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A Crucial Piece of Advice!

We find several students discussing the issue of lack of time and digging out content regarding how to use every second of your time efficiently. Some of you must be thinking, we have 86400 seconds each day, so why should we worry about just a single one? **Does a single second hold that much importance? YES!** When it comes to competition, each & every second is very crucial.

The first question that might come to your mind is “Is that even possible to use each second of your time effectively?” or “Do I even have that much spare time?” Let's help you by looking over the top time drainers of your daily routine:

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
- More often unproductive chats on WhatsApp are the major time drainers where you waste your time on without even knowing how much time is spent.

Adding up all these, you spend nearly **4 hours** daily or 1/6th of your day doing a whole lot of **NOTHING!** Over the course of a week that amounts to over **28 hours** of wasted time, and more than **1460 hours** or **52,560,000 seconds** annually!! Scary! Isn't it?

But what if you could effectively utilize this time to validate the knowledge you just gained during your study sessions? How about competing with your friend in a live Current Affairs battle instead of just sitting and listening to the traffic horns? How about dominating the English language leaderboard instead of searching for a filter on Snapchat?

Time and tide wait for none! Team Smartkeeda perceived the importance of time and practice in your test preparation journey. We understood how each second can make a huge difference to your career. Therefore, we were determined to build an application that has the competence to save each second of your preparation time making you 100% productive. We worked diligently for 3-4 years to build an application with the single aim of making each second of your test preparation time, efficient.

Folks! We feel thrilled to present you the **Qudoo App**, India's first Education-Gaming-Social platform (EGS) for all major competitive Exams, which has the unique capability of making your breaks extremely productive and refilling.

If you use the **Qudoo App** for 11-21 days during your preparation, in between your breaks, like while travelling, having meals, or instead of using any other social media app, within a few days, you'll feel like you've developed a mechanism inside your head that has the capability to answer the questions within a fraction of seconds. Timer-based points in Qudoo quizzes will create a cognitive reserve inside your brain that will automatically let you develop strategies to solve the questions within seconds to beat the opponent.

We, team **Smartkeeda**, promise that with the effective use of the Qudoo app, you will be able to see a drastic change in your performance at exams including your **speed, accuracy, and percentile** within a couple of weeks with minimum effort. “KYUKI MAA-BAAP KI FIKRA KO FAKRA ME BADALNA HAI”, so every second counts!!

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इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

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National & States Affairs

1. Tata Play (formerly Tata Sky) has become the first company to file confidential papers for its initial public offering (IPO). It has pre-filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) confidentially with the SEBI. SEBI recently amended the Issue of the Capital and Disclosure Requirements, introducing the concept of confidential filings to the domestic markets. The biggest draw for companies to file confidentially is the flexibility they get over information flow. They can withhold sensitive information from their competitors, which can be misused, they add. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Play – became the first company to file confidential papers for its IPO
- SEBI – recently introduced the concept of confidential filings to the domestic markets
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

2. On December 2, DPIIT roped in 5 social sector ministries for integrated and efficient infrastructure development by them through the PM GatiShakti initiative. The five ministries/departments are health, ministry of women and child development, department of rural development and panchayat raj, education, and ministry of housing and urban affairs. On October 13, PM Narendra Modi launched the Gati Shakti- National Master Plan aimed at developing integrated infrastructure to reduce logistic costs. All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects, entailing investment of over Rs 500 Cr, are routed through the Network Planning Group (NPG), constituted under the PM Gati Shakti initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – roped in 5 social sector ministries for infra development through the ‘PM GatiShakti’ initiative
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

3. On December 1, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched ‘Digi Yatra’ from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for three airports in the country, namely New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru. Digi Yatra is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). Digi Yatra project has been conceived by Digi Yatra Foundation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Digi Yatra, in the first phase, will be launched at 7 airports. Later it would be implemented across various airports in the country. The service is presently being launched for domestic flights passengers only. There is no central storage of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Passenger’s ID and travel credentials are stored in a secure wallet in the passenger’s smartphone itself. The uploaded data will utilise blockchain technology and all the data will be purged from the servers within 24 hours of use. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jyotiraditya Scindia – launched Digi Yatra for 3 airports (New Delhi, Varanasi & Bengaluru)
- Digi Yatra project – conceived by Digi Yatra Foundation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Digi Yatra – will be launched at total 7 airports in the first phase
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

4. On December 2, Ministry of Culture in collaboration with “Swar Dharohar Foundation”, inaugurated “Swar Dharohar Festival” under Kalanjali. The 3 days festival was organized on December 3-4, 2022 at the Central Vista, India Gate, New Delhi, Delhi. “Swar Dharohar Festival” is a Music, Art & Literature Festival to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and, the rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture + Swar Dharohar Foundation = inaugurated “Swar Dharohar Festival” under Kalanjali in New Delhi
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

5. India will assume the Chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1 January 2023, for a period of one year. The Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export control regime, came into being in 1996 and has 42 members. The US, the UK, Japan, South Korea, France, Germany and Australia are some key members of the WA. Prominent non-members include China and Israel. India will take over from Ireland. India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) in 2017 and became its 42nd member. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – will assume the Chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on 1 January 2023 for a period of one year
- WA was established in 1996 | Members – 42 Countries | India joined the WA in 2017

6. On December 4, Ladakh is all set to have India’s first “Dark Night Sky Reserve” with 18 telescopes installed for stargazing at 18 locations in Hanley. At an elevation of 4,500 meters, Hanley is home for the second-highest optical telescope in the world, established in 2001 by Indian Institute of Astrophysics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh is all set to have India’s first “Dark Night Sky Reserve” with 18 telescopes installed for stargazing
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

7. On December 2, the government has named 21 uninhabited islands in the union territory of Andaman & Nicobar after recipients of Param Vir Chakra, India’s highest wartime gallantry award. Out of the 21 islands, 16 are located in North and Middle Andaman district, while 5 islands are in South Andaman. The first uninhabited island numbered ‘INAN370’ in North & Middle Andaman was named after Major Somnath Sharma, to be known as ‘Somnath Dweep’. He was posthumously awarded the highest military award for his gallantry and sacrifice during the Battle of Badgam. Another uninhabited island numbered ‘INAN308’ was named after Captain Karam Singh as ‘Karam Singh Dweep’. Similarly, other islands were named after different recipients of Param Vir Chakra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has named 21 uninhabited islands in Andaman & Nicobar after recipients of Param Vir Chakra
- The first uninhabited island numbered ‘INAN370’ (in North & Middle Andaman) was named as ‘Somnath Dweep’
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

8. On December 1, the Idol Wing CID of the Tamil Nadu Police has started a new drive to mint ‘Soulbound Tokens’, a non-transferable form of NFTs (non-fungible tokens), as digital medals to motivate officers in the wing. It will make Tamil Nadu Police the second police force in the world, after Dubai, to mint its own NFTs to award them as rewards. Moreover, in February 2022, the Idol Wing CID became the first police unit in the world to create the first virtual museum using augmented and virtual reality images of seized idols. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Idol Wing CID of Tamil Nadu Police – started a drive to mint ‘Soulbound Tokens’ as digital medals to motivate officers
- Tamil Nadu Police – became 2nd police force in the world, after Dubai, to mint its own NFTs to award them as rewards
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



9. On December 3, the occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced to set up a separate Divyang Welfare Department for differently-abled people with a fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore. Maharashtra is the first state to have such a department. The government has created 2,063 posts for the new department which will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – first state to set up a separate ‘Divyang Welfare Department’ for differently-abled people
- Fund allocation for this purpose – Rs 1,143 Crore
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

10. On December 5, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has commissioned a 450 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan. With the new hybrid plant in Jaisalmer, Adani Green Energy has the largest operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1,440 MW. AGEL has a total operational generation capacity of 7.17 GW, making it the world’s largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer. The plant has Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) at Rs 2.67/kwh for 25 years. The new hybrid power plant consists of 420 MW solar and 105 MW wind plants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Green – commissioned a 450 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- AGEL became world’s largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer with operational generation capacity of 7.17 GW
- [HQs of Adani Green Energy Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain](#)

11. On December 2, Experts from the Gurugram-based Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and England-based University of Leicester have been awarded a prestigious grant of nearly Euro 10 million by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK to help improve the health outcomes. The grant also aims to re-orient health systems to effectively address multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) or multimorbidity in India and Nepal. The researchers will collaborate with the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Jodhpur, Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth (HRIDAY), Delhi, and Kathmandu Medical College (KMC), Kathmandu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PHFI (Haryana) + University of Leicester (UK) = received a grant of Euro 10 million from National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK

12. On December 6, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining the development of the Bamboo sector. The Advisory Group has a representation of various stakeholders including academicians, researchers, innovators, progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing specialists, and policymakers. The inter-ministerial and public-private consultation is envisaged to help revamp the developmental architecture of the sector by incorporating synergy between all the sections related to the bamboo value chain. The restructured ‘National Bamboo Mission (NBM)’ was launched during 2018-19 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The NBM was initially launched in 2006-07. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining development of Bamboo sector
- ‘National Bamboo Mission’, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, was initially launched in 2006-07 (restructured in 2018-19)



13. On December 6, Hyderabad-based Goldsikka Pvt Ltd has set up a gold ATM, India's first real-time gold dispensing machine, in Hyderabad. Gold ATMs work like every other ATM. Customers can use their debit, credit cards to buy the yellow metal from the gold ATM. It was inaugurated by Telangana women commission chairperson Sunitha Lakshmareddy. Gold ATM supplies in denominations ranging from a minimum of 0.5 grams to a maximum of 100 grams. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goldsikka Pvt Ltd (Hyderabad) – set up a gold ATM, India's first real-time gold dispensing machine, in Hyderabad
- Gold ATM supplies in denominations ranging from a minimum of 0.5 grams to a maximum of 100 grams
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

14. The first “Sylhet-Silchar Festival” celebrating the close cultural ties between the neighbouring regions of India and Bangladesh was inaugurated in Assam's Barak Valley. Being celebrated as a two-day festival, it coincided with the 75th year of India's independence and the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. The festival was organized by the India Foundation under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies. The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the Barak Valley region of Assam, India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First “Sylhet-Silchar Festival”, celebrating the close cultural ties between India & Bangladesh – held in Assam
- The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between Barak Valley of Assam & Sylhet segment of Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

15. On December 5, Madras High Court has imposed a ban on mobile phones in Tamil Nadu's temples. Madras High Court has urged the Tamil Nadu government to impose the restriction to preserve the cleanliness and sanctity of temples. The directive was issued to the State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department by the HC panel of Justices R Mahadevan and J Sathya Narayana Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madras High Court – imposed a ban on mobile phones in Tamil Nadu's temples
- Chief Justice of Madras High Court – T. Raja (Acting)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

16. Reliance Jio announced its 5G services in around 4 cities in October, 2022. And in November, the company announced that it has made its 5G services available in all of 33 districts of Gujarat. This makes Gujarat the first state in India to get 100% Jio True 5G coverage. As the 5G services are still in beta trial, they are available on invite-only basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – has made its 5G services available in all of 33 districts of Gujarat
- Gujarat – the first state in India to get 100% Jio True 5G coverage (in beta trial)
- [HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani](#)

17. Uttarakhand has hired the US-based McKinsey, a global management consultancy, to help the state in achieving the target of doubling its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the next 5 years. The State has the target of doubling GSDP from ₹2.73 lakh crore to ₹5.5 lakh crore by achieving a CAGR of 15% in the next 5 years. The government has signed a two-year agreement with the company under ‘Shashakt (empowered) Uttarakhand’ mission. The company will work in areas like agriculture, horticulture, Urban (Brownfield and greenfield cities), service sector, infra projects (core as well as social sectors) to accelerate the income of the people and of the State. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – hired McKinsey to help the state in achieving the target of doubling its GSDP in the next 5 years
- The state signed a two-year agreement with the company under ‘Shashakt (empowered) Uttarakhand’ mission
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

18. In December, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the 701-km “Hindu Hrudayasamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg” in Maharashtra. The Expressway will reduce the time taken to 839-km distance between Nagpur and Mumbai, to 7 hours that currently takes at least 17 hours. The Expressway, also called ‘Samruddhi Mahamarg/Corridor’ or ‘Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway’, built at a project outlay of ₹55,335 crore, runs past 392 villages across 10 districts. This is the second expressway in Maharashtra after the Mumbai-Pune Expressway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated “Hindu Hrudayasamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg”
- It is also known as ‘Samruddhi Mahamarg/Corridor’ or ‘Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway’
- Total Length – 701 Km | Cost – ₹55,335 Crore | It connects Nagpur & Mumbai
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

19. Airbus Beluga, the world’s largest aircraft, has landed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai for the first time. It’s the Airbus A300-600ST, also called the ‘Super Transporter’. The gigantic 56.15-metre-long whale-shaped plane can carry 47,000 kg of cargo and is used to transport oversized cargo like next-generation space material, valuable paintings and more. The aircraft entered service in January 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airbus Beluga, world’s largest aircraft – landed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai (1st time)
- It’s the Airbus A300-600ST (Super Transporter) | Shape – Whale | Length – 56.15 metre | Capacity – 47,000 kg
- The aircraft entered service in January 1996
- HQs of Airbus – Leiden, Netherlands | CEO – Guillaume Faury

20. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Manoj Kumar inaugurated its “Re-Hab Project” (Reducing Human Attacks using Honey Bees) at village Chausla of Nainital district, Uttarakhand in an attempt to safeguard humans and farmers’ crops from elephant attacks. KVIC has already the Re-Hab project in 7 states - Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Odisha, as the elephant attacks are common in these areas. Under this project, fencing of bee boxes is installed in areas from where elephants move towards the human settlements and farmers’ agriculture. The initiative of Re-Hab project will be run by KVIC at select locations for a period of one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – inaugurated its “Re-Hab Project” (Reducing Human Attacks using Honey Bees) at Chausla, Nainital, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Manoj Kumar | CEO – Preeta Verma | Founded in – 1956

21. ‘Yaanam’, a non-feature film, was screened under the Indian Panorama section at the 53rd edition of the ‘International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2022’ at Goa. It is the first science documentary in the Sanskrit language in the history of world cinema. It is based on the autobiographical book “My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission” by former space chairman Padma Bhushan, Dr K. Radhakrishnan. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 'Yaanam', a non-feature film, was screened at 53rd IFFI 2022 in Goa
- It is the first science documentary in the Sanskrit language in the history of world cinema
- "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission" book – by Dr K. Radhakrishnan

22. Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture in association with Department of Post unveiled "Daakroom", the renowned letter writing carnival at the Gandhi Darshan at Raj Ghat, New Delhi. The one-of-a-kind letter writing event is aimed to give a digital detox with the aim of reviving the art of letter writing in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture + Department of Post = unveiled "Daakroom", the renowned letter writing carnival in New Delhi
- [Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy](#) | [Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakashi Lekhi](#)

23. Indian Railways plans to introduce "Tilting Trains" in India by 2025-26. The technology will be used in manufacturing almost 100 of the 400 Vande Bharat trains. The technology will enable trains to maneuver curves at higher speeds, just as a motorbike on a winding road. They tilt while negotiating a bend or curve on the track. Such trains are now operational in 11 countries. The Indian Railways is also preparing to become a major exporter of the Vande Bharat trains by 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – plans to introduce "Tilting Trains" in India by 2025-26
- The technology will be used in manufacturing almost 100 of the 400 Vande Bharat trains
- Indian Railways – also plans to become a major exporter of the Vande Bharat trains by 2026
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)

24. India's 1st permanent ramp for persons with disability was inaugurated at Marina beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The ramp is a length of 263-metres and a breadth of 3-metres and is a mix of several categories of wood including the "Brazilian wood,". It has been built at a cost of Rs 1.14 Cr. The facility was established by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st permanent ramp for persons with disability – inaugurated at Marina beach, Chennai, TN
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

25. On December 8, Assam Cabinet approved a bill to create a "Safai Karamchari Commission" and decisions related to providing financial benefits to pregnant women, monitoring drug prices, protecting Safai Karmacharis' rights and filling up vacancies in the Forest Department were also taken in the meeting. For the first time in the history of Assam, the State Cabinet led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held the meeting at the historic Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati. The Assam Cabinet also renamed the 'Dergaon Police Academy' as 'Lachit Barphukan Police Academy'. Assam Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (APDCL) and ONGC will jointly establish a 250 MW Solar Power Project for which the state cabinet has approved Rs 285 crore to APDCL. Moreover, the CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the "Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium", Assam's first 3D and fourth planetarium. Besides, the CM also introduced a development initiative of the Assam government called "Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek". Assam government introduced a scheme under which all female students pursuing post-graduate courses in the state will be provided a yearly stipend of Rs 10,000 each. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Assam – approved a bill to create a “Safai Karamchari Commission”
- Assam – renamed the ‘Dergaon Police Academy’ as ‘Lachit Barphukan Police Academy’
- Assam CM – inaugurated the “Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium”, Assam’s first 3D and fourth planetarium
- Assam – introduced a development initiative of the state government called “Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek”
- Assam – introduced a scheme under which all female students pursuing PG courses will be provided Rs 10,000/year
- APDCL + ONGC = will jointly establish a 250 MW Solar Power Project
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

26. On December 6, Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched India’s first “e-learning platform for Drone Skilling & Learning” at Agni College of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Along with the launch of the virtual learning platform, the Union Minister also launched the first 1000 of the planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace in Chennai. The minister also flagged off “Operation 777” - Garuda Aerospace’s Drone Yatra, which has the aim to educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for different agricultural uses across 777 districts of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur launched:
 - India’s first “e-learning platform for Drone Skilling & Learning” in Chennai
 - First 1000 of the planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace in Chennai
 - “Operation 777” - Garuda Aerospace’s Drone Yatra in Chennai
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Nisith Pramanik

27. On December 7, Google’s subsidiary, Jigsaw, launched a new ‘Anti-misinformation Project’ in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence. The initiative will use ‘prebunking’ videos, designed to counter false claims before they become widespread. Google recently conducted an experiment in Europe where it sought to counter anti-refugee narratives online in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jigsaw (Google’s subsidiary) – launched a new ‘Anti-misinformation Project’ in India
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

28. On December 6, Bharti Airtel, a telecom giant, has introduced a new range of international roaming plans for postpaid as well as prepaid users through ‘World Pass’. According to the company, these latest plans will be functional across 184 countries. As per the telco, the Airtel World Pass is one pack for all the travel needs. Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel Ltd and Meta Platforms Inc. will jointly invest in extending the Facebook parent’s subsea cable infrastructure to India and integrate WhatsApp as a communications platform as a service (CPaaS) in the Indian telecom operator’s offering to enterprises. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel – introduced a new range of international roaming plans for postpaid/prepaid users through ‘World Pass’
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal



29. On December 10, Cyclone Mandous crossed the north Tamil Nadu coast near Mamallapuram. The cyclone claimed five lives. Cyclone Mandous had emerged as a strong cyclone as it maintained a wind speed of 65-75 kmph gusting to 85kmph as it entered the land. Its name has been given by UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cyclone Mandous – hit north Tamil Nadu coast near Mamallapuram
- The name ‘Mandous’ has been given by – UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

30. With an aim to end the Great Indian Red Tape, Saharsa became the first district of Bihar to be declared paperless. Red tape is a derisive term for excessive regulation or rigid conformity to formal rules that is considered redundant or bureaucratic and hinders or prevents action or decision-making. Idukki in Kerala became paperless in 2012 and Hyderabad in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saharsa – became the first district of Bihar to be declared paperless
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

31. On December 7, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper about the potential introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP). The feature would provide the called individual with information about the calling party (similar to ‘Truecaller’ and ‘Bharat Caller ID & Anti-Spam’). It is to ensure that telephone subscribers are able to make an informed choice about incoming calls and curb harassment by unknown or spam callers. Comments to the consultation paper are invited until December 27. The regulator has proposed four models for facilitating the CNAP mechanism. The first model involves each telecom service provider (TSP) establishing and operating a CNAP database of its subscribers. In the second model, the operator of the calling entity shares its CNAP database with the receiver’s operator. The third model envisages a third party operating a centralised database. The fourth model would require that each TSP maintain a CNAP database and retain a copy of a synchronised central database operated by a third party. DoT has requested TRAI to explore the feasibility and network readiness of providing CNAP to all telephone subscribers, including feature-phone users. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRAI – floated a consultation paper about the potential introduction of ‘Calling Name Presentation (CNAP)’
- The feature would provide the called individual with information about the ‘calling party’
- TRAI – has proposed 4 models for facilitating the CNAP mechanism
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P. D. Vaghela | Established in – 1997

32. Kirit Parikh Committee, which was constituted in September to review gas prices in India, has recommended in its report that India should have completely free and market-determined pricing for natural gas extracted from legacy fields and remove all caps by January 1, 2027. Till then, the committee has suggested a floor price of \$4 per MMBtu (metric million British thermal unit) be kept in place to cover the cost of gas production by Oil India (OIL) and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The committee has also recommended a ceiling price of \$6.5 per mmBtu, which may be increased yearly by about \$0.5 per mmBtu till 2027. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kirit Parikh Committee: India should have free & market-determined pricing for Natural Gas by January 1, 2027
- Till then, the committee has suggested a price band of \$4 to \$6.5 per MMBtu



33. On December 7, union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Parliament that the Indian Railways will build 100 Gati Shakti cargo terminals in the next 3 years. Such terminals will be developed under the Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) Policy from 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25. Twenty-two Gati Shakti cargos have already been commissioned, while 125 applications for development of such terminals have been received and 79 in-principle approvals have been granted. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – to build 100 Gati Shakti cargo terminals in the next 3 years
- The terminals will be developed under ‘Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) Policy’ from 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)

