of the CoA, GI Technology cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments, it said. Following the revocation of the CoA, GI Technology cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments, it said. However, customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on the company as PSO, can approach the company for settlement of their claims, the Reserve Bank added.
- The Reserve Bank of India, in the exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 8 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, has revoked the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of the Chennai-based GI Technology Private Limited over governance concerns in the company.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) previously informed that it has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of two Payment System Operators (PSOs): Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services. The authorisation was cancelled for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

RBI to launch pilot project of digital rupee in wholesale segment

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) will launch the pilot project of Digital Rupee in the wholesale segment today. Digital Rupee will be used for settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities. In a statement, RBI said that use of E-Rupee is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient. Settlement in central bank money will reduce transaction costs by pre-empting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk.
- RBI said that based on the learnings from this pilot, other wholesale transactions, and cross-border payments will be the focus of future pilots. Nine banks - State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank and HSBC have been identified for

participation in the pilot. The first pilot use of Digital Rupee in the retail segment is planned for launch within a month in select locations in closed user groups comprising customers and merchants.

HDFC ERGO launches first of its kind arm yield insurance policy

- HDFC ERGO on Monday announced the launch of a technology backed farm yield insurance policy for farmers.
- "This is a first-of-its-kind insurance solution, where a satellite-based index will be used to provide localized farm level coverage. It will provide comprehensive cover across the crop life cycle from sowing to harvesting, basis satellite-based data," the company said in a press release.
- The product is targeted at farmers under corporate/farm input company (FIC) contracts and is valid for food, oilseed, commercial or horticulture crops.
- "A threshold Index value is calculated for every yield by using the historical satellite imaging data of the specific crop and a remote sensing mechanism available in the public domain. The threshold/benchmark index will be then compared with the actual index value arrived at by the reference satellite for the insured crop, to determine if the yield is at loss," the company added.

UPI Transactions rise 7.7% To 730 Cr in October

- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) using Unified Payments Interface BHIM-UPI recorded a new high, transactions rose by 7.7 per cent in October to 730 crore (7.3 Billion). The total value for the month stood at more than ₹12.11 lakh crore. In September, UPI transactions stood at 678 crore with a total value of ₹11.16 lakh crore.
- The number of instant interbank fund transfer through IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) in October stood at 48.25 crore and the value was at Rs 4.66 lakh crore. In terms of transactions, it was higher by 4.3 per cent compared to September, according to the monthly data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) released.
- The NETC FASTag, which facilitates automatic toll collection at NHAI's toll booths across the country, registered a 9.3 per cent growth in the number of transactions compared to 28.3 crore in September. The corresponding value of transactions stood at Rs 4,451.87 crore in October as against Rs 4,244.76 crore in September.

Indian Exim Bank inks pact with Southern Africa's leading bank to boost India-Africa trade

- Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) has concluded a Master Risk Participation Agreement for supporting trade transactions with FirstRand Bank (FRB) Limited. The agreement was signed in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the India – Southern Africa Regional Conclave.
- Africa has positioned itself as a key partner in the global arena, a global investment and trading hub, a US\$ 2.2 trillion market and a population base of over 1 billion, Africa offers a great market potential.
- With a largest arable landmass in the world, housing 30% of global minerals reserves, and 8% of the world's oil reserves, the continent offers promising long-term sustainable growth prospects which would be further enhanced by deeper integration of Africa into the global economy.
- In fact, in the coming years, Africa is to benefit from strong fundamentals including a young and growing population, the world's fastest urbanization rate, and accelerating technological change.
- The continent's young population with a growing labour force is a highly valuable asset in an ageing world. By 2034, Africa is expected to have the world's largest working-age population of 1.1 billion.
- Urbanisation is a common feature of most economies in Africa, according to estimates, an addition of 187 million Africans are expected to live in cities.

Centre 'doubles' fertilizer subsidy as prices see a surge

- To insulate farmers from the sharp increases in the prices, the Centre announced a doubling of fertiliser subsidy to Rs 2.15 trillion from the budgeted level for FY23. The move was necessitated by a sharp spike in global prices of urea, DAP and MoP in the last one year.
- "Despite rising fertiliser prices globally, we have protected our farmers from such price hikes. In addition to the fertiliser subsidy of Rs 1.05 trillion in the Budget, an additional amount of Rs 1.10 trillion is being provided to further cushion our farmers," the Finance Minister said.