34. On December 8, the government has extended the “Rooftop Solar Programme” till March 31, 2026 and asked consumers not to pay any additional charge for solar installations as the subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the programme is achieved. The subsidy under National Portal has been fixed at Rs 14,588 per kW (for capacity up to 3 kW) for the entire country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has extended the “Rooftop Solar Programme” till March 31, 2026
- The subsidy under program has been fixed at Rs 14,588 per kW (for capacity up to 3 kW)

35. On December 7, Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle has unveiled Asia’s first drone delivery hub and network which is aimed at providing universal access to healthcare for the people in the state. The project is aimed at delivering vital supplies like drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines, blood and blood components quickly and safely to different regions of the state using a dedicated drone delivery network. The first official drone flight took off from Jengjal Sub Divisional Hospital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya + TechEagle = unveiled Asia’s first drone delivery Hub & Network
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong](#) | [CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)

36. On December 9, StocX.in, an online unlisted securities portal, has launched India’s first private market index known as “StocX Private Market Index (SPMI)”. Until now, there was no way to track the price movements of privately traded securities (i.e the stocks of companies that are not yet listed in the stock market). StocX.in claims to have achieved this by using the concepts of indexing & basic statistics. The index is built using a methodology known as ‘Change Percentage’. The index is computed using 1000 as the base value as on 1 January, 2022. StocX.in is an information portal owned and operated by Blackvolt Digital Private Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- StocX.in – launched India’s first private market index known as “StocX Private Market Index (SPMI)”
- The index is built using a methodology known as ‘Change Percentage’ | It is computed using 1000 as the base value
- StocX.in is owned & operated by Blackvolt Digital Pvt Ltd (Gurgaon, Haryana)

37. On December 6, the government has approved the Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA) as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across the country. The organisation with 47 digital news publishers on board will look at grievances related to digital media news content on their platforms. The organisation will be headed by former HC Judge Mool Chand Garg and have part-time member of Prasar Bharati Ashok Kumar Tandon and journalist Manoj Kumar Mishra as members. PDMA shall perform functions laid down in the sub rules (4) and (5) of rule 12 for the purpose of redressing grievances related to the code of ethics under the rules. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- PADMA – is approved as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news & current affairs
- The organisation will be headed by – former HC Judge Mool Chand Garg

38. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December. Goa has had historical linkages with the Lusophone world, which has been nurtured through the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions like the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute which promote Portuguese language and culture in India. The Community of Portuguese Language Countries, also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth (Comunidade Lusofona), is a multilateral forum, founded on 17 July 1996 at the 1st CPLP Heads of State & Government Summit in Lisbon. The 9 Lusophone countries comprise approximately 300 million people in 4 different continents. India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MEA + ICCR = organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa
- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries – also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth
- India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

39. On December 12, Kerala High Court struck down ‘Section 10A’ of the “Indian Divorce Act, 1869”, observing that it violates citizens’ fundamental rights. It stipulated a separation period of 1 year for petitions of divorce by mutual consent. The ‘Indian Divorce Act, 1869’ is applicable to Christians. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala High Court – struck down ‘Section 10A’ of the “Indian Divorce Act, 1869”
- The ‘Indian Divorce Act, 1869’ is applicable to Christians
- Chief Justice of Kerala HC – S. Manikumar

40. On December 9, Meghalaya was awarded for “Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) in Tuberculosis Control” at the National Workshop on ACSM to end TB in India. The state received the award for implementing ‘Jan Andolan’ (People’s Movement) against Tuberculosis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put a national target to eliminate the disease that affects over 26 lakh Indians each year by 2025, five years ahead of WHO’s Sustainable Development Goals. A National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (2017-25) has also been launched reorienting the programme’s focus to ensure greater community engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – awarded for “Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization in Tuberculosis Control”
- India’s target to eliminate Tuberculosis – by 2025 | WHO’s SDG to eliminate TB – by 2030
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

41. On December 11, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated India’s biggest ‘Business Jet Terminal’ at Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL). Notably, this 40,000 sq ft terminal is compatible for international and domestic business jet operations with an exceptional ‘Safe House’ facility for security-exempted personages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinarayi Vijayan – inaugurated India’s biggest ‘Business Jet Terminal’ at Cochin International Airport
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



42. In December 2022, India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed in village Mantalai in the Chenani Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur. The village, which is located on the Himalayas in the sal forests' lap, will serve the International Yoga Centre at the banks of the Tawi river. This river, also known as Suryaputri, originates from the Kailash Kund glacier. Tourism Ministry has sanctioned Rs 9,782 Cr for the yoga centre. Rs 52 Cr have also been nominated for the infrastructural and other development of the Katra-Vaishno Devi under the scheme of the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD). Moreover, the Indian government under the National Ayush Mission increased the approved funds from Rs 15 Cr in 2021-22 to Rs 72 Cr in 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's biggest Yoga Centre – constructed in Mantalai village, Udhampur district, J & K (outlay - Rs 9,782 Cr)
- The village is located in the sal forests' lap at the banks of the Tawi river (also known as Suryaputri)
- Tawi river – originates from the Kailash Kund glacier
- Rs 52 Cr have been nominated for infrastructural & other development of Katra-Vaishno Devi under PRASHAD scheme
- PRASHAD – Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

43. On December 16, India's first Infantry Museum was inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The museum showcases Infantry Corps' history from 1747 to 2020, in which the sacrifice of valour and valiant soldiers have been preserved in statues, murals and photo galleries. The construction for the research centre and museum was started in 2009 and completed in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first Infantry Museum – inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- The museum showcases Infantry Corps' history from 1747 to 2020
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

44. On December 7, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asked Google to comply with its advisory to refrain from publishing or broadcasting advertisements of online betting platforms or any surrogate product depicting them. The latest guideline was issued by the Ministry in October after it noted violations of a previous advisory in June 13, 2022. online betting platforms have been advertising themselves as professional sports blogs, sports news websites, etc. The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has welcomed the Ministry's decision for stringent advisories against offshore gambling advertisements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I&B – asked Google to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

45. On December 11, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for "National Institute for One Health" and inaugurated the ICMR-Centre for Research, Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur in Nagpur, Maharashtra. These new institutes of medical excellence will further expedite the country's efforts in enhancing health research to serve vulnerable populations of India. Moreover, PM Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur. The foundation stone of the facility was laid by PM Modi in 2017. It has been built at a cost of ₹1,575 Crore. Overall, PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated projects worth Rs 75,000 Crore in Maharashtra, including inauguration of India's 6th Vande Bharat Express, which will connect Nagpur in Maharashtra and Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh. Later, the PM went to Goa where he inaugurated 3 National Ayush Institutes - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, and virtually inaugurated National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- In Nagpur, Narendra Modi:
 - laid the foundation stone for National Institute for One Health
 - inaugurated the ICMR-Centre for Research, Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur
 - inaugurated the AIIMS, Nagpur
 - inaugurated India's 6th Vande Bharat Express (connecting Maharashtra's Nagpur & Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur)
- In Goa, Narendra Modi inaugurated:
 - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa
 - National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad (virtually)
 - National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi (virtually)

46. On December 7, Ministry of Power launched a plan "Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030" in order to support the 500 GW renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030. The plan, which entails connecting mega solar parks and wind power zones with the national grid, will see an investment of Rs 2.44 trillion in transmission projects. It also envisages installation of battery energy storage capacity of 51.5 GW by 2030. This is to provide round-the-clock power to consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power – launched "Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030"
- The plan entails connecting mega solar parks & wind power zones with national grid with investment of Rs 2.44 trillion
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: [Raj Kumar Singh](#) | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: [Krishan Pal Gurjar](#)

47. On December 12, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the "Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission" to protect the natural resources in the state besides restore them on a long-term basis. The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state. The state claims to achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of 2070 target set by PM Narendra Modi. The outlay of the climate mission, announced during the budget 2021-22, is Rs 500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – first state to launch its own "Climate Change Mission" to protect the natural resources in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

48. On December 8, Union minister Jitendra Singh announced that the four units of 1000 MW each of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, in Tamil Nadu, will be completed by 2027. At present, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Units 1&2 of 1000 MW capacity each are already in operation and the remaining four units of 1000 MW each are under construction. the projected installed capacity of Kudankulam site is 6000 MW, comprising six nuclear power reactors of 1000 MW capacity each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4 units of 1000 MW each of 'Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant' (Tamil Nadu) – will be completed by 2027
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

49. On December 19, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, launched the maiden surety bonds insurance product by general insurance companies for highway contractors. It is India's first-ever surety bond insurance product. Surety bonds are guarantees of payment issued by insurers, but different from bank guarantees in that a sizable amount of the project funds of contractors do not get frozen. The surety bonds will help in boosting the liquidity in the infrastructure sector by freeing the contractors' working capital stuck in bank guarantees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari (MoRTH) – launched India's first-ever surety bond insurance product
- [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh](#)

50. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced that "India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022" will be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in January, 2023. IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Science, in association with Vijnana Bharati. The IISF 2022 will be the 8th edition since its inception in 2015. The last edition of IISF was held in Goa. IISF 2022 will also witness "Vigyanika", the Science Literature Festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022" – to be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (in Jan 2023)
- IISF is the initiative of = Ministry of S&T + Ministry of Earth Science + Vijnana Bharati
- [MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udampur, J&K](#)
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

51. On December 13, Ministry of Finance has directed all ministries and departments to scrap all 15-year-old vehicles that have become unserviceable. The existing provisions of condemnation of vehicles have been reconsidered in consultation with NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, considering the broad objectives of the government to reduce pollution and improve passenger safety and fuel efficiency. Scrapping of such vehicles will only be at registered vehicle scrapping facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance – directed all ministries/departments to scrap 15-year-old vehicles that have become unserviceable
- [Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad](#)

52. On December 12, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the 5th edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India's largest contemporary art exhibition, in Kochi, Kerala. With the theme "In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire", the amalgam of cosmopolitan art and culture, this time, will feature 200 major creative projects of 90 artists from over 24 countries that will be exhibited at 14 venues till April 10, 2022. The Students' Biennale, encouraging young talents, and the Art By Children, aimed at reaching out to school students, ran parallel to the main event. The KMB was launched in 2012, and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the biennial event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of 'Kochi-Muziris Biennale', India's largest contemporary art exhibition – held in Kochi, Kerala
- Theme – "In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire"
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

53. On December 9, University Grants Commission (UGC) released the detailed curriculum framework for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP). As suggested under the new National Education Policy (NEP), under FYUP, students will have the option to choose between a three-year undergraduate degree and a four-year undergraduate degree with research specialisation. And, according to the latest UGC guidelines, students will now get an Honours degree in four years, instead of the current three. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UGC released the detailed curriculum framework for the 'Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP)'
- According to the latest UGC guidelines, students will now get an Honours degree in 4 years
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – M. Jagadesh Kumar](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#)

54. On December 9, Telangana's CM and Telangana Rashtra Samiti's (TRS) Chief, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, officially launched the "Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS)" by signing the papers at the Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad. In October, Telangana CM formally renamed his political party Telangana Rashtra Samiti to Bharat Rashtra Samiti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Chandrasekhar Rao – officially launched the "Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS)" (renamed from Telangana Rashtra Samiti)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

55. On December 11, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the statue of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar at the renovated house of Bharathiyar in Varanasi via video conference. Mr. Stalin also released a souvenir on Bharathiyar's 141st birth anniversary. C. Subramania Bharathi was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, social reformer and polyglot. He was bestowed the title 'Bharathi' for his excellence in poetry. He was born in Ettaiyapuram, a town in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) – inaugurated the statue of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar in Varanasi, UP
- C. Subramania Bharathi – a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, social reformer & polyglot

56. For conservation and development of art, culture and crafts across the country, the Ministry of Culture has set up 7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States throughout the year. Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) through these ZCCs where a large number of artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. These ZCCs also organize minimum 42 Regional Festivals for promotion of art and culture every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture – set up 7 "Zonal Cultural Centres" for conservation & development of art, culture & crafts
- Locations: Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur & Thanjavur
- [Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy](#) | [Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi](#)

57. On December 11, A seed farm, located in Aluva (Kerala) under the Agricultural Department, was declared as the first carbon neutral farm in the country by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, in the last one year was 43 tons but its overall procurement was 213 ton. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- A seed farm located in Aluva (Kerala) – declared as the first carbon neutral farm in India
- The total carbon emission from the farm in the last one year was 43 tons & overall procurement was 213 tons
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

58. In December 2022, Ministry of Commerce & Industry allowed 100% work from home (WFH) for employees of IT and ITES special economic zones and extended the regime by one year to December 2023. The move is in line with IT and tech industry's demand for liberalisation of work from home rules. As per the latest rules, units will not need to take prior permission and only inform about it. The commerce and industry ministry has notified key changes to the rule 43A of the 'SEZ Rules, 2006'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I – allowed 100% work from home for employees of IT & ITES SEZ till December 2023
- For this, changes have been made in the rule 43A of the 'SEZ Rules, 2006'
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

59. Ministry of AYUSH and the World Health Organization (WHO) are establishing world's first and only Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The WHO-GCTM has been tasked to develop tools & methodologies for collecting data to strengthen traditional medicines. The WHO-GCTM is an outpost center of WHO-HQ (Geneva) funded by the Government of India. The WHO-GCTM is expected to emerge as a center of global wellness which will promote the development of medicines and research related to traditional medicines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's first & only Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) – being established in Jamnagar, Gujarat
- It is being established by = Ministry of AYUSH + WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

60. India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication or satcom. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman PD Vaghela announced that the telecom regulator has received a reference from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for the spectrum required to be put for auction, and other related aspects of satellite-based communication. This move aims to attract investments in the SatCom sector. Satcom also has the potential to enhance broadband penetration in India, while lowering the digital divide across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRAI Chairman: India will be the first country to auction spectrum for Satellite Communication (SatCom)
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P. D. Vaghela | Established in – 1997

61. On December 14, Maruti Suzuki India has showcased the Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model in Delhi. It is India's first mass-segment flex-fuel car designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20% ethanol and 85% petrol (E20-E85). India is the largest producer and consumer of sugar, and its second-largest exporter in the world. Ethanol made from processing crop waste, is ideal for an agrarian economy. This also gives an impetus to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Maruti Suzuki is working on a variety of technologies including electric, hybrid electric, CNG, bio-gas, ethanol, Flex-Fuel, etc. The company has already announced its commitment to make its entire product range E20 fuel material compliant by March 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Maruti Suzuki India – unveiled India’s first mass-segment flex-fuel car prototype model (Wagon R)
- It is designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20% ethanol and 85% petrol
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Hisashi Takeuchi

62. On December 13, the Government of India announced to introduce a ‘Family Pehchan Patra’ (identity card) for residents of Jammu and Kashmir. It will be an identity card with a unique eight-digit alphanumeric number to identify each family and its members through the head of the family. The card will contain details of all members of the family. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI announced to introduce a ‘Family Pehchan Patra’ (identity card) for residents of Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

63. On December 14, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Gen V. K. Singh, announced that the Central government has accorded ‘in-principal’ approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports across India. Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports - Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar and Donyi Polo, Itanagar - have been operationalized. Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the ‘Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government has accorded ‘in-principal’ approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports across India
- Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports have been operationalized
- Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the ‘Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008’

64. On December 14, Karnataka’s Tobacco Control Cell has developed a GPS-based mobile app ‘StopTobacco’. Now, the state’s public can lodge complaints of smoking in public places by using an app on mobile phone. If anyone is found to be violating the ‘Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA)’, the state’s anti-tobacco squad will rush to the spot and slap a penalty of Rs 200 on the violator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka’s Tobacco Control Cell – developed a GPS-based mobile app ‘StopTobacco’
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

65. On December 14, the NTPC’s 240 MW (150 MW & 90 MW) Devikot Solar Project at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has begun commercial operations. With this, standalone installed and commercial capacity of the NTPC has become 58,041.27 MW, while group installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 70,656.27 MW. NTPC crossed the 1 GW annual capacity in renewable energy (RE) segment by adding 1,074.59 MW RE in FY23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC’s 240 MW Devikot Solar Project – began commercial operations in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

66. On December 15, District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beypore Uru (boat). It is a wooden dhow (ship/sailing boat/sailing vessel) handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters in Beypore, Kerala. The Beypore Urus are purely made of premium wood, without using any modern techniques. It takes anywhere between 1-4 years to build each Uru and the entire process is done manually. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode – has applied for GI tag for the ‘Beypore Uru’ (boat)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

67. On December 15, Maharashtra government has set up “Intercaste/Interfaith marriage-family coordination committee” to gather information about the inter-caste or inter-faith marriage couples and the maternal families of the women involved if they are estranged. The committee will be headed by state Women and Child Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra Govt – set up “Intercaste/Interfaith marriage-family Coordination Committee”
- The committee will be headed by – Mangal Prabhat Lodha
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

68. On December 16, NASSCOM Foundation announced the launch of its “Aspirational Districts Programme” with the objective of digitally enabling and skilling more than 3.5 million lives by March 2024, thus empowering the marginalized in remote and backward sectors of India. Under the programme, NASSCOM Foundation is tapping into more than 100 aspirational districts out of which 55 districts have been identified as of now across 23 states. This will also prioritize economic development across communities in alignment with the PM’s vision of Digital India mission. Another key focus area of the NASSCOM Foundation programme is to generate awareness of appropriate government schemes and e-governance services in addition to imparting quality training in digital skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM Foundation – launched its “Aspirational Districts Programme”
- Objective: digitally enabling & skilling more than 3.5 million lives by March 2024
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh | Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- HQs of Nasscom Foundation – Noida, Delhi NCR | CEO – Nidhi Bhasin

69. A total of 52 individuals and 34 start-ups have been awarded under three ‘Dare to Dream’ contests out of 5,637 applications received in last 3 years. The contest aims to promote individual and start-ups for innovation in the area of Defence and Aerospace. A total of 7 projects have been sanctioned and awarded to start-ups of Dare to Dream contest winners so far. The DRDO has been conducting Dare to Dream Contest every year since 2019 to bring together innovators, entrepreneurs, individuals above 18 years and start-ups (recognised by DPIIT and with Indian founders) for innovative ideas in the field of Defence and Aerospace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO conducts ‘Dare to Dream’ contests to promote individual/start-ups for innovation in Defence & Aerospace sector
- Total 52 individuals & 34 start-ups have been awarded under 3 ‘Dare to Dream’ contests out of 5,637 applications
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

70. On December 14, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub and Google announced to help 100 Indian startups, across different Indian cities, scale their app businesses with the second edition of Appscale Academy. The Appscale Academy program is a growth and development program to train early to mid-stage startups to build high-quality apps for the world. The program will run for six months where startups will be trained on several aspects of building successful apps, including UX design, business model and monetization strategies, international expansion best practices, and data safety and security practices. Startups will have access to virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions with leading local and global industry leaders. They will also get an opportunity to pitch to leading venture capitalists. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + Google = to help 100 Indian startups scale their app businesses
- Appscale Academy program – a growth & development program to train startups to build high-quality apps
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

71. On December 16, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar told the Lok Sabha in a written reply, there has been an upsurge in measles cases in many states in India during November 2022. Some 10,416 cases and 40 deaths were registered through December 12, 2022. Six states - Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala and Maharashtra, contributed most to the caseload. Maharashtra contributed the maximum to the burden. Financial support up to Rs 50 lakh is provided under the “National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)” to the patients suffering from such diseases, Pawar told the Lok Sabha. India’s doctor-population ratio is 1:834 per thousand population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – contributed the maximum to the burden of measles cases in Nov 2022
- Financial support up to Rs 50 lakh is provided under the “National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)” to such patients
- India’s doctor-population ratio – 1:834 (per thousand population)

72. On December 11, Uttarakhand is planning for its genetic enhancement to increase the productivity of its indigenous petite Badri cow that grazes on the medicinal herbs of the Himalayas. The Badri cow is the first registered cattle breed of Uttarakhand which has been certified by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). It gives only one to three litres of milk per day. To make the farmers of Uttarakhand breed Badri and not to shift to other high milk-producing alternative breeds like Jersey cows, the state officials have decided to opt for Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer (MOET), a conventional embryo flush, which is the most common procedure used in advanced cattle breeding. Moreover, ovum pickup in vitro fertilisation (IVF) is the other technology that will be used to increase the yield per animal. The State aims to achieve its targets in the next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – announced for genetic enhancement of its indigenous ‘Badri cow’ to increase the productivity
- Badri cow – first registered cattle breed of Uttarakhand certified by NBAGR
- Techniques that will be used – MOET & IVF | Target – 10 years
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

73. On December 14, Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) became India’s first Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange, using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions. To reduce its carbon footprint, IEX voluntarily cancelled CERs (Certified Emissions Reductions) from clean projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). According to the UNEP 2022 report, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to get on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) – became India’s first Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange
- CERs – Certified Emissions Reductions
- According to UNEP 2022 report: GHG emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Chairman & Managing Director – Satyanarayan Goel



74. On December 10, the Forest department of Kerala, in association with Noolpuzha grama panchayat, launched the 'Vanikaran' (afforestation) project to restore natural vegetation and root out invasive plants. The project was executed under the Sulthan Bathery forest range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. 7,000 bamboo seedlings and 12,000 saplings of fruit plants were supplied for the project. Apart from planting the saplings, the authorities ensure the protection of plants for the next five years under the project. The workers have also constructed soil bunds and pits for harvesting rainwater to ensure availability of water for the saplings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Forest department – launched 'Vanikaran' project to restore natural vegetation
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

75. On December 14, Ministry of Tribal Affairs implemented a dedicated centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) called "Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" aimed at planning for the socio-economic development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribals who are classified as the PVTGs spread over 18 States and the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing a scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students including PVTG students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas. As per provision, 5% seat in each of the EMRSs is reserved for PVTG students only. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – implemented the "Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups"
- There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribals who are classified as the PVTGs
- 5% seat in each of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools is reserved for PVTG students only
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu

76. On December 14, Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi unveiled the statue of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on the campus of the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT). APJ Abdul Kalam was the most illustrious among the alumni of the Madras Institute of Technology. Kalam earned a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the MIT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. N. Ravi – unveiled the statue of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on the campus of the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

77. On December 15, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta launched the online Visitor Management System called "SWAGATAM" to ensure easy and hassle-free entry of visitors to both Secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar. The system shall enable a person to schedule a meeting in advance for the redressal of his genuine grievances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – launched the online Visitor Management System called "SWAGATAM"
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

78. On December 16, Reliance Consumer Products, the FMCG arm of Reliance Retail announced the launch of its made-for-India consumer packaged goods brand 'Independence' in Gujarat. The company will be selling products ranging from staples to processed foods and other daily essentials. INDEPENDENCE brings a wide choice of high quality and affordable products including edible oils, pulses, grains, packaged foods and other daily need products. Reliance Retail Ventures Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd and the holding company of all the retail businesses under the RIL group. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited – launched its consumer packaged goods brand ‘Independence’ in Gujarat
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

79. On December 14, the Union government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 9 products from across India. Of the 9 GI tags given, 5 were for products from Kerala. With this, the total number of registered GI products in India stands at 432. The nine products include - Gamocha, pronounced as Gamosa or Gamusa, (Assam), Tandur Redgram (Telangana), Raktsey Karpo Apricot (Ladakh), Alibag White Onion (Maharashtra), and Kerala’s products - Attappady Aattukombu Avara (oilseed crops), Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli (Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic), Attappady Thuvara (Attappady red gram), Kodungallur Pottuvellari (Kodungallur Snap Melon), and Onattukara Ellu (Onattukara Sesame). The GI status is valid for 10 years in India, and it can be renewed again. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has granted GI tag to 9 products from across India
 - Gamocha or Gamosa or Gamusa (Assam)
 - Tandur Redgram (Telangana)
 - Raktsey Karpo Apricot (Ladakh)
 - Alibag White Onion (Maharashtra)
 - Attappady Aattukombu Avara (oilseed crops) – Kerala
 - Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli (Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic) – Kerala
 - Attappady Thuvara (Attappady red gram) – Kerala
 - Kodungallur Pottuvellari (Kodungallur Snap Melon) – Kerala
 - Onattukara Ellu (Onattukara Sesame) – Kerala

80. On December 16, the Curtain Raiser of India’s flagship Energy Event “India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023)”, was organised at the Bangalore palace, Bengaluru. India Energy Week 2023 is being organised during India’s G20 Presidency, under the tagline “Growth, Collaboration, Transition”, from 6-8 February 2023 in Bengaluru. The India Energy Week 2023 is expected to feature more than 30 Energy Ministers, 50 CEOs and 10,000 delegates. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- Curtain Raiser of India’s flagship Energy Event “India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023)” – organised in Bengaluru
- Tagline of IEW 2023 – “Growth, Collaboration, Transition” | The event will be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2023

81. On December 15, Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Union Ministry of Power signed an MoU with Energy Conservation Mission of The Institution of Engineers (India) to conduct awareness sessions on energy conservation across 30 schools in Telangana. The collaboration will also be for developing and conducting skill development and training activities for upskilling unemployed youth as well as facilitating capacity building sessions for educational institutions, MSMEs engaged in energy-related businesses, non-governmental organisations, women’s SHGs on energy conservation practices as well as energy efficiency technologies and programmes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EESL + Institution of Engineers = an MoU to collaborate on energy conservation in Telangana
- The MoU is also for developing and conducting skill development and training activities
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Vishal Kapoor | Chairman – K. Sreekant



82. On December 15, the Namami Gange initiative has been recognised by the United Nations as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world. Following the award, the initiative will be eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise. The Namami Gange initiative is committed to reviving the River Ganga, and was started in 2014. The programme was selected from over 150 such initiatives from across 70 countries across the globe under the banner United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The movement is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces. Director General of Namami Gange, G. Asok Kumar, received the award at a function in the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Namami Gange initiative – recognised by UN as one of Top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the Natural World
- Namami Gange initiative was started in 2014 | DG – G. Asok Kumar

83. On December 15, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNDP India launched the 5th edition of 'Youth Co:Lab' to support young social entrepreneurs. Launched in partnership with AIM in 2019, Youth Co:Lab is an UNDP India initiative that aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + UNDP India = launched the 5th edition of 'Youth Co:Lab' (initially launched in 2019)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

84. On December 15, India has launched a 'Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers'. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the launch event and announced that New Delhi will soon have a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends'. The Group of Friends will convene two meetings of its members per year, organise and host one event per year involving Permanent Missions and other stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – launched a 'Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers'
- Co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends' – India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, Nepal

85. In December 2022, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has further expanded the scope of 'RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) Scheme' by including the exports made from the Chemical sector, Pharmaceuticals sector and exports of articles of iron & steel under chapters 28, 29, 30 and 73 of ITC (HS) schedule of items. The expanded list of items will be applicable for exports made from December 15, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoCI expanded the scope of 'RoDTEP Scheme' by including Chemical, Pharmaceuticals, Iron & Steel related exports
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

86. On December 19, the Indian Government announced to build a 1,748 km long frontier highway close to the India-Tibet-China-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh in the next 5 years. It will be as close as 20 km from the international border. The two-lane highway, NH-913, will aim to stop infiltration in the border areas and will be built by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. The highway will start from Bomdila, a town in Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Govt announced to build a 1,748 km long frontier national highway namely 'NH-913' in Arunachal Pradesh
- The NH will be close to the 'India-Tibet-China-Myanmar' international border
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

87. On December 10, Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a new train service "Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express" between Kashi and Tamil Nadu to commemorate the ongoing Kashi Tamil Sangamam being held in Varanasi. The station will be developed into a world-class facility in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making railway stations resemble airport terminals. Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a month-long programme organised by the Ministry of Education as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – announced "Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express" between Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam – organised in Varanasi by Ministry of Education as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

88. On December 14, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) announced that India will soon immunize girls aged 9-14 from HPV under a national vaccination program. The nationwide drive will begin by mid-May 2023. The quadrivalent vaccine called Cervavac which will be used for the nationwide vaccination drive of adolescent girls is developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and will offer protection against four strains of HPV - 16, 18, 6, and 11. Following Sikkim's 2016 model, girls in the age group of 9-14 years will be given the HPV vaccine in campaign mode first. The approval of SII's vaccine was granted by the drug regulator (DGCI) in July 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTAGI – to launch HPV vaccine namely 'Cervavac' for preventing cervical cancer in 2023
- Girls in the age group of 9-14 years will be given the HPV vaccine first | The vaccine is developed by – SII
- It will offer protection against 4 strains of HPV – 16, 18, 6 & 11
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966

89. On December 13, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 District Court Digitisation Hubs (DCDH) in Odisha. With this, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state with each catering to a neighbouring district, thus covering all 30 district courts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D Y Chandrachud – inaugurated 10 DCDH in Odisha (taking total number of DCDHs to 15 in the state)
- DCDH – District Court Digitisation Hubs
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

90. On December 14, Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI). The accreditation is for level-2 of the airport customer experience accreditation programme. The certificate recognises the commitment of MIA to continue with its customer experience improvement. The accreditation is valid for one year. The accreditation program aims to further strengthen the continued endeavour of this 'Gateway To Goodness' to enhance customer experience enhancement. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Mangaluru International Airport – received the certificate of accreditation from ACI
- The accreditation is valid for 1 year
- [HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada](#) | [DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira](#)

91. Kolkata will host the “Tramjatra Event”, an event that will celebrate 150 years of its iconic tram, in February 2023. Tramjatra (tram’s journey) is a moving tram carnival that was started back in 1996 jointly by enthusiasts from Melbourne and Kolkata. The theme of the 2023 Tramjatra will be “Heritage, Clean Air and Green Mobility”. Tramjatra is essentially an international collaboration of trammies, artists, environmentalists, and tram-loving communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kolkata – to host the “Tramjatra Event” (tram’s journey) in February 2023
- Theme of the 2023 Tramjatra – “Heritage, Clean Air and Green Mobility”

92. On December 15, Petronet LNG Ltd, India’s largest LNG importer, announced to set up a floating LNG receipt facility at Gopalpur port in Odisha at ₹2,306 Cr. Gopalpur will be the third LNG terminal on the east coast. The company has signed an agreement with Gopalpur Ports Ltd for the facility that will have a capacity of about 4 million tonnes per annum. LNG is a natural gas that has been supercooled, changing it from a gas into a liquid that is 1/600th of its original volume. This helps in easy transportation through ships. The project, which is expected to be operational before the end of 2025, will be financed by a combination of debt and equity. IOC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India) Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) each hold a 12.5% stake in Petronet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Petronet LNG Ltd (India’s largest LNG importer) – will set up a floating LNG receipt facility at Gopalpur Port, Odisha
- The facility will have a capacity of 4 million tonnes per annum
- IOC, ONGC, GAIL & BPCL each hold a 12.5% stake in Petronet
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

93. On December 15, The Indian Railways completed a 12.8 km tunnel, which is the longest escape tunnel of India, on the 111 km under-construction Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir. The tunnel is part of the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project. The horseshoe-shaped escape tunnel connects the Sumber station yard on the south side. This is the fourth tunnel on the Banihal-Katra route. It has been constructed by the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), a modern technique of drill and blast processes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – completed the longest escape tunnel of India (12.8 Km) on Banihal-Katra railway line in J & K
- The tunnel is horseshoe-shaped & part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line project
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

94. On December 15, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar declared India’s candidature as Non-permanent Member of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term. Mr. Jaishankar arrived in United Nations to preside over two signature events on counter-terrorism and reformed multilateralism held under India’s current Presidency of the UNSC. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the UNSC. India’s 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar declared India's candidature as Non-permanent Member of the UNSC for 2028-29 term
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in December – India (November - Ghana | January - Japan)

95. On December 14, Tamil Nadu government banned six hazardous insecticides for 60 days to prevent suicides. The order came from the agriculture department in the wake of a research report submitted by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, and a high-level committee constituted to examine the possibility of banning hazardous insecticides. Monocrotophos, Profenophos, Acephate, Profenophos + Cypermethrin, Chlorpyrifos + Cypermethrin and Chlorpyrifos are the six insecticides to be banned as per Section 27 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – banned 6 hazardous insecticides for 60 days to prevent suicides
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

96. On December 19, the Congress government in Rajasthan announced to provide 12 LPG cylinders a year at ₹500 each to BPL families enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from April 1. PM Ujjwala Yojana was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1 May, 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh for giving LPG connections to the poor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – announced to provide 12 LPG cylinders a year at ₹500 each to BPL families under PMUY from April 1
- PMUY – was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1 May, 2016
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

97. On December 20, to complement government's push for electric vehicles (EVs), the National Test House (NTH) announced to set up testing facilities for EV batteries and charging systems at its Mumbai and Kolkata centres. The NTH will also set up a state-of-the-art Transformer Testing Facility at Jaipur, Rajasthan. The transformer testing facility at Jaipur will be spread over about 10,000 square metre area and the project will cost around Rs 125 crore. NTH functions under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAFDP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Test House (under MoCAFDP) announced to set up:
 - Testing facilities for EV batteries and charging systems at its centres in Mumbai & Kolkata
 - State-of-the-art Transformer Testing Facility at Jaipur
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Ashwini Kumar Choubey & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

98. On December 19, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of Urban-20 or U20 in Gandhinagar as part of G20 programmes to be held in the state in 2023. Under the G20 presidency of India, Ahmedabad has been selected to host the U20 cycle. U20 cycle will begin in February 2023 with the Sherpas' meeting and end with the U20 Mayors' summit. Along with C40 (Climate 40) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Ahmedabad will organise various events including City Sherpas' inception meeting on February 9 and 10, 2023. The U20 Mayors' Summit will be held in July 2023. U20 provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to facilitate discussions on various important issues of urban development including climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, and affordable housing, and propose collective solutions. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bhupendra Patel – unveiled the logo, website & social media handles of U20 as part of G20 programmes
- Gujarat – will host the G20 Summit in 2023 | Ahmedabad – will chair the U20 cycle in Feb 2023
- Ahmedabad – will also host the C40 (Climate 40) and United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG)
- U20 cycle will begin in Feb 2023 with the Sherpas' meeting & end with the U20 Mayors' summit in July 2023
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

99. On December 19, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, opened applications for 'ATL Marathon 2022-23', a flagship innovation challenge under AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs program. ATL Marathon is a national level innovation challenge for young innovators across India. The theme for this edition of ATL Marathon is "India's G20 Presidency". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – conducted the 'ATL Marathon 2022-23', a national level innovation challenge for young innovators
- Theme of ATL Marathon 2022-23 – "India's G20 Presidency"
- HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in – 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)

100. On December 18, Adani group announced to invest Rs 10,700 Cr into expansion of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow so that its annual passenger handling capacity zooms from 4 million passengers per annum (MPPA) to 39 MPPA. The Adani group had in November 2020 taken control of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA) from the Airports Authority of India (AAI). During the last few years, the Adani group has gradually increased its presence in the aviation sector. Airports in Lucknow, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, and Guwahati were leased by the AAI in February 2019 through a competitive bidding process. The Adani group did aggressive bidding and won the rights to run all six of them for 50 years. Moreover, the Adani group would invest about Rs 10,000 crore in the Ahmedabad airport between 2023 and 2027 to triple its passenger handling capacity, making it a regional hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani group – to invest Rs 10,700 Cr to expand Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (Lucknow)
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

101. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh said that 'Samudrayaan' mission is aimed at sending 3 personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000' for the exploration of deep-sea resources like minerals. The mission is expected to be launched by 2026. 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed and developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Samudrayaan' mission is aimed at sending 3 personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000'
- The mission is expected to be launched by 2026
- 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed & developed by – NIOT, Chennai

102. On December 18, Tamil Nadu Government made Aadhaar mandatory for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the State government through various Departments by their implementing agencies. The Treasuries and Accounts Department, through its implementing agency, would offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled. In all other cases, where biometric or Aadhaar OTP or Time-based OTP authentication is not possible, benefits under the scheme may be given on the basis of physical Aadhaar letter whose authenticity can be verified through Quick Response (QR) code printed on the Aadhaar letter. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – made Aadhaar mandatory for Govt Employees, Govt Pensioners & Beneficiaries of various schemes
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

103. On December 20, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced that three new cultural sites in India, including the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, historic Vadnagar town in Gujarat, and rock-cut relief sculptures of Unakoti Range in Tripura, have been added to the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The UNESCO website describes a tentative list as an 'inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination'. Vadnagar is also the birthplace of PM Narendra Modi. With this, India now has 52 sites on the UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Site. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 new cultural sites in India have been added to the 'Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites':
 - Modhera Sun Temple (Gujarat)
 - Vadnagar town (Gujarat)
 - Unakoti Range (Tripura)
- Vadnagar is also the birthplace of PM Narendra Modi
- With this, India now has 52 sites on the UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites

104. On December 18, Sri Lanka and India announced to start a passenger ferry service between Kankesanthurai port in Jaffna district and Pondicherry. With such engagement, the new service is expected to generate a large portion of foreign revenue. It will also be of immense convenience for Buddhist pilgrims to India. Moreover, the passenger transport services will also be started from south India to Trincomalee and Colombo in Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka & India – to start a passenger ferry service between Kankesanthurai Port in Jaffna district & Pondicherry
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

105. On December 20, Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched India's first Green Steel Brand - "KALYANI FERRESTA" in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group, by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment. Government of India has been promoting green steel manufacturing and has put in place a National Steel Policy to achieve zero carbon emissions by the industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jyotiraditya Scindia – launched India's first Green Steel Brand - "KALYANI FERRESTA" in New Delhi
- It is manufactured by Kalyani group (Pune) by using Renewable Energy resources
- Ministry of Steel: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Steel: Faggansingh Kulaste

106. On December 20, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, launched a programme to create 'Impact Leaders' in the areas of Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG). The impact leaders of the IICA certified ESG professional programme will have the responsibility to balance the 'Purpose, People, Planet and Profit'. The 'IICA Certified ESG Professional: Impact Leader Programme' is first of its kind in India designed specifically for creating most needed ESG professionals. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IICA – launched a first of its kind programme to create ‘Impact Leaders’ in the areas of ESG
- ‘Impact Leaders’ of IICA certified ESG professional program will have to balance the ‘Purpose, People, Planet & Profit’
- HQs of IICA – Gurgaon, Haryana | DG & CEO – Praveen Kumar

107. On December 21, Kerala’s first smart mobile composting unit was jointly launched by Suchitwa Mission and the Kerala Mission at Pallithottam. The smart mobile composting unit is an innovative concept that scientifically treats waste from auditoriums and large catering centres and turns it into manure. The unit can process up to 500 kg of waste per hour and convert it into manure. Moreover, Kerala announced to eliminate waste management by 2026 making the State completely garbage free. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala’s first smart mobile composting unit – jointly launched by ‘Suchitwa Mission + Kerala Mission’ at Pallithottam
- Kerala – announced to eliminate waste management by 2026 making the State completely garbage free
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

108. On December 22, two of the premiere institutes under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) of the Ministry of AYUSH namely, Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), New Delhi, and Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Jhansi, have been accredited with NABH and NABL accreditations, respectively. National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI). Apart from these two CCRAS institutes, National Ayurveda Research Institute for Panchakarma (NARIP) in Thrissur, Kerala, has also received NABL M(EL)T accreditation for its clinical laboratory services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CARI, New Delhi + CARI, Jhansi = accredited with NABH & NABL accreditations, respectively
- NABH – National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (a constituent board of the QCI)
- NABL – National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories
- NARIP (Thrissur, Kerala) – received NABL M(EL)T accreditation

109. On December 21, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 24-hour Drink from Tap project in 19 cities and towns of the state virtually under the 5T initiative. Puri was the first town where the Drink from Tap facility was launched. In Gopalpur was the second city in the state in which 100% of people have access to the Drink from Tap system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik – launched the ‘24-hour Drink from Tap’ project in 19 cities & towns under the 5T initiative
- Puri – first town in the state to launch “Drink from Tap” Facility
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

110. On December 22, Jio received Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) order for providing SD-WAN (Software Defined Wide Area Network) solution that will power IOCL’s retail automation and critical business processes. JioBusiness, the Enterprise arm of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will be deploying and managing SD-WAN for IOCL across its 7,200 retail outlets for a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – received IOCL’s order for providing ‘SD-WAN’ solution to power IOCL’s retail outlets
- HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani



111. On December 21, the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), promoted by the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), launched “GIXI” - the first ever nationwide price index to reflect benchmark natural gas price for India. The IGX Price Index has been developed with the purpose of deriving a single price for the country in line with international benchmarks such as JKM, HH, WIM, TTF, which are currently representative of the prices in their respective coverage regions. At IGX, over 447 lakh MMBtus (1.1 Billion Cubic Meters) of gas has been traded since inception. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Gas Exchange – launched “GIXI” - the first ever nationwide price index for Natural Gas price
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar Mediratta | Chairman – R. Vaidyanathan

112. On December 22, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has won the prestigious “GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022”, a top national level Green Building Award. GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is a national rating system for green buildings in India, and it is developed by Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI). UIDAI promotes the idea of recycle and reuse to reduce carbon footprint. Moreover, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) satellite centre at Sangrur, Punjab is declared winner in the “GRIHA Exemplary Performance Competition” in the category of ‘Energy Management’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UIDAI – won the “GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022”
- PGIMER – won the “GRIHA Exemplary Performance Competition” in ‘Energy Management’ category
- GRIHA – Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment | It is a national rating system developed by – TERI
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Vibha Dhawan | Established in – 1974

113. On December 23, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) organized one-day event called ‘Dance to Decarbonise’, where renewable energy generated through dance will be used to charge electric vehicles. This unique event was held at National Stadium, India Gate, in New Delhi as a run up to the India Energy Week that will be held in Bangalore in February 2023. The event will be highly significant as it aims to showcase India’s target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPNG – organized one-day event called “Dance to Decarbonise” in New Delhi
- Renewable Energy generated through dance will be used to charge electric vehicles
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli

114. Flipkart and PhonePe have completed their separation and both entities will continue to operate under US-based retail giant Walmart. PhonePe was acquired by Flipkart Group in 2016. As part of this transaction, existing Flipkart Singapore and PhonePe Singapore shareholders, led by Walmart, have purchased shares directly in PhonePe India. This completes the move to make PhonePe a fully India domiciled company. Walmart will remain the majority shareholder of both business groups. This year, PhonePe changed its domicile from Singapore to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + PhonePe = completed their separation and both entities will continue to operate under Walmart
- PhonePe was acquired by Flipkart Group in 2016
- In 2022, PhonePe changed its domicile from Singapore to India
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015