- The Centre said the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the kharif season (April-September, 2022) will be Rs 60,939 crore, as against Rs 57,150 crore for the whole of last year. These soil nutrients are largely imported.
- The budget outgo on fertiliser subsidy was at Rs 1.6 trillion in FY22. Retail prices of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers, including DAP were 'decontrolled' in 2010 with the introduction of a 'fixed-subsidy' regime as part of NBS mechanism. However, the subsidy on DAP saw an increase to 60% of cost in FY22, from a little over 30% previously.
- According to fertiliser ministry data, imported urea prices have risen by more than 145% to \$930 a tonne in April 2022 from \$380 a tonne a year ago. Similarly, prices of DAP and MoP have risen by 66% and 116% to \$924 a tonne and \$590 a tonne in April 2022, respectively, compared to the year-ago period.

India Post Payments Bank conducts India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India, conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called 'Niveshak Didi' to promote Financial Literacy 'By the women, for the women', in Srinagar, J&K today.
- India, being a large & growing economy, still finds it challenging to spread financial literacy across demography, as an enormous share of population still resides in rural areas. IPPB created a new legacy with the help of world's largest postal network to extend its reach to the last mile and bridge financial inclusion gaps.
- In a pursuit to carry the GoI mandate, IPPB initiated Financial Inclusion journey to resurgent rural India where reach and communication always remained a barrier. Right from the inception, Postmen/ Gramin Dak Sevaks have been reaching out to the masses in every corner of the country, offering digital banking services at their doorsteps.
- To take the Financial Literacy drive ahead, IPPB, in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), launched the initiative called 'Niveshak Didi' to promote Financial Literacy "By the women, for the women" concept. 'Niveshak Didi' initiative is based on the ideology of women for women as rural area women feel more comfortable to share their queries with a female itself.
- Three representatives 'Niveshak Didi' from the Kashmir valley were given certificates during the recent IEPFA Conference in Srinagar, J&K, by the Union Minister of State for Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh and the Member of Parliament (Srinagar), Dr. Farooq Abdullah along with Smt. Anita Shah Akella, CEO IEPFA & JS MCA & other dignitaries from IEPFA, Department of Posts, India Post Payments Bank, CSC e-governance, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Central Reserve Police Force.

India's foreign exchange reserves finally jump by \$6.56 billion to snap two weeks of fall

- India's foreign exchange reserves logged their biggest weekly jump since September 2021 and also rose for the first time in three weeks for the week ended October 28, helped by gains in both foreign currency assets and gold reserves. The foreign exchange reserves of Asia's third largest economy rose by \$6.56 billion to \$531.08 billion for the week ending Oct 28, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, rose by \$5.77 billion to \$470.84 billion in the reporting week. Even gold reserves increased by \$556 million to \$37.76 billion.
- Experts said the surge in the reserves during the reporting week was on account of valuation gains arising out of depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies.
- The US Dollar Index (DXY) has fallen from around 112 at the beginning of October to around 111 at the end of the month. The index is a measure of the value of the greenback against six major currencies — the Euro, UK Pound, Canadian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Swedish Kroner and Swiss Franc.

SBI records highest ever quarterly profit with 74% jump in Q2

- State Bank of India reported 74 per cent year-on-year increase in net profit at ₹13,265 crore for quarter ended September, buoyed by robust loan sales, higher interest income and lower provisions. This marks the highest ever quarterly net profit posted by the bank.
- The bank's net interest income rose by 13 per cent to ₹35,183 crore, while its operating profit expanded to ₹21,120 crore, up 17 per cent year-on-year. Robust growth in advances at ₹30,35,071 crore, up 20 per cent year-on-year boosted the bank's financials in the September quarter.
- The bank's gross non-performing assets (NPA) at 4 per cent or ₹1,06,804 crore and net NPA at 0.8 per cent or ₹23,572 crore was at decadal best levels. Slippages or accounts which turned bad during the quarter at ₹2,399 crore almost halved from year-ago level, while credit cost eased to 0.28 per cent in Q2. Provisioning cost during the quarter was ₹2,011 crore, down 25 per cent year-on-year. An improvement in asset quality and robust loan growth took bank's return on assets and return on equity to a 20-year best levels of 0.76 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 14 per cent and its common tier-1 capital was 10 per cent in Q2.

GoI appointed non-executive Chairman in four Public Sector Banks

- Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank are the four banks where Non-executive Chairman has been appointed on their Boards. The approval is given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Vijay Srirangam has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Canara Bank for three years.
- K G Ananthakrishnan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab National Bank for a term of three years.
- Srinivasan Varadarajan has been appointed as part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Union Bank of India for a term of three years, according to an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training.
- The Centre has also appointed Charan Singh as a part-time Non-Official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank for a term of two years.