115. On December 20, Assam government approved the proposal by the Tourism department to grant industry status to the tourism sector in the state. The cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma approved the proposal to boost fresh investments into the tourism infrastructure through public-private partnerships (PPP). With this, hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, health clubs, spas and wellness centres among others are eligible for incentives under the industrial policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – granted the ‘industry status’ to the tourism sector of the state
- This will boost fresh investments into the tourism infrastructure through PPP
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur](#) | [CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) | [Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

116. On December 26, the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) Task Force has called for a ‘National AVGC-XR Mission’ with a budget outlay to be created for integrated promotion & growth of the AVGC sector. The Task Force, headed by Apurva Chandra (Secretary in MoI&B), has also recommended launching a ‘Create in India’ campaign with exclusive focus on content creation, In India, For India & For World. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AVGC Task Force (chaired by Apurva Chandra) – has called for a ‘National AVGC-XR Mission’
- The Task Force also recommended launching a ‘Create in India’ campaign
- [Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur](#) | [Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh](#)
- [Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan](#) (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

117. On December 22, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, announced that the Project Lion document titled “Lion@47: Vision for Amrutkal” plan has been unveiled for the conservation of Asiatic lions in the Gir landscape of Gujarat. It has been prepared with the objectives to secure & restore lions’ habitats for managing its growing population; scale up livelihood generation and participation of local communities; become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment and create inclusive biodiversity conservation through project lion initiative. The Minister further informed that Project Tiger is being implemented in tiger landscapes spread across the country in 53 tiger reserves. Financial assistance of Rs 124.58 lakh have been provided to State of Gujarat for conservation of wildlife including Asiatic Lions under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ during last 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Lion@47: Vision for Amrutkal” plan – unveiled for the conservation of Asiatic lions in the Gir landscape, Gujarat
- Financial Assistance of Rs 124.58 lakh is provided to Gujarat for conservation of wildlife including Asiatic Lions
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

118. In December 2021, Adani Solar, the photovoltaic manufacturing and research arm of the Adani Group, has begun manufacturing of large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots in India. With this, Adani Solar has become India’s first manufacturer of large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots capable of producing M10 & G12 wafers. The company intends to add 2 GW of ingot and wafer capacity by the end of 2023 and 10 GW by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Solar – became India’s first manufacturer to introduce large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots in India
- [HQs of Adani Solar – Ahmedabad, Gujarat](#) | [CEO – Vneet S. Jaain](#)



119. On December 23, Uttar Pradesh government announced to set up a wellness and care centre for senior citizens above 65 years in Lucknow in 2023. The centre will offer club-like facilities to senior citizens such as card room, yoga and meditation facilities, food, hobby area, medical care and indoor games at a reasonable monthly fee. The centre will be known with the name of 'Ullas'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up a 'Wellness & Care Centre for Senior Citizens' above 65 years in Lucknow in 2023
- The centre will be known as – 'Ullas'
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

120. In December 22, Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud has constituted 'Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility' headed by SC judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat to conduct an audit of 'physical and functional access' of the SC premises to make them disabled friendly. The committee has been given a broad mandate to prepare and release a questionnaire for persons with disabilities, including the apex court employees, advocates, litigants and interns, who visit the top court premises to assess the nature and extent of problems they face. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. Y. Chandrachud (SC) constituted 'Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility' – headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

121. On December 27, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Disaster Prone Region of Uttarakhand' project. The project will be implemented over a period of 3 years, until May 2025. SBI Foundation has designed the project in collaboration with Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation (HESCO) to promote equitable economic and ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in the Joshimath Block of Chamoli District. The project aims to achieve this crucial balance by promoting diversified livelihoods, including horticulture, ecotourism, bio farming, agriculture, and environmental protection measures, such as construction of check dams, protection walls, and water holes, to mitigate the risk of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pushkar Singh Dhami – launched 'Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Disaster Prone Region of Uttarakhand' project
- The project is designed by = SBI Foundation + HESCO
- The project will promote ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in Chamoli District
- [HQs of SBI Foundation – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [President – Lalit Mohan](#)
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain](#) | [CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami](#) | [Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

122. On December 27, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) gave its approval to the Uttar Pradesh government to change the name of Gorakhpur district's 'Mundera Baazar' municipal council to 'Chauri Chaura' and Deoria district's 'Telia Afghan' village to 'Telia Shukla'. A 'no-objection' certificate has also been provided to the Uttar Pradesh government allowing it to change the name. It gives the approval to change of name of any place after taking no objections from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts and Survey of India. These organisations have to confirm that there is no such city, town or village in their records with a name similar to the proposed one. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Approval given by MHA to UP government for the following name change:
 - Gorakhpur district's 'Mundera Baazar' municipal council – renamed to 'Chauri Chaura'
 - Deoria district's 'Telia Afghan' village – renamed to 'Telia Shukla'
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)



123. As of December 2022, Indian Railways is planning to modernise 1,000 small yet important stations under the new “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”. These stations will be redeveloped under the ‘Khurda Model of Redevelopment’. This is apart from the ambitious plan to revamp 200 big stations under a separate redevelopment programme. Khurda station in Odisha was modernised for Rs 4 crore with all contemporary amenities for passengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – plans to modernise 1,000 small yet important stations under the new “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”
- These stations will be redeveloped under ‘Khurda Model of Redevelopment’ | Khurda Station – located in Odisha
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)

124. In December 2022, Uttar Pradesh government approved the “UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022”. The move will help it become a “USD 1-trillion Economy”. The policy's approval came ahead of the “Global Investors’ Summit” scheduled to be held in Lucknow in February 2023. The objective of this policy is to create a strong transport infrastructure network, upgrade and improve the existing warehousing and logistics infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – approved the “UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022”
- “Global Investors’ Summit” – held in Lucknow
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

125. On December 30, West Bengal got its first Vande Bharat Express which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kolkata’s busiest station Howrah. The final destination is New Jalpaiguri station. The new train will reduce travel time between Siliguri and Kolkata significantly. The new 16-coach train, which features modern passenger facilities, will take around 7.5 hours to reach its destination. It is the 7th Vande Bharat Express that will be running in India. The last Vande Bharat Express was inaugurated by PM Modi on the Nagpur-Bilaspur route in early December. In the Union Budget for 2022, Finance Minister Sitharaman said that the government would build 400 more Vande Bharat trains in the next three years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated East India’s 1st Vande Bharat Express train at Howrah station, Kolkata, West Bengal
- This 7th Vande Bharat Express will run between Siliguri & Kolkata
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

126. On December 2022, Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) collaborated with HCL Foundation (HCLF), the CSR arm of HCLTech, for marine and coastal conservation to resolve the ghost net and marine debris problem in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. Gulf of Mannar (GoM), India’s first Marine National Park and one of the largest biosphere reserves, is highly affected due to unsustainable fishing practices, dumping of plastics and ghost nets. A three-year action plan and ‘Debris-Free Gulf of Mannar’ mass awareness campaigns for a larger citizen’s action will also be conducted. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu Forest Dept + HCL Foundation = collaborated for marine and coastal conservation
- They aim to resolve the ghost net & marine debris problem – in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu
- ‘Debris-Free Gulf of Mannar’ mass awareness campaigns – will be conducted in Tamil Nadu
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)



127. On December 23, Manipur launched a portal for deputy commissioners and labour commissioners to issue inner line permits (ILP) online. The portal was launched in consultation with the Department of Information Technology, the ILP cell and the home department. The ILPs were earlier issued manually. Temporary permits are given for 30 days, regular permits for 3 months and labour permits for a year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched a portal to issue Inner Line Permits (ILP) online
- Time allowed for permits: Temporary permits – 30 days | Regular permits – 3 months | Labour permits – 1 year
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan](#)

128. On December 28, Hyderabad-based drone-tech startup Marut Drones' "AG 365" agri-copter has received 'Type Certificate' approval from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). It has also received remote pilot training organisation (RPTO) approvals from DGCA. 'AG 365' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive these certificate. Recently on December 24, Garuda Aerospace's indigenously-designed 'Kisan Drones' became India's first drone start-up to get these approvals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "AG 365" agri-copter of Marut Drones (Hyderabad) – received 'Type Certificate' approval from DGCA
- 'AG 365' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive these certificate

129. On December 25, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar addressed the public at the state-level 'Good Governance Day' function in Panchkula. During the function, he mentioned that families with annual incomes up to 1,80,000 are being brought under the BPL family and around 29 lakh cards will be made in this regard. Notably, under the 'Chirayu Yojana', 29 lakh families shall be given health insurance. Health checkups of about 1.25 crore people will be done under the 'Nirogi Haryana Yojana'. Moreover, Haryana government announced to celebrate 2023 as "Antyodaya Arogya Varsh". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana Govt – to celebrate 2023 as "Antyodaya Arogya Varsh"
- 29 lakh families will be given health insurance under 'Chirayu Yojana' in Haryana
- Health checkups of about 1.25 crore people will be done under the 'Nirogi Haryana Yojana' in Haryana
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

130. On December 24, Indian Railways issued the Letter of Award (LoA) for Manufacturing and Maintenance of 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotives to Siemens, India. The estimated value of the contract is about Rs 26,000 crore (about 3.2 Billion USD). These High HorsePower (9000 HP) locomotives will be the future workhorse for freight operation on Indian Railways. Siemens, selected as technological partner, will manufacture these locomotives at Dahod and maintain these locomotives at four maintenance depots - Visakhapatnam, Raipur, Kharagpur, Pune for a period of 35 years utilising Railway's Manpower. Siemens India is a subsidiary of Germany-based Siemens AG. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – issued the LoA for Manufacturing & Maintenance of 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotives to Siemens
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)
- [HQs of Siemens AG – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch](#)



131. On December 28, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been appointed the Nodal Ministry for online gaming, according to the 377th amendment to the 'Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules'. Moreover, the Government of India has officially recognized 'e-Sports' as a part of multi-sports events. Department of Sports under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has been notified as the nodal department for e-sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 377th amendment to the 'Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules': MeitY is appointed as Nodal Ministry for Online Gaming
- Government officially recognized 'e-Sports' as a part of multi-sports events
- Department of Sports – appointed as Nodal department for 'e-Sports'

132. On December 29, as part of India's G20 presidency, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched the "Stay Safe Online" campaign and the "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" (G20-DIA) program/summit. MeitY is the Nodal Ministry for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG). The "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA) Summit" was organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka. During India's G20 presidency, MeitY will focus on three priority areas, namely Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cyber Security, and Digital Skill Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw (MeitY) – launched "Stay Safe Online" campaign & "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" program
- Nodal Ministry for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group – MeitY
- "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" (G20-DIA) program/summit – organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

133. On December 29, Tamil Nadu government launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr at a cost of ₹25.14 Cr. Nilgiri Tahr is the State animal of Tamil Nadu. The funds for the project are to be provided by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Under the project, the government plans to develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population. The project is to be implemented from 2022 to 2027. Moreover, October 7 will be celebrated as 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' in honour of E.R.C. Davidar, who was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies of the species in 1975. It is an endangered species and the sole Caprinae species found in the tropical mountains of southern India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr at a cost of ₹25.14 Cr
- Nilgiri Tahr – state animal of TN
- October 7 – 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' (in honour of E.R.C. Davidar)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

134. On December 28, Hardeep S. Puri launched two key initiatives of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - 'City Finance Rankings, 2022' and 'City Beauty Competition'. 'City Finance Rankings 2022' aims to evaluate, recognize and reward ULBs on the basis of their strength across three financial parameters viz. resource mobilization, expenditure performance and fiscal governance systems. The participating ULBs will be evaluated on 15 indicators across three key municipal finance assessment parameters, namely: (i) Resource Mobilization, (ii) Expenditure Performance and (iii) Fiscal Governance. The cities will be ranked at the national level on the basis of their scores under any one of the following four population categories: (i) Above 4 million (ii) Between 1-4 million (iii) 100K to 1 million (iv) Less than 100,000. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Hardeep S. Puri – launched two initiatives namely ‘City Finance Rankings, 2022’ and ‘City Beauty Competition’
- City Finance Rankings – to reward ULBs on the basis of their strength across three financial parameters
- City Beauty Competition – to recognize the efforts made by cities & wards towards creating beautiful, innovative & inclusive public spaces
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

135. On December 29, Home Minister Amit Shah launched a mobile app ‘Prahari’ and manual of Border Security Force (BSF) in New Delhi. Home Minister also stated that ‘Prahari’ app is a great example of Proactive Governance. Through ‘Prahari’ app, Jawans can get personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushman-CAPF and leaves on their mobiles. The Home Minister also mentioned ‘One Border One Force’ which was conceptualized by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – launched ‘Prahari’ mobile app for BSF personnel
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Sujoy Lal Thakur (addi.) | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

136. In December 2022, the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) has been launched at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the premier multidisciplinary R&D establishment of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in Mumbai. Marking the occasion, AIC-BARC signed agreements with MSME industries for the incubation of prominent DAE technologies for societal and industrial applications. Established under the aegis of AIM, AIC-BARC has been setup as one of the three Aatma Nirbhar projects of DAE. To create an ever-evolving ecosystem of start-ups and entrepreneurs, NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has been establishing world-class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) at universities, institutions, and corporates among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – established ‘Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)’ at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai
- BARC – signed agreements with MSME industries for the incubation of prominent DAE technologies
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Director – Ajit Kumar Mohanty
- HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in – 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)

137. On December 27, the insurgent group Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) signed a peace agreement with the Union government and Manipur government. Under the agreement, the ZUF agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The ZUF is mostly active in Manipur. The ZUF represents Zeliangrong people of the Naga tribes. The ZUF is listed as one of the 13 active insurgent group in Manipur by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP). The agreement provides for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres of ZUF. A joint monitoring group will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ZUF (Manipur) – signed a peace agreement with the Union government & Manipur government
- ZUF – represents Zeliangrong people of the Naga tribes & agreed to give up violence & join peaceful democratic process
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan



138. On December 28, Maharashtra Assembly passed the “Lokayukta Bill 2022”, which brings the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers under the ambit of the Anti-Corruption Ombudsman. Maharashtra is the first state to have such a law. According to the Bill, the Lokayukta will have to seek the approval of the assembly before initiating any inquiry against the chief minister and bringing a motion before the session of the house. As per the provision, the Lokayukta shall have a Chairperson, who shall be a present or former Chief Justice of a High Court. The Lokayukta shall have a maximum of 4 members, of whom two shall be from the judiciary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra Assembly – passed the “Lokayukta Bill 2022” (Maharashtra is the first state to have such a law)
- The bill brings the Chief Minister & Council of Ministers under the ambit of the ‘Anti-Corruption Ombudsman’
- The Lokayukta shall have a maximum of 4 members
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

139. On December 29, according to a report, the Labour ministry is considering a shift from the minimum wage to a living wage in a bid to pull people out of poverty. The move may play a significant role in helping India meet its Sustainable Development Goal to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. India could seek help from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to arrive at living wages. A minimum wage is the amount required for subsistence and is set by law. The living wage, on the other hand, is necessary for workers to meet their basic living requirements. The difference between the two may range from 10 to 25%. In India, the minimum wage has been fixed at Rs 178 per day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry – is considering a shift from the ‘minimum wage’ to a ‘living wage’ to pull people out of poverty
- It may help India meet its SDG to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030 | Minimum wage in India – fixed at Rs 178/day
- [Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli](#)

140. On December 28, Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur released the Official Government of India Calendar for the year 2023. Under the overall theme of “Naya Varsh, Naye Sankalp”, the calendar showcases achievements and future commitments of Government. Printed in 13 languages, the calendar was distributed to all Government offices and Panchayats across country. In the Calendar 2023, each month highlights select governance principles and policies that have played a crucial role in nurturing a strong India. All themes are given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – released the Official Government of India Calendar for the year 2023
- Overall theme of the Calendar 2023 – “Naya Varsh, Naye Sankalp”
- Month-wise themes:
 - January - Kartavya Path
 - February - Kisan Kalyan
 - March - Nari Shakti
 - April - Shikshit Bharat
 - May - Skill India program
 - June - Fit India, Hit India
 - July - Environmental Health
 - August - Khelo India
 - September - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World Is One Family)
 - October - Food Security
 - November - Self-reliant India
 - December - Highlights the importance of all 8 North-Eastern states



141. On December 30, with an aim to invite ideas, solutions and actions that can transform rural economy, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), under the Ministry of Rural Development, launched the "Prajwala Challenge". It was launched by Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shailesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi. Shortlisted ideas will be acknowledged by the Mission and will be provided mentorship support from an expert panel and incubation support to scale up. The top 5 ideas will be rewarded with Rs 2 Lakh each. The Prajwala Challenge will also be shared in the Manthan portal. DAY-NRLM is one of the flagship poverty alleviation programs of the Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DAY-NRLM (Ministry of Rural Development) – launched "Prajwala Challenge" to invite ideas to transform rural economy
- Minister of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

142. On December 31, Election Commission of India (ECI) announced to begin the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in Assam. The census figures of 2001 would be used for the delimitation process. The term of the current Assam Legislative Assembly will end on May 20, 2026. The State has 14 Lok Sabha, 126 Assembly and 7 Rajya Sabha seats. Moreover, Assam state Cabinet also approved the merger of 4 districts - Tamulpur (to be re-merged with Baksa), Hojai (to be re-merged with Nagaon), Biswanath (to be re-merged with Sonitpur), and Bajali (to be re-merged with Barpeta). After merger, the number of districts in Assam will drop to 31 from 35. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ECI – announced to begin the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in Assam
- The census figures of 2001 would be used for the delimitation process
- Assam state Cabinet also approved the merger of 4 districts: (total districts in Assam after merger - 31)
 - Tamulpur (to be re-merged with Baksa),
 - Hojai (to be re-merged with Nagaon),
 - Biswanath (to be re-merged with Sonitpur)
 - Bajali (to be re-merged with Barpeta)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

143. On December 27, Ministry of Mines approved the purchase of two new surveyor ships, which will replace the ageing RV Samudra Shaudhikama and RV Samudra Kaustabh and conduct marine surveys for the Geological Survey of India (GSI). The survey will focus on seabed mapping and exploration of non-living resources in the offshore sector, exclusive economic zone and international waters. The RV Samudra Shaudhikama and RV Samudra Kaustabh were built in the Netherlands and commissioned in 1984. The new vessels are to be delivered by 2026, after which they will be deployed in seabed mapping and mineral exploration programmes. These ships are expected to be operational for at least two decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Mines – approved the purchase of two new surveyor ships to conduct marine surveys for GSI
- The new ships will replace – 'RV Samudra Shaudhikama' & 'RV Samudra Kaustabh'
- RV Samudra Shaudhikama + RV Samudra Kaustabh = built in the Netherlands & commissioned in 1984
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – S. Raju



International Affairs

1. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC), the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22. India had earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021. Under India's December presidency of UNSC, there are two signature events at the ministerial level, scheduled for December 14 (Reformed Multilateralism) and 15 (Counter-Terrorism). On December 15, the event planned is the high-level briefing on the theme "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism - Challenges and Way Forward". Overall, during its 8th term as an elected member of the UNSC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for December 2022 (overall 8th term)
- India – earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in December – India (November - Ghana | January - Japan)

2. December 4 is observed as the International Day of Banks in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks. The day was designated by the UNGA in 2019. The day is also observed in recognition of the vital role of the banking systems in Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. 2022 marked the 3rd edition of the International Day of Banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 3rd edition of "International Day of Banks"

3. On December 1, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan, exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of Central Counter Parties (CCPs) with the objective of improving mutual cooperation. The cooperation will be mutually beneficial and ensure soundness of the financial markets in both the jurisdictions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI + FSA (Japan) = exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of Central Counter Parties (CCPs)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

4. On December 5, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk under the Amul brand, will jointly provide necessary technical support for the production of milk in Sri Lanka. The aim is to reduce Sri Lanka's dependence on imported milk products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDDB + Amul (GCMMF) = will jointly provide necessary technical support for the production of milk in Sri Lanka
- HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujarat | Chairman – Meenesh Shah | Established in – 1965
- HQs of AMUL – Anand, Gujarat | MD – Rupinder Singh Sodhi | Established in – 1946

5. 'Gaslighting' has been named Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2022. Merriam-Webster's definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Gaslighting' – named as 'Word of the Year for 2022' by Merriam-Webster



6. On December 5, “Goblin mode” has been chosen by Oxford English Dictionary as the Word of the Year 2022. The term refers to a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations. More than 340,000 English speakers around the world cast their vote. “Metaverse” was the second choice, followed by “#IStandWith”. “Vax” was the previous Oxford words of the year 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Goblin mode” – chosen by Oxford English Dictionary as the ‘Word of the Year 2022’

7. The proposal to downgrade the status of Southern White Rhino from ‘Appendix I’ to ‘Appendix II’ was accepted at the 19th Conference of Parties (COP19). The COP19, organised by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Panama City, accepted the proposal by Botswana and Namibia to degrade the status. Wild animal species listed in Appendix I include those threatened with extinction. The animals named under Appendix II may not necessarily be threatened with extinction, but trade of such species should be controlled to ensure it does not threaten their existence. Namibia’s white rhino population is estimated to be around 1,237 individuals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The proposal to downgrade the status of Southern White Rhino from ‘Appendix I’ to ‘Appendix II’ was accepted at the COP19 to CITES in Panama
- The proposal to degrade the status was made by – Botswana & Namibia
- [Botswana – Gaborone – Pula](#) | [President – Mokgweetsi Masisi](#)