GreenCell Express secures \$40 million loan from ADB to produce 255 e-buses

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$40 million financing package with GreenCell Express Private Limited (GEPL) to develop 255 electric battery-powered buses (e-buses) to serve 5 million people a year on 56 intercity routes in India and enhance the safety of passengers, especially women, through improved security features including panic buttons connected to command controls for immediate response.
- The financial package comprises \$20.5 million loan (in equivalent Indian rupee) from ADB's ordinary capital resources, ADB's administration of a \$14 million loan from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), grants worth \$325,000 from the CTF and \$5.2 million from Goldman Sachs and Bloomberg's the Climate Innovation and Development Fund (CIDF).
- ADB also assisted in mobilizing an additional parallel loan of \$20.5 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- "Decarbonization of public transport in India is essential for the country to reach its net-zero climate commitments, and it's important to ensure safety and security of women passengers to make travel more inclusive," said ADB Private Sector Operations Department Director General Suzanne Gaboury.
- "By providing safe transport for women, these intercity buses will enhance their ability to participate in economic and livelihood opportunities," "Electrifying transportation is a key driver of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our cities.
- GEPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of GreenCell Mobility Private Limited (GreenCell), a platform company of Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF). GGEF is an Indian alternative investment fund in India managed by EverSource Capital with a mandate to mobilize institutional capital into green infrastructure in India.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency signs MoU with SIDBI to finance green MSMEs

- The government body for energy efficiency Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for MSMEs.
- The MoU will aim to promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs and explore the internet of things (IoT)-based solutions, greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders, etc., BEE said.
- To encourage MSME units to undertake energy saving investments in plant and machinery to reduce energy consumption, enhance energy efficiency, reduce CO₂ emissions, and improve the profitability of the units in the long run.
- SIDBI announced partnerships with multiple stakeholders to help MSMEs become more energy efficient in their operations to support India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 targets. SIDBI had signed MoUs with German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH for operating a Risk Sharing Facility (RSF) that provides credit guarantees to loans from commercial banks or non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

SBI commits to finance 1000 entrepreneurs in Nagaland through partnership with Business Association

- The State Bank of India (SBI) in collaboration with the Business Association of Nagas (BAN) has decided to help 1000 entrepreneurs with financing.
 - An MoU has been signed between the two parties to facilitate ease of doing business and finance MSMEs of Naga entrepreneurs in the state, reported Eastern Mirror.
 - The NIIIE trade fair culminated positive impact with huge promise and commitment to finance 1000 entrepreneurs through the iconic signing of an MOU between SBI and BAN, which will bring hope and huge respite to the genuine entrepreneurs of the state.
- BAN will facilitate the identification, and preparation of MSME through project screening

Central bank digital currency could end RBI-ESMA row

- The deadlock between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA) over the inspection of Indian financing clearing houses may be broken by a new-age product – the central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- European lenders such as HSBC, Deutsche, Standard Chartered, Barclays and make up anything between 15% and 25% of the trades in the so-called negotiated dealing system order matching segment (NDS-OM) run by the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL), which is one of the central counterparties for settlement of trades.
- “The RBI does not want any foreign agencies inspecting entities regulated by it, which is a fair point. But in the current situation where it has been implemented the world over, it is difficult to make an exception here,” said a senior banking executive. “India needs these institutions here more and not complying with these norms will mean an unsustainable capital charge on banks, which could force them to pull out of the country.”

Per capita income rose in real terms by 33.4 per cent: Centre

- Per capita income of population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.
- The Union government said this rise in per capita income of people has taken a large number of households to higher income class.
- “During last eight years, since the enactment of NFSA, per capita income of the population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent. The rise in per capita income of people is bound to have taken a large number of households to higher income class and they may not be as vulnerable as they were in 2013-14,” the Centre said.
- Referring to the increase in per capita income, the Centre said the upper limit of 75 per cent for rural and 50 per cent for urban population who were considered vulnerable in 2013-14, would have gone down considerably.

- “Non-exclusion of non-eligible households in NFSA increases the subsidy burden on the Union government,” it said.
- The Union government also informed the top court that about 4.7 crore ration cards have been added in the last eight years under NFSA.

Bank of Maharashtra tops list of PSU lenders in credit growth in Q2 FY23

- The second quarter of 2022–23 saw the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) outperform other public sector lenders in terms of percentage loan growth. According to public sector bank issued quarterly data, the lender saw a 28.62 percent increase in gross advances at the end of September 2022, totaling Rs 1,48,216 crore.
- Union Bank Of India came in second with an increase of 21.54 percent to Rs 7,52,469 crore. The largest lender in the nation, State Bank of India, took third place with an 18.15% increase in gross advances.
- However, SBI's total loans were almost 17 times higher at Rs 25,47,390 crore as compared to Rs 1,48,216 crore of BoM in absolute terms.
- BoM had the highest increase of 22.31 percent in Retail-Agriculture-MSME (RAM) loans during the reviewed period, followed by Bank of Baroda with 19.53 percent and SBI with 16.51 percent.
- BoM led the list for low-cost Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits with 56.27 percent, followed by Central Bank of India at 50.99 percent.

Union Bank of India rings 104th Foundation Day with launch of Vyom App - Elets BFSI

- The country's fifth largest public sector bank, Union Bank of India, marked its 104th foundation day on 11 November 2022, after being founded on 11 November 1919 and having its first head office inaugurated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. On this occasion, the bank introduced a super app called Union Vyom, as well as several other digital products.
- Union Vyom App, the bank's super app, is a one-stop shop for all financial goods. The Vyom app is equipped to provide consumers with a one-of-a-kind banking experience in which they may conduct transactions that go beyond traditional banking. Aside from online transactions, customers can obtain Retail, MSME loan, credit card, invest in 5000+ mutual fund schemes, and purchase insurance goods without requiring any assistance. The app is also enabled with lifestyle category products such as booking of flights, hotels, gift cards, cabs, donations & much more.

India's Industrial Output Jumps 3.1% In September Vs 0.8% Fall In August: Official Data

- India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 3.1 per cent in September, supported by a double-digit increase in electricity generation. This is compared with a contraction of 0.8 per cent in the previous month and a growth of 4.4 per cent in September 2021.
- According to the latest data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the country's industrial production during April-September 2022 jumped 7 per cent, compared with 23.8 per cent in the year-ago period.
- India's electricity sector output grew in double-digits at 11.6 per cent year-on-year to 187.4 on the IIP in September, mining saw a 4.6 per cent jump to 99.5, and manufacturing posted a 1.8 per cent rise to 134.3, according to the official data.
- “For the month of September 2022, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 133.5 The Indices of Industrial Production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for the month of September 2022 stand at 99.5, 134.3 and 187.4 respectively. These quick estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP”.

Retail inflation eases to 6.77% in October, lowest in three months

- India's retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to a three-month low of 6.77% in October, down from 7.41% in September, due to weaker food price rises and a strong year-on-year base.
- This is the 10th consecutive time that the CPI print has come above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper margin of 6%. The RBI's tolerance band is 2-6%. The Central Government has mandated the RBI to maintain retail inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side for a five-year period ending March 2026.

- The overall food inflation, which accounts for nearly half the CPI basket, came in at 7.01% in October as against 8.60% in the preceding month.
- “The dip in the CPI inflation to a sub-7% reading in October 2022 has offered relief, with the print only marginally exceeding expectations (6.7%) and recording a healthy sequential moderation from 7.4% in the previous month,” said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.
- “A favourable base effect and a sequential downtick in the prices of fruits and oils and fats helped to cool food and beverages inflation to 7.0% in October 2022, in spite of the impact of the unseasonal rainfall on vegetables,” Nayar stated.

Reliance bags ₹1,424cr contract to develop India's first Multi Modal Logistics Park in Chennai

- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A crucial cog in the Centre's logistics overhaul, the MMLP will be spread over 184 acres and cost Rs 1,424 crore. The project will get adequate connecting infrastructure support through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed between central and state agencies. RIL emerged as the winning bidder for the public-private-partnership (PPP) project, with its own investment pegged at Rs 783 crore. The Centre expects the first phase of the project to be completed in two years.
- The project would likely be monitored by the highest levels of the government, as it falls under the high-priority list of projects inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Centre's project monitoring system. Moreover, it is one of the several flagship projects announced under the Bharatmala Project of MoRTH, which envisions the building of 35 such MMLPs.
- The Centre plans to build 15 of these within the next two years. Under the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM-GatiShakti, it wants to bring down logistics costs to under 10 per cent of the GDP in a bid to make exports competitive and supply chains more efficient.