8. On December 3, NATO member and Russia’s neighbor Estonia signed a deal worth over USD 200 million to procure the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from the US. HIMARS rockets have ranges of 70-300 kilometers (43-186 miles). Lockheed Martin Corp. is expected to make the first deliveries in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Estonia – signed a deal worth over \$200 million to procure High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from the US
- HIMARS: Built by – Lockheed Martin (US) | Range – 70-300 Km
- [Estonia – Tallinn – Euro](#) | [President – Alar Karis](#) | [PM – Kaja Kallas](#)

9. India has sent a team of three geologists to Argentina to assess potential lithium deposits and possible acquisition opportunities in the Latin American nation. The team comprises one geologist each from Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI). The team of geologists will be there for 15 days to carry out the exercise of assessing feasibility of lithium reserves in Argentina’s Catamarca province. Lithium is the key component of batteries and other electronics including in rechargeable batteries (used in EVs) and energy storage solutions. With 8 million tons, Chile has the world’s largest known lithium reserves, followed by Australia (2.7 million tons), Argentina (2 million tons) and China (1 million tons). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has sent a team of three geologists to Argentina to assess potential lithium deposits
- Chile – has the world’s largest known lithium reserves (followed by Australia & Argentina)
- [Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso](#) | [President – Alberto Fernandez](#)



10. In December 2022, World Bank approved \$250 million in financing to help Bangladesh strengthen Environmental Management and promote Private Sector participation in Green Investment. The Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST) Project will support the Department of Environment to strengthen its technical and administrative capacity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved \$250 million in financing to help Bangladesh strengthen Environmental Management and promote Private Sector participation in Green Investment
- BEST project – **B**angladesh **E**nvironmental **S**ustainability and **T**ransformation
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

11. The Israeli Navy conducted a successful test of a long-range interceptor missile against an ‘advanced’ cruise missile. The LRAD missile, part of the Barak MX defense system, is developed by the Israeli Aerospace Industries and the Defense Ministry’s research and development division, known by the Hebrew acronym MAFAT. The missile is capable of foiling a myriad of aerial threats including planes, UAVs, cruise missiles, unguided rockets, and coast-to-sea missiles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israeli Navy – successful tested ‘LRAD’, a long-range interceptor missile against an advanced cruise missile
- LRAD missile – is part of ‘Barak MX’ defense system | LRAD – **L**ong-**R**ange **A**coustic **D**evice
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

12. On December 6, Indonesia’s Parliament passed revision of its penal code that criminalizes extramarital sex for citizens and visiting foreigners alike. The amended criminal code makes sex outside marriage punishable by a year in jail and cohabitation by six months, but adultery charges must be based on police reports lodged by their spouse, parents or children. The code maintains that abortion is a crime, but it adds exceptions for women with life-threatening medical conditions and for rape, provided that the foetus is less than 12 weeks old, in line with what is already regulated in the 2004 Medical Practice Law. Indonesia, the world’s fourth most populous nation and third largest democracy, proclaimed independence August 17, 1945. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia – criminalized Extramarital Sex or Adultery
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

13. On December 9, Japan announced to jointly develop its next-generation fighter jet, Mitsubishi F-X fighter jet, with the UK and Italy, for deployment by 2035. The Mitsubishi F-X fighter jet will replace the aging fleet of F-2 that Japan previously developed with the United States. Under the fighter jet agreement, Japan’s Mitsubishi Heavy Industries will partner with British defence contractor BAE Systems PLC. Italy’s Leonardo S.p.A will be a key player in the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – announced to jointly develop ‘Mitsubishi F-X fighter jet’, with the UK & Italy, for deployment by 2035
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

14. The United Nations Panel recommended that Australia’s Great Barrier Reef should be listed as a world heritage site that is “in danger”, citing the world’s biggest coral reef ecosystem was significantly impacted by climate change and warming of oceans. Australia’s recently elected Labor government has pledged to spend \$1.2 billion (\$800 million) in coming years to protect the reef. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- UN Panel recommended: Australia's Great Barrier Reef should be listed as a world heritage site that is 'in danger'
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

15. On December 6, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. Millets are nutritious and can be cultivated in semi-arid zones besides consuming less water for irrigation. Raising awareness to create 'Millet Mindfulness' is an important part of this movement. A pledge to include millets in their everyday food was also undertaken on the occasion. To mark the significance of the day in India, several initiatives have been taken by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW). The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'. In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "Nutri Cereals", and the year 2018 was declared as the National Year of Millets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FAO – organized an opening ceremony for the "International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM2023)" in – Rome, Italy
- In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "Nutri Cereals"
- 2018 – was declared as the 'National Year of Millets'
- [HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy](#) | [DG – QU Dongyu](#) | [Formation – 16th October, 1945](#)

16. On December 10, Britain's Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak announced Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a partnership between the UK, Italy, and Japan in an ambitious project to develop the fighter jet of the future. It will be called the "Tempest". Due to fly by 2035, Tempest will be a sixth-generation stealth fighter with a network of capabilities: The ability to operate manned or unmanned; control swarms of attack drones; present a low radar profile; have innovative data systems, and be armed with cutting-edge weapons such as hypersonic missiles. Britain and Italy are developing the Tempest to rival an aircraft being built by a Franco-German coalition: Future Combat Air System (FCAS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK + Italy + Japan = partnered & formed GCAP to develop the 6th generation fighter jet called "Tempest"
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Rishi Sunak \(57th\)](#) | [New King – King Charles III](#)
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Giorgia Meloni](#)

17. In a first, Janet Yellen, the first woman to head the US Treasury department and chair the US Federal Reserve, created history again as she unveiled US currency notes bearing signatures of two women - Yellen and US Treasury Chief Lynn Malerba. Malerba is the first Native American to serve in the role at US Treasury. The notes of denominations \$1 and \$5 will bear their signatures. The new currency bills will be a reminder of the contributions of women who have worked hard at the Treasury and in economics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- In a first, US currency notes will bear signatures of two women - Janet Yellen & Lynn Malerba
- Janet Yellen – the first woman to head the US Treasury department & chair the US Federal Reserve
- Lynn Malerba – the first Native American to serve in the role at US Treasury
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)



18. The first Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to phase out plastic was held in Uruguay from November 28 to December 2, 2022. Kenya and South Africa have announced the “Just Transition” initiative to end plastic pollution. The initiative aims to create decent work opportunities for waste-pickers and other workers in the plastic value chain. International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAW) is a networking process that connects and supports thousands of waste picker organisations in over 28 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)” – held in Uruguay
- Kenya & South Africa – announced the “Just Transition” initiative to end plastic pollution
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – William Samoei Ruto
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

19. On December 13, G7 created an open, ‘International Climate Club’ for countries to cooperate in the fight against global warming. Germany held the presidency of the G-7 until the end of 2022 and then has been passed on to Japan. The climate club aims to support the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The club will work to help accelerate the industrial transition to cleaner forms of energy and to further develop emission-reduction measures. Moreover, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Agency would establish a “climate change secretariat”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G7 – created an ‘International Climate Club’ for countries to cooperate in the fight against global warming
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

20. On December 13, European Union general affairs ministers agreed to a recommendation that Bosnia and Herzegovina should become a formal candidate to join the 27-nation EU. This recommendation will have to be endorsed by EU leaders. In the process to join the EU after getting ‘candidate status’, it may take many years and involve complex negotiations on adjusting local laws to match those of the EU. Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Convertible Marka is its currency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 27 Nations of the EU – agreed to give Bosnia and Herzegovina ‘candidate status’ to join the EU in the upcoming years
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo – Convertible Marka | Chairman of the Presidency – Zeljka Cvijanovic
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

21. On December 14, the 54-member United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the draft resolution, introduced by the US, to remove Iran from the membership of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term, citing its oppression of women and girls in Iran. India abstained in the ECOSOC on a draft resolution to oust Iran. Iran was rocked by protests after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. After Iran’s removal, now ECOSOC has 53 members. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ECOSOC adopted the draft resolution to remove Iran from the membership of UNCSW for its 2022-2026 term
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, US | President – Lachezara Stoeva | Established in – 1945 | Members – 53

22. India recently approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a foreign currency. Sri Lankans can now hold \$10,000 worth of the Indian rupee (INR) in physical form, though the INR would not be legal tender in the island nation. This also means that Sri Lankans and Indians can use Indian rupees instead of US dollars for international transactions with each other. And for this, Sri Lankan banks must open Nostro Accounts with Indian banks. A nostro account refers to an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a foreign currency
- Sri Lankans can now hold \$10,000 worth of INR in physical form
- Nostro Account – an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

23. On December 15, the Group of Seven (G7) countries, along with Norway and Denmark, signed an agreement called ‘Just Energy Transition Partnership’ to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution. The aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to “Net Zero” by 2050. The first such deal was signed with South Africa in 2021, and a similar agreement was signed with Indonesia in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G7 nations + Norway + Denmark = signed a ‘Just Energy Transition Partnership’ to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

24. On December 13, New Zealand passed into law a unique plan to phase out tobacco smoking by imposing a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes. The law states that tobacco can’t ever be sold to anybody born on or after Jan 1, 2009. Health authorities hope smoking will fade away well before then. They have a stated goal of making New Zealand smoke-free by 2025. The law does not affect vaping, which has already become more popular than smoking in New Zealand. New Zealand in recent years also imposed a series of hefty tax hikes on cigarettes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – passed a law to impose a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes to phase out tobacco smoking
- According to law, tobacco can’t ever be sold to anybody born on or after Jan 1, 2009
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

25. On December 16, Nigeria and Rwanda became the first African signatories of the NASA-led “Artemis Accords” on space collaboration. A total of 23 nations have signed on to the Artemis Accords which were announced by NASA and the US Department of State in 2020. They are officially described as ‘a set of principles to guide the next phase in space exploration, and promote the beneficial use of space for all of humanity’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nigeria & Rwanda – became the first African signatories of the NASA-led “Artemis Accords”
- Artemis Accords were announced by NASA & the US Department of State in 2020 | Total nations – 23
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari
- Rwanda – Kigali – Rwandan Franc | President – Paul Kagame

26. On December 17, Romania, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Georgia signed an agreement on the Black Sea submarine cable for the transport of electricity from the Caspian area to Romania. The quadrilateral intergovernmental agreement will provide the financial and technical framework for the implementation of the project according to which Azerbaijan will supply its green electricity through power lines to Georgia, and then by the planned submarine cable to Romania, and from there to Hungary and the rest of Europe, through the European transport system. The 500 kV submarine cable between Georgia and Romania would be 1,100 km long and have a capacity of 1 GW. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023 and the cable could be built in late 2029. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Romania + Hungary + Azerbaijan + Georgia = signed an agreement on the ‘Black Sea submarine cable’
- The cable between Georgia & Romania would be 1,100 km long and have a capacity of 1 GW

27. On December 15, Japan released a new mandate, a first of its kind, saying all new houses in Tokyo built by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 must install solar power panels to cut household carbon emissions. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government aims to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with 2000 levels. Moreover, Japan has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Japan is the world’s fifth-largest carbon emitter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan (Tokyo) – makes solar panels mandatory for new homes built in Tokyo after 2025
- Japan – committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 (Japan is the world’s fifth-largest carbon emitter)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

28. On December 16, Japan unveiled a historic \$320 billion military build-up plan amid rising regional tensions. Japan’s new defence outlay will increase Japan’s defence ministry budget to around a tenth of all public spending at current levels, and will make Japan the world’s third-biggest military spender after the United States and China. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s government worries that Russia has set a precedent that will encourage China to attack Taiwan, threatening nearby Japanese islands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – unveiled a historic \$320 billion military build-up plan amid rising regional tensions
- Japan’s new defence outlay will make Japan the world’s third-biggest military spender, after the US & China
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

29. On December 19, the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Montreal, Canada, adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)”. The framework has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030. The countries will monitor and report every 5 years or less on a large set of indicators related to progress. The Global Environment Facility has been requested to establish a ‘Special Trust Fund’ to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF Fund). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- COP15 to the UN CBD – adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)”
- The framework has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030

30. On December 20, Nepal’s drug regulatory authority has blacklisted 16 Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Divya Pharmacy which manufactures Yoga Guru Ramdev’s Patanjali products, stating that they failed to comply with the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) drug manufacturing standards. The list of the companies that do not comply with WHO standards were published after inspection of the manufacturing facilities of the pharmaceutical companies that had applied to export their products to Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal – blacklisted 16 Indian pharmaceutical companies that failed to comply with WHO’s drug manufacturing standards
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee](#) | [President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari](#) | [PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba](#)

31. On December 21, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (the Coalition) announced the formation of a new Permanent Secretariat to be co-hosted by World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Officially launched at the One Planet Summit in Paris in 2021, the Coalition is an intergovernmental group of 116 countries co-chaired by Costa Rica & France and by the UK as Ocean co-chair. Under the new Secretariat, the Coalition will lead an historic effort to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world’s land and ocean by the year 2030. Currently, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover about 17% of all land and a bit more than 8% of the ocean. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People – announced the formation of a new Permanent Secretariat
- The Secretariat will be co-hosted by = WRI + GEF
- The coalition is co-chaired by Costa Rica & France | Ocean co-chair – UK
- Currently, protected areas & OECMs cover about 17% of all land & almost 8% of the ocean
- Coalition will lead an historic effort to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world’s land and ocean by 2030

32. On December 25, India and Russia agreed to stop using the dollar and Euro for bilateral trade settlements, and planned to do all such transactions in rupee and Rouble/Ruble. The decision is taken to address the trade imbalance for a full-fledged transition to national currencies. Currently, India imports five times more from Russia than it sells back. Pavan Kapoor is the India’s ambassador to Russia who addressed the Russia-India business dialogue recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Russia = agreed to stop using the dollar & Euro for bilateral trade settlements
- India’s ambassador to Russia – Pavan Kapoor
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

33. On December 24, Taliban government ordered all foreign and domestic non-governmental groups in Afghanistan to suspend employing women, allegedly because some female employees didn’t wear the Islamic headscarf or hijab correctly. Moreover, The Taliban rulers banned female students from attending universities effective immediately. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taliban government (Afghanistan) – banned women to work in foreign & domestic NGOs
- Taliban – banned female students from attending universities
- [Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani](#) | [Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh](#) | [Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund](#)



34. In December 2022, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted its first resolution (Resolution 2669) on Myanmar, expressing “deep concern” at the situation that has engulfed the country since the military coup of February 2021. The resolution was adopted with 12 of the 15 members of the UNSC in favor, while India, China, and Russia abstained. It condemns the military’s execution of pro-democracy activists, urges the military to “immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners”, including deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and demands an “immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNSC – adopted ‘Resolution 2669’ on Myanmar expressing deep concern at situation of military coup of February 2021
- India, China & Russia abstained while the rest 12 members voted in favor
- It is the first time that UNSC has adopted a resolution regarding Myanmar
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in December – India (November - Ghana | January - Japan)
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Myint Swe | PM – Min Aung Hlaing



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

1. On December 1, The Reserve Bank of India granted a conditional approval to the Carlyle Group and Verventa Holdings to acquire 9.99% stake each in YES Bank. YES Bank, had in July, announced raising ₹8,900 Cr from private equity investors, Carlyle Group and Advent International, where-in ₹5,100 Cr was proposed to be raised through shares and ₹3,800 Cr through share warrants. The entities will initially acquire 5.9% stake each post the share issue, which will eventually rise to 10% after the conversion of share warrants into shares. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – granted a conditional approval to Carlyle Group & Verventa Holdings to acquire 9.99% stake each in YES Bank
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

2. On December 3, State Bank of India raised ₹10,000 Cr through its maiden infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.51%. The tenor for the bond is set at 10 years. It is the largest single infra bond sale by any domestic lender. The issue was oversubscribed 3.27 times or bids worth ₹16,366 Cr, against the base issue from 143 bids, demonstrating the confidence of the investor class. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – raised ₹10,000 Cr through its maiden infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.51% | Tenor – 10 Years
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

3. On December 1, IIFL Mutual Fund launched India’s first passive tax saver fund. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the passive alternative in the Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) space. Being an index fund, the scheme will try to mirror the Nifty 50 and generate returns in line with the movement in the index. As it will be passively managed, investors will be charged lower expenses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Mutual Fund – launched India’s first passive tax saver fund
- It will mirror the Nifty 50 and generate returns in line with the movement in the index
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

4. On December 3, NSE launched Nifty Bharat Bond Index, April 2033, within the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series. The Bharat Bond Index series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of ‘AAA’ rated bonds issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year. The upcoming Bharat Bond ETF which is sixth in the Bharat Bond ETF series. This new Bharat Bond ETF and Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF) series will mature in April 2033. Bharat Bond ETF invests only in ‘AAA’ rated bonds of public sector companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE – launched ‘Nifty Bharat Bond Index’ which will mature in April 2033
- This Bharat Bond ETF which is sixth in the Bharat Bond ETF series
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi



5. On December 1, ICICI Bank launched a STACK for companies in real estate sector to offer solutions to their banking requirements on one platform. The STACK, which is a combination of digital and physical solutions, enables participants of the real estate sector namely builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) to undertake banking transactions expeditiously. This initiative is an extension of the 'ICICI STACK for Corporates'. The key offerings of the STACK for companies in real estate sector are: Digital bank account opening, Various types of loans, Digital collection solutions, Payment solutions, Customised mortgage loans for buyers and Services for REITs and AIFs etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched a STACK for companies in real estate sector as an extension of the 'ICICI STACK for Corporates'
- The STACK – is a combination of digital and physical solutions
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

6. On December 2, Canara Bank received the Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for the India segment at the Global Banking Summit, held in London, UK. The judgment criteria included the ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology, and product and services in respective geographies in the last 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – received the 'Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022' for the India segment
- Global Banking Summit – held in London, UK
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar

7. On December 1, Bank of Baroda launched “Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits of Indian Companies for their Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures” at its branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). BoB's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City in Gandhinagar will provide financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures of Indian corporates by leveraging their INR deposits, helping Indian companies meet the cash flow requirements for their international operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda – 'foreign currency loan against INR deposits' at its GIFT City branch
- BoB's IBU in GIFT City – will provide financial support to Overseas Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures of Indian corporates
- BoB – first bank to offer this facility at GIFT City
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India's International Bank”

8. On December 1, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The RBI has categorised all unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 crore in Tier 1. In Tier 2, it has placed UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore. Tier 3 will cover banks with deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore. UCBs with deposits more than ₹10,000 crore have been categorised in Tier 4. RBI, in another circular, listed out the net worth and capital adequacy requirements of the UCBs. Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district should have minimum net worth of ₹2 crore. For all other UCBs (in Tier 1, 2 & 3 tiers), the minimum net worth should be ₹5 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
- Tier 1: UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 Cr | Tier 2: UCBs having deposits more than ₹100 Cr & up to ₹1,000 Cr
- Tier 3: UCBs with deposits more than ₹1,000 Cr & up to ₹10,000 Cr | Tier 4: UCBs with deposits more than ₹10,000 Cr
- Net worth: Tier 1 – ₹2 Cr | For all other UCBs (in Tier 1, 2 & 3 tiers) – ₹5 Cr

9. On December 1, the pilot project for Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the Retail Segment went live with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issuing Rs 1.71 Crore to 4 participating banks based on their indents. The central bank has identified 4 banks for the first phase of the pilot - State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank - in 4 cities, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar. Four more banks - Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank - will join the pilot soon. The target is to involve 50,000 merchants and customers in the next few days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The pilot project for Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the Retail Segment went live
- RBI issued Rs 1.71 Crore to 4 participating banks based on their indents (SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank & IDFC First Bank)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

10. On December 2, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 42 lakh on Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank for violating certain rules. The penalty was imposed for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47A(1)(c) read with section 46(4)(i) and Section 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 42 lakh on Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank for violating certain rules
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

11. On December 2, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) extended the volume cap deadline for third-party application providers (TPAPS) by 2 years, until December 31, 2024. In November 2020, NPCI came up with a directive capping the share of transactions a TPAP could process at 30% of the volume of transactions handled on UPI, effective from January 1, 2021. According to the latest data released by NPCI, PhonePe processed over 47.26% of the transactions done through UPI in October. While Google Pay processed about 34%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI extended the volume cap deadline for Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPS) by 2 years, until Dec 31, 2024
- In Nov 2020, NPCI capped the share of transactions at 30% of the volume of transactions handled on UPI by a TPAP
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

12. On December 1, Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted 'no objection' to IDFC Mutual Fund for its proposed change in ownership. IDFC Mutual Fund has been acquired by a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), GIC, and ChrysCapital. After the transition, IDFC Asset Management Company will be renamed as Bandhan Asset Management Company and IDFC Mutual Fund as Bandhan Mutual Fund. BFHL will own approximately 60%, and GIC and ChrysCapital will hold around 20% each in IDFC AMC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – has granted 'no objection' to IDFC Mutual Fund for its proposed change in ownership
- IDFC Mutual Fund – is acquired by a consortium comprising BFHL + GIC + ChrysCapital
- IDFC AMC – will be renamed as Bandhan AMC | IDFC Mutual Fund – will be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund



13. On December 2, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ABIS Exports India Private Limited (ABIS) entered into an agreement to subscribe to non-convertible debentures worth \$16 million, to enhance food security in India by supporting the construction of a Micro Fish Feed Plant and by training up to 6,000 farmers in climate-resilient fish farming practices as well as financial literacy. As a sustainability-linked and blue-debt facility, this financing signifies ADB's and ABIS's commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation, water conservation, ocean health, and the promotion of farmers' capacity building. Food security is a priority for ADB, which recently announced plans to provide at least \$14 billion over 2022-2025 to ease a worsening food crisis in Asia and the Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + ABIS = an agreement to subscribe to non-convertible debentures of \$16 million to enhance food security in India
- It will support setting up of Micro Fish Feed Plant & train up to 6,000 farmers in climate-resilient fish farming practices
- ADB – to provide at least \$14 billion over 2022-2025 to ease a worsening food crisis in Asia & the Pacific
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