5G expected to power up to 2% of GDP by 2030: Report

- The launch of 5G services will strengthen India's position as an economic and technology powerhouse globally and is expected to boost 2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), amounting to approximately \$180 billion by 2030, according to a new report by industry body Nasscom.
- The report titled, “5G — Unfolding India's era of digital convergence” was released on the side lines of Nasscom Tech Innovation Conclave (NTIC) 2022, added that “5G is expected to create new value through hyper-connectivity and become a catalyst for digital transformation across industries”.
- “For India, 5G provides an opportunity for industries to augment the pace of digitisation at the grassroots level and for consumers to gain with economies of scale,” said Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom. However, she said that “achieving this will require effective ecosystem collaboration between telcos, OEMs, infrastructure companies, and the government to increase consumer adoption and market readiness to unlock large-scale benefits of 5G”.
- Sectors such as healthcare, energy and utilities, manufacturing, and retail are expected to benefit the most from large-scale 5G adoption. For example, certain aspects such as adequate infrastructure upgradation and fiberisation for 5G deployment, along with network densification need to be addressed to realise the utmost benefit of the technology across industries, the report noted.

RBI shortlists five banks to work on its digital currency pilot project

- State bank Of India(SBI), ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank are among a shortlist of at least five lenders that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has roped in to work on the retail pilot project of the central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- The report said, citing people familiar with the matter, that the Reserve Bank of India could add more banks to run the pilot, which is expected to launch soon. “Five banks have been shortlisted to run the pilot along with the help of NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) and RBI. Some customer and merchant accounts will be chosen to roll out the retail digital rupee pilot soon,”
- The RBI is working on two fronts to test the central bank digital currency (CBDC): one for the wholesale market, for which a pilot project is already underway, and the other for retail (CBDC-R).

- The central banker is also weighing whether to build a new framework for its digital currency or make retail CBDC interoperable with the current digital payments system.

SBI gets Euro 150 mn loan from German KfW for solar projects

- State Bank of India has signed a 150 million euro (Rs 1,240 crore) loan agreement with the German development bank KfW for funding solar projects.
- The long-term loan, under the Indo-German solar partnership, will facilitate new and upcoming capacities in the solar sector and further contribute to the country's goals announced during the COP26.
- In 2015, New Delhi and Berlin had signed a memorandum of understanding to foster solar energy through technical as well as financial cooperation. Through this agreement, Germany had expressed its willingness to provide the concessional loans to India in the range of 1 billion euros through KfW.
- The successful closure of the phase-1 under the solar partnership- promotion of solar/PV between SBI and KfW, paves the way for the current phase-2 in our partnership with this German lender, Ashwini Tewari, a managing director at SBI said. With this facility, he added, the bank has taken another step towards sustainable financing arrangements for meeting the nation's renewable capacity goals and upholding environmental and social standards.

Wipro to set up European Works Council for employees

- IT company Wipro has reached an agreement with employee representatives on setting up a European Works Council, the company said. The creation of Wipro's EWC is the first to be established by an Indian headquartered company.
- Senior vice president & CHRO, Wipro Europe stated: "Setting up the EWC strengthens the already successful cooperation with employee representations in many European countries. Wipro aims to provide the best employee experience and create an inclusive environment that welcomes everyone and nurtures an overall sense of belonging. The EWC will help us in getting even better as we assimilate employee perspectives on a consistent basis. It also demonstrates that Wipro is applying and adopting European employment standards as a responsible global employer."
- Wipro's EWC is the first to be established by an Indian headquartered company, and builds upon a number of years of successful, constructive working with Works Councils at local and national level across several European countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Finland. The creation of an EWC follows a request by employees under an EU directive establishing the opportunity in companies with more than 1,000 employees across multiple European locations. Wipro's EWC agreement was successfully negotiated with employee representatives from 13 different countries.

Maximum tenure of PSU banks' MD and CEO raised to 10 years

- Government has decided to provide longer tenure to Managing Director and other whole-time directors of the public sector banks. Now the appointment can be made initially for up to 5 years, which can be extended for the 5 more years.
- The amendment would be called Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022.
- Earlier, the MD or executive director of a public sector undertaking (PSU) bank was eligible for a maximum tenure of 5 years or 60 years whichever was earlier. This is also applicable for whole-time directors of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). Now, The term for the appointment has been extended to 10 years, from the earlier 5 years, subject to superannuation age of 60 years, as per government notification of 17 November.
- A whole-time director, including the managing director, shall devote his whole time to the affairs of the nationalised bank and shall hold office for such initial term not exceeding five years and extendable up to a total period, including the initial term, not exceeding 10 years, as the central government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, specify and shall be eligible for re-appointment," the notification said.