14. On December 5, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest insurer, has increased its stake in HDFC Ltd to 5.003% following the acquisition of shares from the open market. LIC purchased 1.2 lakh shares from the open market, an increase of 0.012%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – acquired additional 0.012% stake in HDFC Ltd, increasing its stake to 5.003% in HDFC Ltd
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry

15. On December 2, the government launched the fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund. This fund is managed by Edelweiss Mutual Fund. This new Bharat Bond ETF and Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF) series will mature in April 2033. The maiden offering of Bharat Bond ETF was launched in 2019. The ETF has raised Rs 29,600 Cr in its three offerings so far. Bharat Bond ETF invests only in 'AAA' rated bonds of public sector companies. Through the launch of this new series in the fourth tranche, the government proposes to raise an initial amount of Rs 1,000 Cr with a green shoe option of Rs 4,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government launched 4th tranche of Bharat Bond ETF & Bharat Bond FOF series (Maturity – April 2033)
- Bharat Bond ETF – launched in 2019 as India's 1st corporate bond ETF

16. On December 5, Shriram Transport Finance and Shriram City Union Finance Ltd have been merged to form Shriram Finance Ltd. Post the merger, Shriram Finance has become the largest retail NBFC in India with a robust network of ₹40,900 crore and Assets under Management of ₹1,71,000 crore. Jugal Kishor Mohapatra has been named as the Chairman and Maya Sinha appointed as independent director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shriram Transport Finance & Shriram City Union Finance Ltd – merged to form 'Shriram Finance Ltd'
- Shriram Finance became the largest retail NBFC in India | Net worth – ₹40,900 Cr, AUM – ₹1,71,000 Cr
- HQs of Shriram Finance Ltd – Mumbai | Chairman – Jugal Kishor Mohapatra | MD & CEO – Y. S. Chakravarti



17. On December 5, the RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Bharat Cooperative Bank Limited, Bengaluru, for violating certain rules. The penalty was imposed for non-adherence, violation of directions issued under Exposure Norms and statutory or other restrictions - UCBs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Bharat Cooperative Bank Limited, Bengaluru
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

18. On December 6, AU Small Finance Bank entered into a bancassurance tie-up with ICICI Lombard General Insurance. The partnership will provide the bank's diverse customers access to the insurer's portfolio and enhance penetration across India. AU Small Finance Bank is a scheduled commercial bank, a Fortune India 500 Company, and the largest small finance bank in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU SFB + ICICI Lombard = a bancassurance tie-up
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

19. On December 6, Fintech player Spice Money partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank to facilitate opening of instant, zero balance savings or current accounts for rural citizens through its Adhikari network. Through this association, Spice Money aims to bridge the rural-urban divide and bring financial inclusivity by providing access to banking products to the last mile at their doorstep. The Spice Money network, comprising more than 10 lakh Adhikaris, covers more than 18,000 pin codes, 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, serving over 10 crore households. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spice Money + Axis Bank = partnership to facilitate opening of instant, zero balance savings or current accounts for rural citizens through its Adhikari network
- HQs of Spice Money – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Co-Founder & CEO – Sanjeev Kumar
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

20. On December 5, Federal Bank launched its latest ‘Football Fiesta’ campaign to celebrate FIFA World Cup 2022. Additionally, the bank has come out with an augmented reality (AR) filter for Instagram as part of the campaign. Moreover, it has also announced its social media contest for the public. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank – launched its latest ‘Football Fiesta’ campaign to celebrate FIFA World Cup 2022
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

21. On December 5, in an industry-first move, Razorpay in partnership with Axis Bank announced the platform's readiness to support credit card transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Now, with RuPay credit cards being enabled on UPI, Razorpay merchants can begin accepting credit card payments on UPI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Razorpay + Axis Bank = enabled merchants to accept credit card payments via UPI (in an industry-first move)
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO & Co-founder – Harshil Mathur
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”



22. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter (July-September) of 2022-23. Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at ₹38.17 lakh Cr, as against ₹35.89 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.3% as compared to 8.4% in Q2 2021-22. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at ₹65.31 lakh Cr, as against ₹56.20 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 16.2% as compared to 19% in Q2 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSO – released the ‘Estimates of GDP for Q2 (July-September) of 2022-23’
- Real GDP – estimated at ₹38.17 lakh Cr against ₹35.89 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22 (6.3% growth in Q2 FY 23)
- Nominal GDP – estimated at ₹65.31 lakh Cr against ₹56.20 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22 (16.2% growth in Q2 FY 23)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

23. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has been appointed as an ‘agency bank’ by the Reserve Bank of India and authorised to undertake government business on behalf of the RBI. TMB is one of the oldest private sector banks with a history of over 100 years, having been established in 1921 as Nadar Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) – appointed as an ‘Agency Bank’ by the RBI
- HQs of TMB – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam

24. Fino Payments Bank has tied up with Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited) to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas. Fino Payments Bank has become the first payments bank to act as PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean and facilitate paperless PAN issuance services. At Fino Bank points people can apply for PAN card through Aadhaar based authentication, without the need to submit or upload any documents. Fino Payments Bank is a subsidiary of Fino Paytech Limited, which is backed by marquee investors like Bharat Petroleum, IICI group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel and LIC among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fino Payments Bank + Protean eGov Technologies = tied up to expand PAN card issuance services in India
- Fino Payments Bank – first payments bank to act as PAN Service Agency & facilitate paperless PAN issuance services
- HQs of Fino Payments Bank – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rishi Gupta
- HQs of Protean eGov Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Sethi

25. On December 7, IDFC First Bank and NASSCOM Centre of Excellence (CoE) signed an MoU to grow the innovation ecosystem through an exclusive range of banking solutions. NASSCOM CoE appointed the bank as a preferred banking partner for startups. IDFC FIRST Bank will offer its curated products and solutions for startups including Zero Balance Startup Current Account, uniquely designed Working Capital solutions for pre-profit startups, Business Credit Cards for Startups with step-up credit, a tailored ‘Founder Success Program’ and 40 Beyond Banking offers from its partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC First Bank + NASSCOM CoE = an MoU to grow innovation ecosystem through exclusive range of banking solutions
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh | Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

26. SEBI reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis to three days. Currently, the timeline is four days. The time taken for listing of such securities after the closure of the issue has been reduced to three working days (T+3) as against the present requirement of 4 working days (T+4). The new guidelines would come into effect from January 1, 2023. SEBI has listed out the steps involved in pre-listing and post-listing along with relevant timelines, both through Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform and otherwise. It has set a timeline of T-2 or T-5 day for such approval under the EBP platform while the same would be prior to T day for non-EBP platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis to 3 days (currently 4 Days)
- The new guidelines would come into effect from – January 1, 2023
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

27. In December 2022, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IIFL Home Finance (IIFL HFL) organised ‘Kutumb’ in Delhi discussing scope around green affordable housing in India. They launched ‘Kutumb’ with an event titled ‘Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem’ in Delhi. The event focused on insights based on promotion and propagation of green affordable housing in India, the perspective opportunity of making green affordable housing accessible to all. In February 2022, IIFL HFL signed a \$68 million loan with ADB to improve financial access of affordable green housing for economically weaker section and lower-income groups in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + IIFL HFL = organised ‘Kutumb’ event in Delhi with a title ‘Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem’
- ADB + IIFL HFL = a \$68 million loan agreement (in Feb) to improve financial access of affordable green housing for EWS
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

28. On December 8, the government has invested about ₹5,000 Crore in the ‘SWAMIH Investment Fund I’, which invests in stressed residential projects, marking its final close at ₹15,530 Crore. The fund is sponsored by the Finance Ministry and managed by SBICap Ventures Ltd, a State Bank Group company. SWAMIH is a category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). The last-mile financing platform, Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects (SWAMIH I) aims to provide priority debt financing for the completion of stressed, brownfield and RERA registered residential projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government invested about ₹5,000 Cr in the ‘SWAMIH Investment Fund I’, which invests in stressed residential projects
- The fund is managed by – SBICap Ventures Ltd | Sponsored by – Finance Ministry
- HQs of SBICAP Ventures – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Kozhikote
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

29. On December 7, the RBI’s 5th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met and released the Monetary Policy Statement, “2022-23 Resolution of the MPC”. The RBI hiked the key repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25% from 5.90% in its December 2022 meeting, continuing its fight against inflation. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 6%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.50%. Reverse Repo Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) were kept unchanged at 3.35%, 4.50%, and 18%, respectively. India’s real GDP forecast is slashed to 6.8% for FY23, from 7% estimated in September 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI's 5th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) report – released on December 7, 2022
- Latest rates:
 - Repo rate – 6.25% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate or MSF – 6.50%
 - CRR – 4.50% | SLR – 18% | SDF – 6%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

30. On December 8, Mumbai-based PayMate India received in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator (PA), subject to the guidelines on regulation of payment aggregators (PAs) and payment gateways (PG) dated March 17, 2020 (RBI Guidelines). Payment aggregators are entities which facilitate merchants and businesses to make and receive payments, pool and transfer them to the merchants within a time frame prescribed by the RBI Guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayMate India – received in-principle authorization from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA)
- HQs of PayMate India – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – Ajay Adishesan

31. On December 8, IndusInd Bank announced its tie-up with non-banking finance company SV Credit Line for a co-lending agreement for Rs 500 Crore loan exclusively to women borrowers. The agreement will help rural women access to affordable loans which they could use for a wide range of economic activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, trading and local manufacturing, among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + SV Credit Line = a co-lending agreement for Rs 500 Cr loan exclusively to women borrowers
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”
- HQs of SV Credit Line – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Vijay Parekh

32. On December 8, Paisabazaar and RBL Bank launched a new co-created credit card ‘Duet’. The card offers two credit offerings-cashback on purchases made through the card and a line-of-credit from RBL bank that enables instant transfer of money into the bank account. Duet is a lifetime free credit card from RBL Bank, with easy to understand direct cashback benefits. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paisabazaar + RBL Bank = launched a new co-created credit card ‘Duet’
- HQs of Paisabazaar – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO & Co-founder – Naveen Kukreja
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – R. Subramaniakumar | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

33. On December 8, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, a leading general insurance company of India, partnered with NIIT, a global talent development corporation, for the “HDFC ERGO Technocrat - Advance Dot Net Developer Program”, to create a large pool of developers. The program will create ready-to-deploy talent, who can play a pivotal role in offering technology powered insurance solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO + NIIT = partnership to launch the “HDFC ERGO Technocrat - Advance Dot Net Developer Program”
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar
- HQs of NIIT – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Sapnesh Lalla



34. On December 8, ASK Asset & Wealth Management (ASK Capital) received approval from the Central Bank of Ireland to launch an India-based fund, “ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund”, through the UCITS route. ASK is the fourth asset or wealth management firm in India to receive approval for an UCITS (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) fund. Kotak AMC, Whiteoak Capital and UTI AMC already have such funds. UCITS is a regulatory framework of the European Commission for management and sale of mutual funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASK Capital – received approval from Central Bank of Ireland to launch “ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund” via UCITS route
- ASK Capital is the 4th asset management firm in India to receive approval for an UCITS
- Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities is a regulatory framework of European Commission
- HQs of ASK Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sameer Koticha | MD & CEO – Sunil Rohokale

35. On December 7, PNB Housing Finance (HFC) unveiled ‘Roshni’, a low-cost home loan programme. Individuals may apply for loans under this scheme ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh. The programme offers a variety of loans for self-building, home expansions and renovations, plot purchases combined with construction, loans against property, and the purchase of property investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB Housing Finance – unveiled a low-cost home loan programme named ‘Roshni’
- Loan range – from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Girish Kousgi | Tagline – “Ghar Ki Baat”

36. On December 12, HDFC Bank launched its 6th annual grants program for social startups known as “Parivartan SmartUp Grants” in partnership with the Government of India’s flagship initiative ‘Startup India’. The program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators. The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the bank’s social initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Startup India = launched the bank’s 6th “Parivartan SmartUp Grants” for social startups
- Parivartan – the umbrella name for the social initiatives of HDFC Bank
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

37. On December 10, World Bank launched a “Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India”. Studies show that women, especially those from lower socio-economic groups, are among the biggest users of public transport in Indian cities. Their dependence on public transport stems from lower discretionary incomes. The World Bank suggests a four-pillared approach to help address prevailing issues in urban transport for women. The toolkit contains practical tools that can inform a wide set of policymakers as well as private or community-based organisations. The aim is for this toolkit to be a reference for any entity engaging in any work regarding public transport and urban mobility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – launched a “Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India”
- Toolkit contains practical tools that can inform a wide set of policymakers & private or community-based organisations
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



38. On December 13, Universal Sampo General Insurance partnered with Zopper, an insurance infrastructure API platform, to roll out a special integrated offering for customers. Through this partnership, customers will have access to buy insurance seamlessly along with an option to purchase a protection plan. Universal Sampo is a joint venture of Indian Bank, IOB, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investment Corp, and a leading general insurer from Japan, Sampo Japan Insurance Inc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Universal Sampo General Insurance + Zopper = partnered to roll out a special integrated offering for customers
- Universal Sampo is a JV between = Indian Bank + IOB, Karnataka Bank + Dabur Investment Corp + Sampo Japan
- [HQs of Universal Sampo Gen. Ins. – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [HQs of Repco Home Finance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#)

39. On December 14, Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched “Guaranteed Fortune Plan”, a non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan that is also a Point of Sale or PoS, life insurance product. The product offers two plan options: guaranteed savings option and guaranteed cash back option, with flexibility for customers. The plan also includes a one-of-a-kind feature called Care Pay Benefit, which is an in-built benefit that pays 100% of Total Premiums paid till the date of death on intimation of death. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara HSBC Life Insurance – launched “Guaranteed Fortune Plan”, a Point of Sale (PoS) life insurance product
- The plan includes a feature called ‘Care Pay Benefit’ which pays 100% of Total Premiums paid till the date of death
- [HQs of Canara HSBC Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & CEO – Anuj Mathur](#)

40. On December 14, Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its ‘Asian Development Outlook (ADO)’, has kept India’s economic growth unchanged at 7% for FY 2022-23 and 7.2% for FY 2023-24, but declined Asia’s economic growth at 4.2% for FY 2022-23 and 4.6% for FY 2023-24. Inflation in India is still expected to rise to 6.7% in 2022-23 and 5.8% in 2023-24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Asian Development Outlook (ADO)’ – released by ADB (in Dec 2022)
- ADB expects India’s GDP at 7% for FY23 & 7.2% for FY24 *{Dynamic Data}*
- ADB expects Asia’s GDP at 4.2% for FY23 & 4.6% for FY24 *{Dynamic Data}*
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Members – 68](#) | [Established in – 1966](#)

41. On December 13, HDFC got in-principle approval from BSE and NSE for its merger with HDFC Bank. In April 2022, HDFC Bank agreed to take over HDFC, the biggest domestic mortgage lender. Once merged, the new entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh Cr. The merger is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY24. After the merger, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders while existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41% of the bank. Every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares held. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC – got in-principle approval from BSE & NSE for its merger with HDFC Bank
- HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders after the merger & HDFC will own 41% of the HDFC Bank
- [HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Deepak Parekh](#) | [VC & CEO – Keki Mistry](#)
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan](#) | [Tagline – “We understand your World”](#)

42. On December 15, HDFC Bank announced to acquire 7.75% stake in fintech startup Mintoak Innovations for Rs 31.14 Cr. Founded in 2017, Mintoak is a payments-led fintech platform which provides digital point-of-sale and value-added services to merchants. Mintoak currently has a presence in Mauritius and Kuwait, apart from India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – to acquire 7.75% stake in Mintoak Innovations
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

43. On December 14, according to a report by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) declined to a 21-month low of 5.85% in November on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items. The inflation was 14.87% in November 2021. Inflation in food articles in November was 1.07% against 8.33% in the previous month. Retail inflation dipped below the RBI’s upper tolerance level of 6% the first time in 11 months in November on softening food price index. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WPI – declined to a 21-month low of 5.85% in November 2022 (from 14.87% in Nov’21)
- Inflation in food articles in Nov 2022 was 1.07% (against 8.33% in Oct 2022)
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

44. On December 15, Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA) has unveiled Emerging Opportunities Fund to invest in mid-cap firms and emerging leading companies. The New Fund Offering (NFO) window was available at a NAV of Rs. 10 per unit. Through ULIPs from Tata AIA including Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima, and Wealth Maxima, investors can invest in the fund. Additionally, Tata AIA’s Param Rakshak Solutions will be linked to this fund. the fund’s investment goal is to generate capital appreciation over the long term. Up to 30% of the portfolio could be allocated by the fund to equity and equity-related securities that lie outside the mid-cap bracket. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life) is a joint venture company, established by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA Life Insurance – unveiled Emerging Opportunities Fund to invest in mid-cap firms & emerging companies
- Tata AIA’s ‘Param Rakshak Solutions’ will be linked to this fund
- Tata AIA Life, a JV between = Tata Sons Pvt Ltd + AIA Group Ltd
- HQs of Tata AIA Life – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani

45. On December 17, Equitas Small Finance Bank signed an MoU with the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The MoU will allow Equitas to be a SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha) service centre to provide data verification for pensioners. This makes Equitas SFB the first small finance bank inducted by the government for the SPARSH programme. Defence pensioners and their families can avail a few services for the pension account from branches PAN India. Some of the key services include, annual issuing of life certificate (digital or manual), change of bank details for pension account, information of pensioners and the accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – signed an MoU with CGDA to be a SPARSH service centre to provide data verification for pensioners
- Equitas SFB – is the first SFB inducted by the government for the SPARSH programme
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan (till the succession)
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt



46. On December 15, Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. (RGICL) announced the launch of a premium health insurance product – Reliance Health Infinity Policy that claims to offer limitless benefits. This first of its kind policy comes loaded with high sum insured up to ₹5 Cr that includes features like moreGlobal cover, maternity cover, OPD cover, unlimited restoration of sum insured, and 15 plus useful add-on benefits. It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically by offering India’s first credit score-based discount and BMI-based discount on the premium. The policy is available in individual and family floater, covering up to 8 members, categories and offers sum-insured options starting from ₹5 lakh to ₹5 Cr. Children above 90 days of age and adults between the age of 18 to 65 years are covered in this policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance General Insurance – launched “Reliance Health Infinity Policy”
- It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically
- HQs of Reliance General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rakesh Jain

47. On December 16, AU Small Finance Bank entered into a corporate agency arrangement with HDFC Life for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life through the bancassurance business model. Through this partnership, AU Small Finance Bank will be able to offer its customers the entire range of life insurance products offered by HDFC Life. The bank quoted the Swiss Re report (2019) to highlight that India has the highest protection gap of 83% in comparison to other insurance markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU SFB + HDFC Life = a bancassurance agreement for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar

48. On December 16, HDFC Securities launched “Roots”, a dedicated platform of Google for providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis. The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets. Roots is expected to have a wider impact on how Indian audience is absorbing information and how quickly such information is translated into investment decisions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Securities – launched a platform of Google named “Roots” for providing investor education and market analysis
- HQs of HDFC Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Dhiraj Relli

49. On December 19, Members of the European Union (EU) agreed in principle to implement a minimum tax of 15% on big businesses. It is in accordance with Pillar 2 of the global tax agreement framed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021. It is estimated that the minimum tax rate would boost global tax revenues by \$150 billion annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Members of the EU – agreed in principle to implement a minimum tax of 15% on big businesses
- Minimum tax rate would boost global tax revenues by \$150 billion annually (estimation)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen



50. On December 19, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, launched India's first ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' product developed by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a private general insurer. Surety Bond Insurance, which will help replace bank guarantees, is expected to optimise capital for contractors while giving a fillip to the country's infrastructure sector. This product launch is in line with the Government's vision to up-scale the infrastructure development in India. The product will also help in reducing the contractors' debts to a large extent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari (MoRTH) – launched India's first ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' product developed by Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

51. On December 15, the RBI announced to issue two tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds for public subscription in December and March. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) 2022-23-Series III were opened for subscription during the December 19-December 23 period and will open for the 2022-23-Series IV during March 06-10, 2023. These bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the government. The SGBs will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks and Regional Rural Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), designated post offices, and stock exchanges NSE and BSE. The tenor of the SGB will be for a period of eight years with an option of premature redemption after the fifth year. The maximum limit of subscription is 4 kg for individual, 4 kg for HUF and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal year. The bonds can be used as collateral for loans. The sovereign gold bond scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to issue two tranches of 'SGBs 2022-23-Series III' for public subscription in Dec 2022 & Series IV in March 2023
- These bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government
- Information about Sovereign Gold Bonds:
 - First launched in November 2015
 - Minimum Purchase limit – 1 gram of gold | Maximum Purchase limit – 4 Kg of gold for individual
 - Tenor of the bond – 8 years
 - To be sold through: Scheduled Commercial Banks, SHCIL, CCIL, Post Offices & Stock Exchanges (except SFBs & PBs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