Goldman Sachs sees India's growth slowing next year, cuts GDP forecast

- Goldman Sachs Group Inc. sees India's economic growth slowing next year, citing a hit to consumer demand from higher borrowing costs and fading benefits from pandemic reopening, while lowering its growth

forecast. Gross domestic product (GDP) may expand by 5.9% in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.9% this year.

- “Growth will likely be a tale of two halves, with a slower first half as the reopening boost fades, and monetary tightening weighs on domestic demand. In the second half, growth is likely to re-accelerate as global growth recovers, drag from net exports diminishes, and investment cycle picks up”.
- India’s export growth fell sharply in October. It contracted 16.7% annually from 4.8% growth. September. This indicates a decrease in global demand.
- India’s exports saw a contraction for the first time in the post-pandemic phase and the last time exports contracted was back in February 2021. “We expect weakening exports to have important implications for India’s growth. The consistent slowdown across months in core import growth and weak industrial output data suggest that domestic growth momentum peaked in Q2”.

Airtel Payments Bank rolls-out e-KYC based on face authentication

- Airtel Payments Bank introduces a new option, Face authentication-based electronic KYC. Previously a user had to link his Aadhaar card to his account before completing OTP verification or biometric fingerprint authentication.
- However, now you need to verify your face to register an account. Recently, a mobile application for authentication was created by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Now, business correspondents will only need a smartphone or a document to open an account.
- According to Anubrata Biswas, MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank, the KYC capability employs the Face Authentication RD program, which is based on AI/ML.
- It will help prevent fraud by matching the person’s photo to the image recorded in Aadhaar and enabling secure user onboarding.

ICICI Bank surges on launching two new products for NRI customers at GIFT City branch

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank has launched two new products – loan against deposits (LAD) and dollar bonds – for non-resident Indians at its GIFT City branch in Gujarat. The bank is the first to offer these products in GIFT City.
- Loan against Deposits (LAD): LAD resembles a loan in foreign currency against a deposit in India (including Rupee NRE FDs). The customers can avail LAD for their short-term cash requirement without having to prematurely close their Term Deposits and thereby avoid paying a penalty for breaking the deposit. They can avail up to 95%* of their deposit value. With a simple documentation process, customers can get flexible tenure with fixed or floating interest rates.

RBI report says, Indian economy on track and likely to grow at 7% in 2022-23

- The seventh edition of the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22 is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Which seeks to provide comprehensive data about the regional economies of India.
- It covers sub-national statistics on socio-demographics, state domestic product, agriculture, price and wages, industry, infrastructure, banking, and fiscal indicators across the states during various time periods ranging from 1951 to 2021-22. Two new sections have been included in the recent edition – health and environment.
- The Indian economy showed remarkable resilience to multiple consecutive shocks it experienced since early 2020. It retained the macroeconomic stability and sustained the momentum of economic growth’s recovery.
- The macroeconomic outlook is positive in the current fiscal. However, India is still impacted by global headwinds.
- Karnataka has the highest total installed capacity of grid-interactive renewable power among all states. It had total installed capacity of 15,463 megawatts (MW).

Ayush market has reached 18 billion US dollar mark: Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal

- Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal informed that AYUSH has grown by 17 percent in 2014-20 to reach US dollars 18.1 billion. The Minister was speaking at the inauguration of ‘AYUR-UDYAMAH’ at New Delhi, where he also released the RIS report titled ‘AYUSH Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges’.

- On the occasion, the All-India Institute of Ayurveda – Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA ICAINE) the first-of-its-kind incubation center under the Ministry of Ayush to promote Start-ups was also launched.
- AIIA ICAINE was launched by the Union Minister of Food and Processing Industries Shri Pashupati Paras Ji.
- As per the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) report, despite a slump in economic activity in 2020 due to the pandemic, the industry is projected to reach US\$ 20.6 billion in 2021 and US\$ 23.3 billion in 2022.

India's CAD pegged at 3-3.2% of GDP in FY23: CEA V Anantha Nageswaran

- Robust domestic economic activity and an uptick in oil import bills, India's current account deficit is expected to be 3-3.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for FY23, according to Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran.
- India's current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2021-22, against a surplus of 0.9 per cent in 2020-21.
- The Reserve Bank of India expects CAD to have widened modestly in the first half (April-September 2022) but shrink in the second half (October 2022-March 2023). Overall, CAD is expected to be under 3 per cent of GDP for FY23.
- CEA Nageswaran said India's annual import cover remains quite comfortable and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) does not consider India's external sector to be in a zone of vulnerability.
- According to the RBI's assessment (in the state of economy report), India's foreign exchange reserves at \$ 530.0 billion, as on November 4, covered 8.6 months of imports projected for 2022-23. The foreign exchange reserves' cover of imports (on a balance of payments basis) declined to 10.4 months at end of June 2022, from 11.8 months at the end of March 2022.

Tata Consumer Products to acquire packaged water giant Bisleri for about ₹7,000 crore

- Tata Consumer is set to acquire India's largest packaged drinking water company, Bisleri, for an estimated Rs 6,000-7,000 crore. Chairman Ramesh Chauhan is aiming to disinvest Bisleri International to Tata Consumer Products three decades after selling soft drink brands Thums Up, Gold Spot and Limca to Coca-Cola.
- The current management will continue for two years as part of the deal. Chauhan's ill health and daughter Jayanti's lack of interest in the business is driving him to sell off the company. Selling Bisleri was a painful decision, he said, but believes that the Tata Group will take 'even better' care of it.
- There have been other interested parties such as Reliance Retail, Nestle and Danone. The report stated that talks between Tata and Chauhan have been going on for the past two years.
- The Tata Group houses its consumer business under Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) which also sells packaged mineral water under the brand Himalayan and with brands as Tata Copper Plus Water and Tata Gluco in the hydration segment.
- The deal would provide the Tata group FMCG arm a larger play into the fast-growing bottled water segment.

Unemployment rate dips marginally to 7.2% in July-September 2022

- Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.2 per cent during July-September 2022 from 9.8 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said.
- India's urban unemployment rate dropped for the fifth consecutive quarter in the July-September period of 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.2 per cent, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The unemployment rate in current weekly status terms for all ages in the September quarter (second quarter or Q2) of FY23 is the lowest unemployment rate recorded in more than four years, from the time the NSO launched India's first computer-based survey in April 2017.
- The unemployment rate among men and women has been estimated at 6.6 and 9.4 per cent, respectively. It has been showing continuous decline since the April-June quarter (first quarter, or Q1) of 2020-21, when it was estimated at 12.6 per cent.

RBI adds GSTN in financial information providers list under account aggregator norm

- With a view to facilitate cash flow-based lending to MSMEs, it has been decided to include Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) as a Financial Information Provider (FIP) under the Account Aggregator (AA)

framework. Department of Revenue shall be the regulator of GSTN for this specific purpose and Goods and Services Tax (GST) Returns, viz. Form GSTR-1 and Form GSTR-3B, shall be the Financial Information.

- Facilitate cash flow lending to the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The AA network had been in discussion with the GSTN network for their onboarding for a long time as this would give financial institutions access to data regarding small businesses, which would help them to extend loans to such businesses.
- All major public sector banks and private sector banks are live on the network and many large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) have also gone live, expert are saying.

BOB opens its first dedicated mid-corporate branch in Kochi

- Bank of Baroda opened its first mid-corporate Branch in Kerala at Kochi. The branch was inaugurated by Debadatta Chand, Executive Director in the presence of S. Rengarajan, GM (Head – Mid Corporate Cluster South), and Sreejith Kottarathil, Zonal Head-Ernakulam.
- The key focus of mid corporate branch is to increase corporate book size and income to improve turnaround time (TAT) for corporate proposals and provide enhanced service to corporate customers.
- The branch will cater to mid-corporate, large corporate, and PSU borrowers and provide corporate loans, trade finance, forex, and cash management services.
- The Bank recently reorganized its corporate banking model. The corporate banking vertical has been divided into two units — large corporates and mid-corporates – to effectively serve both customer segments.

Flipkart and Axis Bank partner to launch Super Elite Credit Card

- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, and Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace have partnered to launch the 'Super Elite Credit Card. To scale the Flipkart SuperCoins reward program and enhance the customer shopping experience, this card will serve extensive value to shoppers.
- Following the three million milestones recently achieved for the existing Flipkart Axis Bank Credit Card, this partnership enables yet another avenue for customers on the platform to unlock and enjoy unique rewards.
- The Super Elite Credit Card will offer an activation benefit of 500 Flipkart SuperCoins with 4X SuperCoins earned for every transaction and rewards up to Rs 20,000 across Flipkart, Myntra, etc.
- SuperCoins are rewards that customers can earn on each purchase across Flipkart, Myntra, and Cleartrip.