52. State Bank of India (SBI), remains at the top position in the Debit Cards segment, holding a whopping 30% share, as per the data released by Bengaluru-based 1Lattice (previously PGA Labs) in December 2022. SBI was followed by Bank of Baroda & Bank of India. HDFC Bank registered the highest growth, of approximately 20% in this segment. In the Credit Cards segment, HDFC bank continued to lead the segment with 21% share, registering a growth of 9%. Following the list, SBI Cards recorded 19% growth with 19% share, and ICICI Bank recorded 13% growth with 17% share. Maximum growth in this segment was seen by Kotak Mahindra Bank, a 78% YoY growth, with a 6% market share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per the data released by 1Lattice (previously PGA Labs) in December 2022:
 - Highest share in Debit Cards segment: 1st – SBI, 2nd – BoB, 3rd – BoI | Highest growth – HDFC Bank
 - Highest share in Credit Cards segment: 1st – HDFC Bank, 2nd – SBI Cards, 3rd – ICICI Bank | Highest growth – KMB



53. On December 16, Wipro signed a multi-year partnership with fintech firm Finastra for the digital transformation of corporate banks in the Middle East. The agreement will make Wipro the exclusive implementation and go-to-market partner to deploy Finastra's trade finance solutions in the region. Wipro also bagged a five-year multi-million-dollar contract with Mazda Motor Logistics Europe. Wipro has received an order to provide next-generation managed services for its entire application landscape. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro + Finastra = partnership for the digital transformation of corporate banks in the Middle East
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji

54. On December 19, One97 Communications Limited (OCL), the parent company of Paytm, in association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance, launched 'Paytm Payment Protect', a group of insurance plan to insure transactions made through UPI across all apps and wallets. This latest offering comes at a cost of a meagre ₹30 per annum where users can secure themselves against mobile fraudulent transactions up to ₹10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + HDFC ERGO = launched 'Paytm Payment Protect', a group of insurance plan to insure UPI transactions
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar

55. On December 19, Indian Bank launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed as "Ind Shakti 555 days". It offers a higher rate of interest for investment starting from Rs. 5000 to less than 2 Cr for 555 days in the form of FD/MMD with callable options. For Domestic Term Deposit for Senior Citizens, additional rate of interest payable would be 0.50% p.a. for amount up to Rs. 10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank – launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed as "Ind Shakti 555 days"
- The scheme offers a higher rate of interest for investment made for 555 days in the form of FD/MMD
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"

56. On December 19, Bandhan Bank signed an MoU with Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence, for extending banking services to the defence pensioners and their families through 557 branches. The bank is aligned with the vision of the government in being a one-stop solution to all pension related activities of defence pensioners under the Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bandhan Bank + CGDA = an MoU for extending banking services to the defence pensioners & their families
- HQs of Bandhan Bank – Kolkata, WB | MD & CEO – Chandra Shekhar Ghosh | Tagline – "Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai"

57. On December 17, DBS bank India partnered with GoFrugal Technologies to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). GoFrugal Technologies offers omnichannel ERP solutions and claims to empower micro, small and medium enterprises and retail merchants. Through this partnership, DBS Bank India will integrate its digital solutions with GoFrugal Technologies to help small businesses to catalogue their products quickly and expand their sales channels via ONDC. Earlier, DBS Bank India joined hands with start-up venture capital fund Anthill Ventures and evangelist network Headstart Network Foundation to launch DBS Business Class founded in April 2022 to support promising start-ups in India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DBS bank India + GoFrugal Technologies = partnered to adopt ONDC
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

58. On December 19, the SEBI clarified on the allocation of new 'ISINs' (International Securities Identification Numbers) by depositories. ISINs, which has 12 characters, is used for uniquely identifying securities like stocks, bonds, warrants and commercial papers. The regulator said that depositories will not assign new ISIN following a change in underlying security and creation of additional security in case of listed debt securities. Also, the new ISIN would not be allocated pursuant to creation of security in case of unsecured debt securities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – clarified on the allocation of new 'ISINs' by depositories
- ISIN – International Securities Identification Number (ISIN has 12 characters)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

59. On December 18, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 48th GST Council meeting. The GST Council agreed to decriminalise certain offences and doubled the threshold for launching prosecution under the tax law to Rs 2 crore, but retained the limit at Rs 1 Crore for fake invoicing. The Council also clarified on the definition of SUVs (Sports Utility Vehicles) for the levy of 22% compensation cess over the 28% GST. Tax on Ethyl alcohol supplied to refineries for blending with motor spirit (petrol) was reduced to 5%, from 18%. The GST Council also decided to lower tax rates on husk of pulses to Nil from 5%. Currently, 1.40 crore tax payers are registered under GST. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – chaired the 48th GST Council Meeting
- Some important Decisions:
 - Threshold for launching prosecution under the tax law is doubled to Rs 2 Crore (Rs 1 Cr for fake invoicing)
 - 22% compensation cess over the 28% GST for the SUVs (Sports Utility Vehicles)
 - Tax on Ethyl alcohol supplied to refineries for blending with motor spirit (petrol) is reduced to 5% (from 18%)
 - Tax rates on husk of pulses is lowered to Nil (from 5%)

60. On December 20, TransUnion CIBIL, in collaboration with Ahmedabad-based Online PSB Loans (OPL), launched "FIT Rank", a ranking system for MSME borrowers. The 'FIT Rank' will rate the over 6 Crore micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by drawing inputs from their current accounts, income tax returns and GST returns to arrive at a score between 1-10 to rate a borrower after taking consent to draw the relevant data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TransUnion CIBIL + Online PSB Loans (Ahmedabad) = launched "FIT Rank", a ranking system for MSME borrowers
- HQs of TransUnion CIBIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar

61. On December 20, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced to gradually eliminate share buybacks through stock exchanges by April 2025 as it works to create a more equitable process for shareholders. The SEBI will create a separate window on the stock exchanges to conduct buybacks until then. The regulator also increased the minimum utilization of funds allocated for buybacks through the stock exchange to 75% from 50%. The SEBI reduced the timeline for the completion of buybacks through the tender offer route by 18 days. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SEBI – announced to gradually eliminate share buybacks through stock exchanges by April 2025
- SEBI – increased the minimum utilization of funds allocated for buybacks through the stock exchange to 75% (from 50%)
- SEBI – reduced the timeline for the completion of buybacks through the tender offer route by 18 days

62. On December 20, Jammu and Kashmir Bank signed an MoU with the Administration of Ladakh union territory, conferring preferential status to each other. According to the MoU, the Ladakh UT Administration would nominate J&K Bank as 'preferred banker' for all its banking-related services, while as, J&K Bank would give the 'most favoured client' status to UT Administration and its active permanent employees who maintain their salary accounts with the Bank. Moreover, J&K Bank would provide support to 50 tuberculosis (TB) patients from Kargil as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K bank + Ladakh = an MoU to provide preferential status to each other
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar, J & K | MD & Chairman – R. K. Chhibber

63. On December 21, Worldline ePayments India (WEIPL), a leader in digital payments, received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) to act as a payment aggregator (PA). RBI has been proactive in introducing regulations and frameworks to help the entire digital ecosystem. Payment Aggregator are service providers through which e-commerce merchants can process their Payment transactions. Payment Gateways, on the other hand, act as a medium through which the transaction occurs. Aggregators allow merchants to accept credit card and bank transfers online without having a set of merchant account with the bank or card association. They are also called as Merchant Aggregator. Payment Aggregators were incorporated in India in the year 2013 under the Companies Act, 1956. Payment Aggregators can be a bank or Non-Banking Entity and it requires license from the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Worldline ePayments India – received in-principle authorisation from RBI to act as a Payment Aggregator
- Payment Aggregator are service providers through which e-commerce merchants can process their Payment transactions
- Payment Gateways act as a medium through which the transaction occurs
- Payment Aggregators were incorporated in India in 2013 under the 'Companies Act, 1956'
- Payment Aggregators can be a Bank or Non-Banking Entity & it requires license from the RBI

64. In December 2022, Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India has set a target to achieve \$100 billion annual exports for textiles by 2030 as there are huge opportunities in the sector. India has already signed free trade agreements (FTAs) with the United Arab Emirates and Australia, in which the textile industry believes will benefit them. India's textile exports were \$44.44 billion in FY 2021-22 and \$21.15 billion in H1 FY 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has set a target to achieve \$100 billion annual exports for textiles by 2030
- India's textile exports: \$44.44 billion in FY 2021-22 & \$21.15 billion in H1 FY 2022-23

65. On December 22, Karnataka Bank gone live on the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), the national portal of Indian Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), enabling its customers to pay customs duty online. The integration of Karnataka Bank on ICEGATE portal will enable all its individual and corporate customers pay customs duty at their convenience, enabling smooth conduct of their business. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank – has gone live on the ICEGATE (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway), a national portal of CBIC
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

66. On December 22, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) signed a loan agreement with KfW for financing 'Access to Clean Energy Projects' meant for decentralized solar applications. The total sanctioned amount of the agreement is EUR 20 million. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed loan agreements from multilateral agency ADB and bilateral agency KfW, for Decentralized Solar and Electric Mobility. The total sanctioned amount of ADB's loan for 'Decentralized Solar, Electric Mobility and Smart Meters' is USD 296 million. While the total sanctioned amount for KfW's loan of 'Decentralized Solar and lighting' is Euro 200 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IREDA + KfW = a EUR 20 million loan agreement for financing 'Access to Clean Energy Projects'
- EESL + ADB + KfW = a loan agreement for 'Decentralized Solar and Electric Mobility'
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Vishal Kapoor | Chairman – K. Sreekant
- HQs of KfW – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Gunther Braunig
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

67. In December 2022, HDFC Bank signed a fresh MoU with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) to engage more deeply with the start-up community and to promote entrepreneurship in the state. The Bank will extend its full-suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as Smart-Up, to all the firms associated with KSUM. With this MoU, HDFC Bank and KSUM will work together in mutually beneficial areas. Through this collaboration, the bank plans to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the Startup ecosystem. It will evaluate start-ups referred to it by KSUM for extending loans and investments subject to the banks' policies and processes. HDFC Bank and KSUM have been collaborating since 2019, when an MoU was signed for a year. Since then, the bank has organized various Master Classes, Corporate Connect, Workshops for KSUM supported startups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + KSUM = an MoU to engage more deeply with the start-up community & to promote entrepreneurship
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your World"

68. Since 2014, the Narendra Modi-led government has raised over Rs 4.04 lakh Crore through disinvestment and strategic sale of public sector enterprises, as per the data provided by the Finance Ministry. Of the Rs 4 lakh crore, the largest amount totalling over Rs 1.07 lakh crore through Offer for Sale (OFS) in 59 cases. This was followed by a stake sale through Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) in 10 tranches, aggregating to Rs 98,949 crore. Strategic sales in 10 companies, including Air India, yielded Rs 69,412 crore to the exchequer in the last 8 years. Share buyback in 45 cases fetched Rs 45,104 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi-led Govt has raised over Rs 4.04 lakh Crore through disinvestment & strategic sale PSUs since 2014
- Largest amount totalling over Rs 1.07 lakh Cr – raised through Offer for Sale (OFS) in 59 cases



69. On December 22, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) announced to introduce “Bima Vahaks” in each gram panchayat, enhance the insurance force in India. Each Gram Panchayat will have a “Bima Vahak” who would be tasked to sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products, ‘Bima Vistar’, covering health, property, life and personal accident. 50% of our vehicles are uninsured, and the coverage of property insurance is minuscule. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – to introduce “Bima Vahaks” in each gram panchayat to sell ‘Bima Vistar’
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda

70. On December 21, Ministry of Finance, in its “Mid-Year Expenditure and Revenue Statement”, announced that India’s economic growth, measured by growth in GDP at constant prices, has been estimated at 9.7% for the first half (April-September) of FY23, as compared to 13.7% in H1FY22 and 4.7% in H2 of FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s economic growth (GDP at constant prices) – estimated at 9.7% for H1 FY23 (compared to 13.7% in H1 FY22)

71. With 132.34 metric tonnes (MT) of gold purchase, RBI emerged as the largest buyer of this yellow metal among central banks between April 2020 and September 2022. Also, RBI was the top gold buyer among its peers in 2020 while it stood third in 2021. At the end of March 2022, RBI’s gold reserve stood at 760.42 MT that went upto 785.35 MT at the end of September 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI emerged as the largest buyer of Gold among all central banks between April 2020 & Sep 2022 (with 132.34 MT)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

72. On December 23, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) received in-principle approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to set up Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment of the NSE. Through this exchange, such organisations can raise capital through equity or debt instruments. Peer BSE had received in-principle approval for setting up an SSE in October. To enable fundraising for not-for-profit organisations, the government had announced a new security called “Zero Coupon Zero Principal” under the Securities Contracts Regulations Act. In its circular of July, the SEBI had specified minimum requirements to be met by a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) for registration with SSE. NPO needs to be registered as a Charitable Trust and should be registered for at least 3 years. It should have spent at least Rs 50 Lakh annually in the past financial year and should have received a funding of at least Rs 10 Lakh in the past financial year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE – received in-principle approval from the SEBI to set up Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment
- Minimum requirements to be met by NPO for registration with SSE:
 - NPO needs to be registered as a Charitable Trust and should be registered for at least 3 years
 - NPO should have spent at least Rs 50 Lakh annually in the past financial year
 - NPO should have received a funding of at least Rs 10 Lakh in the past financial year
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi



73. On December 24, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced the launch of its unique health insurance rider 'Respect Senior Care Rider'. The intention is to minimize the worries of senior citizens and of their family members who might not be living in the same city. Anyone who is aged 50 years & above and has the company's base health insurance policy can opt for this rider. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz – launched its unique health insurance rider called 'Respect Senior Care Rider'
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

74. Dollar-strapped Sri Lanka and sanctions-hit Russia will be the first countries to use the 'Indian Rupee Trade Settlement Mechanism'. India's rupee trade settlement mechanism was set up by the Reserve Bank of India in July 2022. The mechanism is a means of using rupees instead of dollars and other big currencies for international transactions in order to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in the rupee. With the help of a Vostro account now, instead of paying and receiving US dollars, the invoice will be made in Indian rupees if the counterparty has a Rupee Vostro account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka & Russia – will be the first countries to use the 'Indian Rupee Trade Settlement Mechanism'
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

75. On December 26, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has expanded two of its committees - High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC), in a bid to strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyber resilience requirements. The HPSC-CS has been expanded to 8 members from 6 earlier. It will continue to be chaired by Navin Kumar Singh, DG at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC). The ISSC has been expanded to 7 members, chaired by H. Krishnamurthy, Professor at IISc, Bengaluru. The move came at a time when Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL) faced cyber security issues in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI expanded two of its committees:
 - High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (chaired by Navin Kumar Singh) – to 8 members
 - Information Systems Security Committee (chaired by H. Krishnamurthy) – to 7 members
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

76. On December 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the "Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey" to evaluate digital banking awareness and knowledge among the rural and urban population across. The survey was based on 3 parameters namely, Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Behaviour. Of the total score of 21, the average urban and rural scores were 11.7. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – conducted the "Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey"
- Average urban & rural scores were 11.7 (of the total score of 21)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



77. On December 26, Indian Bank launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs, 'MSME Prerana', in Rajasthan. Indian Bank's unique program is a first-of-its-kind initiative for MSME Sector in the country by any bank. It aims at empowering MSME Entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building training in their local languages, assisting them in acquiring necessary financial and managerial skills, capacity to handle crisis in business, understanding of dynamics of credit rating and risk management. The training program is in collaboration with M/s Poornatha & Co. Indian Bank has already conducted this online program in 7 languages across 10 states. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank – launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs, 'MSME Prerana' in Rajasthan
- The training program is in collaboration with M/s Poornatha & Co.
- [HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#) | [MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain](#) | [Tagline – “Your Own Bank”](#)
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur](#) | [CM – Ashok Gehlot](#) | [Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

78. On December 29, Niva Bupa Health Insurance joined hands with non-banking lender Swara Fincare deepen health insurance in rural areas. Niva Bupa was formerly known as Max Bupa Health Insurance. As part of the Niva Bupa Xpress Health - Serious Illness Plan benefit, the insurer will cover up to 3 EMIs (equated monthly instalments) in a policy year of the respective customer in case of hospitalisation for 5 days or more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niva Bupa Health Insurance + Swara Fincare = partnered to pay EMIs of borrowers when hospitalized
- Niva Bupa Health Insurance will cover up to 3 EMIs in case of hospitalization for 5 days or more
- [HQs of Niva Bupa Health Insurance – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Krishnan Ramachandran](#)

79. In December 2022, the 5th edition of “Coal vs Renewable Financial Analysis 2022”, authored by Climate Trends and Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), was released at CFA's Annual Energy Finance Conference hosted in collaboration with IIT Madras. As per the report, L&T Finance replaced State Bank of India (SBI) as the biggest financier in project finance for renewable energy in 2021. Of the total Rs 33,893 Crore that went to RE projects, L&T Finance contributed with Rs 4,214 Crore into the sector. Rajasthan followed by Gujarat were the top beneficiaries of renewable energy lending, with Rs 22,187 crore and Rs 4,025 crore, respectively. India would need \$10 trillion to transition to Net Zero by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th “Coal vs Renewable Financial Analysis 2022” – authored by Climate Trends & Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA)
- L&T Finance – replaced SBI as the biggest financier in project finance for Renewable Energy in 2021
- Rajasthan – was the Top beneficiary of renewable energy lending (followed by Gujarat)

80. Bank of Baroda has won the “EAG Laureate Award” at the ‘International Olympiad of Financial Security’ held at Sochi, Russia. The Eurasian group on combating money laundering and terrorism (EAG) is a FATF type regional organisation which comprises of 9 members including India.

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda – won “EAG Laureate Award” at the ‘International Olympiad of Financial Security’ held at Sochi, Russia
- [HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat](#) | [CEO – Sanjiv Chadha](#) | [Tagline – “India's International Bank”](#)

81. On December 30, IDBI Bank signed a Scheme Transfer Agreement (STA) to transfer schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund to LIC Mutual Fund to comply with regulation 7B of SEBI mutual fund regulations. IDBI Bank, the parent of IDBI MF, is majority owned by LIC. SEBI rules bar a single promoter from owning more than 10% stake in two asset management companies (AMCs). While LIC has a larger presence in the debt and passive equity products space, IDBI MF is strong in the actively managed equity funds space. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – signed a ‘Scheme Transfer Agreement’ with LIC Mutual Fund
- HQs of LIC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – T S Ramakrishnan
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964

82. On December 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to migrate the payments fraud reporting module to Daksh on January 1, 2023, to streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process. Daksh is RBI’s advanced supervisory management system. All authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) and payment system participants in India are required to report all payment frauds, including attempted incidents, irrespective of value, either reported by their customers or detected by the entities themselves. This reporting was earlier facilitated through Electronic Data Submission Portal (EDSP) and is being moved to Daksh. Further, they are required to report payment frauds (domestic and international) to Central Payments Fraud Information Registry (CPFIR) within seven calendar days from date of reporting by customer / date of detection by the entity. The CPFIR was operationalised by the RBI in March 2020 with reporting of payment frauds by scheduled commercial banks and non-bank PPI issuers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to migrate the payments fraud reporting module to ‘Daksh’ portal on January 1, 2023
- Daksh – RBI’s advanced supervisory management system | Further payment frauds are to be reported to – CPFIR
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935

83. On December 30, Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched Emerging Opportunity Fund, which will invest in mid-cap companies and emerging market leaders with the potential to generate significant future growth. Investments in the Fund can be made through Tata AIA’s ULIP offerings like Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima and Wealth Maxima. In addition, the Fund will also be attached to Tata AIA’s Param Rakshak Solutions. The investment objective of the Fund is to generate capital appreciation in the long term by investing in a portfolio of stocks that offer opportunities in the mid-cap space and emerging leaders in the new age sectors offering significant long-term wealth creation along with insurance benefit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA Life Insurance – launched ‘Emerging Opportunity Fund’ with ULIP offerings
- The Fund will also be attached to – Tata AIA’s ‘Param Rakshak’ solutions
- HQs of Tata AIA Life – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani



Defence Affairs

1. The 12th Edition of 'Exercise Agni Warrior', a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army was conducted at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra). Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies. Indigenously manufactured Artillery guns and howitzers also participated during the final phase of the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Singapore = conducted 12th 'Exercise Agni Warrior' at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra)
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

2. On December 3, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over 'Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of Akash Weapon System (Indian Army Version)' to Missile Systems Quality Assurance Agency (MSQAA) in Hyderabad. Akash missile system was developed by DRDO laboratory's lab Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Pune. Apart from DRDL, a number of other DRDO labs are also involved in the development of the system. Akash is the first indigenous state-of-the-art surface-to-air missile system which has been with Armed Forces for nearly a decade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO handed over 'Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of Akash Weapon System' to MSQAA, Hyderabad
- Akash missile system was developed by DRDL-DRDO along with other labs
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

3. In December 2022, Indian Navy and the United States Navy conducted the 7th edition of the "Exercise Sangam" in Goa. It was first held in 1994 and is considered a key military and diplomatic initiative between India and the US. The current edition of the exercise has seen personnel from SEAL Team Five based in San Diego and Indian Navy Marcos from Mumbai-based INS Abhimanyu. The Marine Commando Force was raised in 1987 as the Indian Marine Special Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + US Navy = conducted the 7th edition of the "Exercise Sangam" in Goa
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

4. On December 9, Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to participate in the maiden "International Fleet Review 2022 (BN IFR-22)" conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN). IFR-22 was conducted by BN to commemorate the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. INS Kochi (based at Mumbai), INS Kavaratti (based at Visakhapatnam) and INS Sumedha (based at Visakhapatnam) are indigenously designed and developed guided missile stealth Destroyer, anti-submarine Corvette and Off-shore Patrol Vessel, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Kochi + INS Kavaratti + INS Sumedha = participated in the maiden "International Fleet Review 2022 (BN IFR-22)" conducted by Bangladesh Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