IDFC First Bank launches sticker-based debit card, FIRSTAP

- IDFC First Bank has introduced a sticker-based debit card, called FIRSTAP. The launch is in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The FIRSTAP is launched to facilitate transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a Near Field Communication (NFC) enabled point-of-sale terminal.
- The launch of sticker-based debit cards is in line with the bank's customer-centric philosophy. The number of transactions being carried out via contactless cards is growing fast.
- As a customer-first bank, IDFC claims to be committed to using contactless technology for frictionless digital transactions.
- With stickers as the form factor in the wearable category, the debit card is convenient to carry around and enables fast check-out.
- The sticker-based debit card is one-third the size of a regular debit card, thus, making the sticker applicable to a wide range of devices and objects.
- As per the company, customers can affix the sticker-based debit card on any surface of choice, such as cell phones, identity cards, wallets, AirPods and airpod cases.

Canara Bank launches Electronic Bank Guarantee with NeSL

- Canara Bank steps into digital banking on its 117th Founder's Day with the issuance of an Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) in partnership with National E-Governance Service Limited (NeSL). The Canara Bank will now offer an API-based digital workflow of Bank guarantees which will eliminate physical insurance, stamping, verification, and paper-based record maintenance.
- The platform will offer several advantages such as greater transparency, better monitoring systems, and secured transmission of Bank Guarantees to beneficiaries.

- Canara Bank General Manager Mahesh M Pai informed that achieving the milestone of being the first public sector to roll out an electronic bank guarantee is a proud moment.
- The futuristic vision of “One Bank, One App” was the aim for creating the bank Mobile app.
- It was also ranked 1st under the Digital Payment performance on 31st March 2022 by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

MUDRA LOAN NPA at just 3.3, % in 7 years

- Over seven years since launch, borrowers of Mudra loans – essentially micro and small enterprises – have paid their EMIs (equated monthly instalments) to banks. Non-performing assets of banks for Mudra loans – including those extended during the Covid-19 pandemic when small enterprises were the worst hit – are lower than the average NPAs of the sector as a whole, data obtained under the Right to Information Act reveals.
- Nearly ₹5,000 crore of loans or 16.32 per cent of the total bank assets in Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana to help small businesses are unpaid as of June 2022, as per official data.
- Parbhani district in the backward Marathwada region of Maharashtra has the highest non-performing assets (NPAs) at 60.54 per cent.
- As per the data, ₹30,019 crore was taken as loan under the MUDRA scheme as of June 2022 by more than 52 lakh borrowers in Maharashtra. Out of this, ₹4,898 crore taken by 6.19 lakh borrowers has been classified as NPAs.
- As far as Mudra loan is concerned, out of the total outstanding of Rs 6,204 crore as on March, Rs 695.50 crore was NPA, which is 11.24 per cent of the total outstanding loan in Haryana. The NPA of the public sector banks was over 18.63 per cent, followed by Sarv Haryana Gramin Bank (10.84 per cent) and private sector banks (3.55 per cent).

BSE signs up TAC Security as cyber security partner

- Risk and vulnerability management company TAC Security announced that it is the official cyber security partner for the stock exchange-BSE.
- The cyber security company said it signed an agreement with the oldest stock exchange to ensure that the BSE is empowered with the highest possible level of cybersecurity. It said the alliance was a significant stride in the longstanding relationship between the two institutions.
- BSE will get a holistic view of their risk-vulnerability management on a single platform using TAC Security's ESOF (Enterprise Security in One Framework), the company said.
- “It is an honour and privilege to be protecting Asia's biggest and essential stock market body.” said Trishneet Arora, Founder, and CEO. “We aim to ensure the highest-level cybersecurity for an organisation that defines the stock market of the country. It is truly a step towards providing organizations across the globe with the next – generation of Vulnerability Management.”

SEBI orders mutual fund houses to pay dividends within seven days of the record date

- Mutual funds (MFs) have to pay dividend to unit-holders in seven working days after declaration of record date. In a circular issued, SEBI said the record date will be two working days from the issue of public notice on dividend payment.
- The transfer of redemption proceeds to the unit-holders should be made in three working days from the date of redemption, it said. On paying redemption proceeds for schemes investing at least 80 per cent of total assets overseas, the transfer of redemption proceeds should be made in five working days from the date of redemption, it said.
- The list will be published within 30 days, said SEBI. In case of delay in payment of redemption proceeds, MFs have to pay an interest of 15 per cent per annum to unit-holders and the cost will be borne by the fund houses, it added.