5. On December 5, President Droupadi Murmu approved the introduction of a new design for the President's Standard and Colour and Indian Navy Crest for the Indian Navy, which was unveiled at Visakhapatnam. The new Design draws inspiration from our history. The new design of the President's Standard and Colour comprises three main constituents - the National Flag, the State Emblem underscribed with 'Satyamev Jayate' in Golden Colour, and a Navy Blue - Gold Octagon. It also includes the motto of the Indian Navy 'Sam No Varunah' in golden Devnagri script. This design was inspired by the erstwhile Naval Ensign. The Golden State Emblem signifies 'Power, Courage, Confidence and Pride' whilst the Navy Blue - Golden Octagon shape draws inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The Indian Navy was the first among the three Services to be awarded the President's Colour on May 27, 1951, by the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad. The 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron was the first Naval Combatant Squadron to be honoured with the President's Standard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Droupadi Murmu – approved a new design for the President's Standard & Colour & Indian Navy Crest for Indian Navy
- President's Standard and Colour comprises 3 main constituents:
 - National Flag
 - State Emblem underscribed with 'Satyamev Jayate' in Golden Colour
 - A Navy Blue - Gold Octagon
- Indian Navy – was the first among the 3 Services to be awarded the President's Colour on May 27, 1951
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- Motto of the Indian Navy – 'Sam No Varunah'

6. Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps carried out the 'Sudarshan Prahar' exercise in the deserts of Rajasthan. It was conducted by Shahbaaz Division of Sudarshan Chakra Corps. The exercise involved synergised application of offensive power supported by new technologies in an integrated all-arms environment, showcasing high level of professionalism and offensive spirit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – carried out the 'Sudarshan Prahar' exercise in deserts of Rajasthan
- It was conducted by – Shahbaaz Division of Sudarshan Chakra Corps
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

7. The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 8 December to 19 December, 2022. INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette, participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia. The CORPAT concluded with a debrief at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India and Indonesia have conducted CORPATs twice a year since 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Indonesia = concluded the 39th 'India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)' at Port Blair
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

8. On December 13, Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) rolled out its 100th Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) mid-section kit. The kit was delivered to the Indian Air Force. The MRSAM kit is a collaborative effort of KRAS and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Rafael has supplied different kinds of missiles to the Indian armed forces. Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems Pvt. Ltd. (KRAS) is a Joint Venture between Kalyani Group and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., Israel. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- KRAS – delivered its 100th MRSAM kit and delivered to Indian Air Force
- MRSAM kit is jointly developed by = KRAS + DRDO
- KRAS – a JV between Kalyani Group (India) + Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Israel)
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

9. From 15 to 28 December 2022, 6th Edition of Indo-Kazakhstan joint training exercise “KAZIND-22” was conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya). Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018. This joint exercise will enable the two armies to train, plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations. “Exercise KAZIND” will enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “KAZIND-22” – joint training exercise between India and Kazakhstan was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya
- The exercise was instituted in 2016 as ‘Exercise Prabal Dostyk’ | Renamed as ‘Exercise Kazind’ in 2018
- Kazakhstan – Astana – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev | PM – Alikhan Smailov
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

10. The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise “SURYA KIRAN-XVI” between India and Nepal was conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022. Exercise “SURYA KIRAN” is conducted annually between India and Nepal with the aim to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal – conducted 16th SURYA KIRAN joint training Exercise at – Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

11. INS Mormugao (D67), second warship of the P15B class of stealth, guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy, was commissioned on December 18 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in the presence of Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, the Chief Guest for the function. The commissioning ceremony marks the formal induction of the ship into the Indian Navy. ‘Y 12705’ (Mormugao) is the second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL). Designed by Indian Navy’s in-house Warship Design Bureau, and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai, the four ships of the Project are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country, viz. Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Mormugao (D67 or Y 12705) – was formally commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- It is the the second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers of Indian Navy
- Built by – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd | Designed by – Warship Design Bureau
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

12. On December 22, Indian Navy launched the Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Arnala', the first of the eight indigenously-built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at the shipbuilding facility of L&T in Chennai's Kattupalli. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, 'Arnala' made its first contact with the water of the Bay of Bengal. The ship has been named 'Arnala' to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala, situated in Maharashtra. The 'Arnala' class of ships will replace the 'Abhay' class ASW ships of the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – launched 'INS Arnala', the first of 8 indigenously-built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
- It is built by GRSE | 'Arnala' ships will replace 'Abhay' class ASW ships | Arnala Island – situated in Maharashtra
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884

13. On December 20, Indian Navy received the fifth scorpene-class submarine named Vagir built under Project-75. Project-75 includes indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France. Other submarines of the Kalvari class are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, and INS Vela which have already been commissioned into the Navy and INS Vagsheer, which was launched in April earlier 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – received the 5th scorpene-class submarine named Vagir built under Project-75
- All Scorpene-class submarines under 'Project-75' are being built by = Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders + France
- The 6 submarines being commissioned under the Indian Navy's Project-75 are:
 - 1st – Kalvari | 2nd – Khanderi | 3rd – Karanj | 4th – Vela | 5th – Vagir | 6th – Vagsheer

14. India and Japan are set to conduct their first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23' from January 16 to January 26, 2023. The Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) will conduct a bilateral fighter training with the Indian Air Force (IAF). The exercise aims to promote mutual understanding and strengthen defence cooperation between the air forces. IAF will be fielding its Russian-origin Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft. The exercise will at Hyakuri Air Base north-west of Tokyo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = to conduct their first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23' in Tokyo (in Jan 2023)
- Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft will participate from India
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

15. On December 24, Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace Private Ltd has received Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for its indigenously-designed 'Kisan Drones'. With this, it has become India's first drone start-up to get these approvals. The Made-in-India Kisan drones are developed for agricultural purposes such as reducing crop loss, crop health monitoring, yield measurement, and crop loss mitigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Garuda Aerospace – received Type Certification & Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) from the DGCA for its indigenously-designed 'Kisan Drones' (India's first drone start-up to get these approvals)
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash



16. On December 25, Defence Ministry gave nod to procure 120 'Pralay' ballistic missiles for the armed forces that are likely to be deployed along India's border areas along Pakistan and China. In December 2021, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface Pralay missile. Pralay is capable of striking and destroying targets in the range of 150-500 km, and can also be used in the night to attack enemy's targets. The Pralay missile has an accuracy of 10 metres and has a speed of around 2,000 km per hour, and is equipped with an infrared or thermal scanner. The missile would be provided to the Air Force and the Navy. In the missiles of similar category, while China has Dongfeng-12 missiles, Pakistan possesses Ghaznavi, M-11 and Shaheen missiles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry – approved to procure indigenously developed 120 'Pralay' ballistic missiles for armed forces
- DRDO – successfully conducted the maiden flight test of surface-to-surface Pralay missile in December 2021
- Pralay missile: Range –150-500 km | Accuracy – 10 metres | Speed – 2,000 kmph & Equipped with infrared scanner
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

17. On December 28, The Army inaugurated its first 3D-printed dwelling unit for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantonment. The dwelling unit has been constructed by the Military Engineering Services (MES) in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd incorporating the latest 3D rapid construction technology. 3D printing technology uses complex software and a robotic unit that helps in creating a structure through multiple stages from a digital model. The technique utilises a concrete 3D printer that accepts a computerised three-dimensional design and fabricates a 3D structure in a layer-by-layer manner by extruding a specialised type of concrete specifically designed for the purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – inaugurated its first 3D-printed dwelling unit for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantonment
- The dwelling unit is constructed by = MES + MiCoB Pvt Ltd
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

18. On December 29, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the Extended Range Version of Brahmos Air Launched missile against a ship target from a frontline SU-30MKI aircraft. The missile achieved the desired mission objectives in the Bay of Bengal region. With this, IAF has achieved a significant capability boost to carry out precision strikes from SU-30MKI aircraft against land or sea targets over very long ranges. BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by DRDO and Mashinostroyenia of Russia. The extended BrahMos has three times the speed, 2.5 times flight range and higher range of almost 450 Km compared to subsonic cruise missiles.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – successfully test fired the Extended Range Version of Brahmos Air Launched missile from 'SU-30MKI' aircraft
- BrahMos missiles – designed, developed & produced by BrahMos Aerospace | Range ~ 450 km | Speed – 2.8 Mach
- BrahMos Aerospace – a JV set up by DRDO & Mashinostroyenia (Russia)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh



Sports & Games

1. On December 4, Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil clinched the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup held in Cairo, Egypt. He defeated Italy's Danilo Sollazzo in the 10-metre rifle play-off by 16-8. Athletes from 42 nations representing 43 ISSF Member Federations from all continents are taking part in this competition which was held from November 28 to December 4. 18-year-old Rudranksh Patil also bagged India's first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics, when he clinched a gold in the men's 10-metre air rifle in the ISSF Rifle-Pistol World Championships 2022 in October 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rudranksh Patil (Indian shooter) – clinched “ISSF President's Cup” held in Cairo, Egypt (defeating Italy's Danilo Sollazzo)
- Rudranksh also bagged India's first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics in October 2022
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

2. On December 2, Saurashtra defeated Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the 'Vijay Hazare Trophy' at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. This is Saurashtra's second Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saurashtra – won the 'Vijay Hazare Trophy' by 5 wickets (defeating - Maharashtra)
- The Final was played at – Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad

3. On December 4, India's Anjum Moudgil won silver in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the ISSF President's Cup in Cairo, Egypt and was adjudged the second-best athlete of the year in the discipline. Anjum lost to German Anna Janssen in the gold medal match. This was India's second medal in the tournament after Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil won gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition on December 3. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anjum Moudgil – won Silver in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the “ISSF President's Cup” in Cairo, Egypt
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

4. On December 5, Arjun Erigaisi (12.5 points) clinched the Blitz title finishing ahead of Hikaru Nakaumura (11.5 points) at the 4th edition of “Tata Steel Chess India Tournament” which was held in Kolkata. In women's category, Rameshbabu Vaishali emerged as the Blitz women's champion with 13.5 points followed by Mariya Muzychuk with 12 points. Moreover, in the same 2022 Tata Steel Chess India Open, Nihal Sarin won the Rapid Men's category following by Arjun Erigaisi. In women's category, Anna Ushenina and Nana Dzagnidze got the 1st and 2nd spot respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th edition of “Tata Steel Chess India Tournament” – held in Kolkata
- Viswanathan Anand – Brand Ambassador & Advisor of the tournament
- Blitz Men's winners: 1st – Arjun Erigaisi, 2nd – Hikaru Nakamura
- Blitz Women's winners: 1st – Rameshbabu Vaishali, 2nd – Mariya Muzychuk
- Rapid Men's winners: 1st – Nihal Sarin, 2nd – Arjun Erigaisi
- Rapid Women's winners: 1st – Anna Ushenina, 2nd – Nana Dzagnidze



5. On December 5, Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo joined Saudi Arabian Al-Nassr Football Club on a two-and-a-half-year deal worth 200 million euros per season. This sponsorship will bring his wages to a record figure that will make him the highest paid athlete in sport. Cristiano Ronaldo became the first male player to score at five World Cups with a goal for Portugal against Ghana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cristiano Ronaldo – joined Saudi Arabia’s Al-Nassr Football Club on a deal worth Euros 200 million per season

6. On December 4, Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda became the first-ever Indian under-17 shuttler to clinch a medal at the Asian Junior Badminton Championships. She lost to Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match in the women’s singles category. In the men’s doubles category, the in-form duo of Arsh and Sanskar also got a silver medal. Indian shuttler Anish Thoppani clinched a silver medal in the under-15 category in the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022 in Nonthaburi, Thailand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022” – held in Nonthaburi, Thailand
- Women’s singles (U-17): Gold – Sarunrak Vitidsarn (Thailand) | Silver – Unnati Hooda (India)
- Unnati Hooda – became 1st ever Indian U-17 shuttler to clinch a medal at Asian Junior Badminton Championships
- Anish Thoppani – clinched a silver medal in the U-15 category
- Arsh + Sanskar = won a silver medal in men’s doubles category

7. In December 2022, India won 14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze) at the recently concluded “Peru Para-Badminton International 2022” tournament in Lima, Peru. Sukant Kadam won Gold medal, defeating Singapore’s Chee Hiong Ang in the men’s singles SL4 category, while Nehal Gupta won the SL3 event beating Mathieu Thomas of France. In the women’s category, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur clinched the titles in the SH6 and SL3 singles sections. Indian men’s doubles pair Nehal and Breno Johann (SL3-SL4) and the women’s doubles duo of Parul Parmar and Vaishali Nilesh Patel (SL3-SU5) also claimed Gold medals in their respective categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India won 14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver & 7 bronze) at the “Peru Para-Badminton International 2022”
- 6 Gold Medals:
 - Sukant Kadam – in men’s singles SL4 event
 - Nehal Gupta – in men’s singles SL3 event
 - Nithya Sre Sumathy – in women’s singles SH6 event
 - Mandeep Kaur – in women’s singles SH3 event
 - Nehal & Breno Johann – in men’s doubles SL3-SL4 event
 - Parul Parmar & Vaishali Nilesh Patel – in women’s doubles SL3-SU5 event

8. On December 6, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has officially withdrawn its bid to host the AFC Asian Cup 2027 in India. During its meeting on October 17, 2022, the AFC Executive Committee shortlisted bids from the AIFF and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) to host the AFC Asian Cup 2027. The AFC Congress was scheduled to select the ultimate host in February 2023 in Manama, Bahrain. Following India’s withdrawal, Saudi Arabia’s candidacy to host the 19th AFC Asian Cup in 2027 will be the only one presented to the AFC Congress for deliberation. The AFC Asian Cup was last hosted in the UAE in 2019, and Qatar will host the next edition in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIFF – withdrew its bid to host the “AFC Asian Cup 2027” in India
- In Oct, AFC Executive Committee had shortlisted bids from the AIFF & Saudi Arabian Football Federation for this
- AFC Asian Cup 2023 – will be hosted by Qatar

9. On December 5, Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik handed over the trophy to Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey, kicking off the Trophy Tour of the “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” to be held in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela from January 13 to 29, 2022. This will be the 15th edition of the tournament. Total 16 teams will be competing in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik kicked off Trophy Tour of “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” – to be held in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela
- This will be the 15th edition of the tournament | Total 16 teams will participate
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

10. On December 6, the 16-year-old Mumbai player, Aditya Mittal, has become India’s 77th Chess Grandmaster. He secured 3 GM norms, crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the 6th round of the Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain. He drew the game against Spain’s No.1 Francisco Vallejo Pons to achieve the feat. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points. Mittal is the 5th Indian to achieve the GM title in 2022 after Bharath Subramaniam, Rahul Srivatshav, V Pranav V and Pranav Anand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Mittal (Maharashtra) – became India’s 77th Chess Grandmaster
- He achieved this feat against Spain’s No.1 Francisco Vallejo at the ‘Ellobregat Open’ tournament in Spain
- A player has to secure 3 GM norms & cross the live rating of 2500 Elo points to become a GM

11. In December 2022, Indian national blind cricket team made history by winning the 3rd edition of the “T20 World Cup for the Blind” for the third consecutive time. They beat Bangladesh by an impressive margin of 120 runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Sunil Ramesh was declared ‘Man of the Match’. The Indian national blind cricket team is affiliated with the Cricket Association for the Blind (CABI), which is independent of BCCI. In blind cricket, there are 11 players in every team, which comprises four B1 players (fully blind), three B2 players (partially blind), and four B3 players (partially sighted). The tournament was held from December 5 to 17, 2022. Former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh was the brand ambassador of the tournament. Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India were the participating countries of the World Cup 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Team – won the 3rd “T20 World Cup for the Blind” for the third consecutive time (beating - Bangladesh)
- The tournament was held at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru | ‘Man of the Match’ – Sunil Ramesh
- Yuvraj Singh was the brand ambassador of the tournament

12. On December 7, Former world champion Mirabai Chanu settled for a Silver medal in the women’s 49kg division at the World Weightlifting Championships 2022 in Bogota, Colombia. Mirabai Chanu lifted a total weight of 200kg (87kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) for her second world championships medal. She won the gold in 2017 and finished fourth in the 2019 edition. Jiang Huihua of China won her 3rd World Championships gold medal with a combined lift of 206 kg (93kg+113kg). Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Hou Zhihui of China settled for bronze for 198kg (89kg+109kg). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Mirabai Chanu – won Silver medal in women's 49kg division at 'World Weightlifting Championships 2022' in Colombia
- Gold – Jiang Huihua (China) | Bronze – Hou Zhihui (China)

13. The three women umpires namely Vrinda Rathi, Janani Narayan, and Gayathri Venugopalan will, for the first time, officiate on-field in Ranji Trophy matches this season with the BCCI deciding to draft women umpires in the men's domestic circuit. Until now, the BCCI had never given women an opportunity to officiate as on-field umpires in men's senior tournaments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vrinda Rathi, Janani Narayan & Gayathri Venugopalan – will officiate on-field in Ranji Trophy matches (for the first time)
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

14. On December 10, Indian batter Ishan Kishan scored a double century off just 126 balls. Ishan Kishan has become fastest player to smash double-century in Men's ODI. He became the seventh batter in the world to achieve the feat and fourth from India after Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma and Virender Sehwag. He scored this in the third and final ODI match of the series against Bangladesh. This is also now the highest individual score against Bangladesh by any batter in men's ODI. He broke the record of Chris Gayle who reached the 200-run mark in 138 balls against Zimbabwe in 2015. Ishan Kishan has become fastest player to smash double-century in Men's ODI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ishan Kishan – became fastest player to smash double-century in Men's ODI in 126 balls (against Bangladesh)
- He is 7th batter in the world and 4th from India after Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma & Virender Sehwag
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

15. On December 4, Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda finished with a silver medal in the women's singles U-17 event at Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022 in Nothaburi, Thailand. Men's U-15 singles player Anish Thoppani and U-17 men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat also bagged silver medals for India. Unnati Hooda is the first Indian to enter the U-17 women's singles final at the Asia Junior Championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022 – held in Nothaburi, Thailand
- Unnati Hooda – won a silver medal in the women's singles U-17 event | Anish Thoppani (U-15) – also won silver medal
- Arsh Mohammad + Sanskar Saraswat (U-17) – bagged silver medals for India in men's doubles
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha

16. On December 6, the Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta was started at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala in Kannur district, Kerala. The event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Puneet K. Bahl, Commandant, INA. Two teams from India Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla also participated in the championship. It was started in 2010. For the first time, a Defence Technology Exhibition was organised at INA, Ezhimala, in association with the Centre for Indigenisation and Self Reliance (CISR), Coimbatore, as part of the event. The exhibition focused on Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Union government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta – started at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala, Kannur district, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



17. Tokyo 1964 Olympian and Asian Games bronze medallist athlete Kenneth Powell died in Bengaluru due to age-related illnesses. He was 82. Kenneth Powell was selected for the Tokyo 1964 Olympics and was part of India's 4x100m men's relay team which made the semi-finals. He was referred to as the Gentleman Sprinter due to his calm demeanour. His first major breakthrough came at the 1957 National School Games in Calcutta when he finished third. In 1965, Kenneth Powell became the first sports person from his home state Karnataka to win the Arjuna Award - India's second-highest honour for sports persons after the Khel Ratna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kenneth Powell (Karnataka) – Sprinter (Athlete) – passed away (Tokyo 1964 Olympian & Asian Games bronze medallist)
- Awards: Arjuna Award (1965)

18. On December 13, Adidas introduced 'Al Hilm', the ball to be used in the FIFA World Cup 2022 semi-finals and final in Doha, Qatar. 'Al Hilm' took the place of 'Al Rihla', the match ball used in the event until the quarterfinals. The new ball will use the same groundbreaking Adidas 'Connected Ball' technology. Al Hilm, which translates to "The Dream" in Arabic, is the first World Cup match ball made using water-based inks and glues and was created with the environment in mind. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adidas – introduced 'Al Hilm', the ball to be used in the FIFA World Cup 2022 Semi-finals & Final in Qatar
- 'Al Hilm' took the place of 'Al Rihla' (the match ball until the quarterfinals)
- 'Al Hilm' ("The Dream" in Arabic) – the first World Cup match ball made using water-based inks & glues
- [HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Bjorn Gulden](#)

19. On December 10, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, during the Winter Session of the Parliament, announced that 1,000 Khelo India centres will be opened all over the country by August 15, 2023. Out of the 1,000 centres, 733 centres have been already sanctioned at present. He also announced that 398 coaches have been appointed across 21 sports disciplines. The Winter Session of the Parliament began on December 7 and had 17 working days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1,000 Khelo India centres will be opened all over the country by August 15, 2023

20. On December 11, Men's badminton world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting at the "BWF World Tour Finals 2022" in Bangkok, Thailand. This is Viktor's 8th title for 2022. Japan's Akane Yamaguchi defeated Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying to claim the women's singles crown. Indian Shuttler HS Prannoy finished 3rd on the BWF World Tour ranking. In the men's doubles, Chinese pair Liu Yuchen and Ou Xuanyi won the title. While the women's doubles title was won by Chinese duo Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan. And in the mixed doubles, China's Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong won the title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "BWF World Tour Finals 2022" – held in Bangkok, Thailand
- Men's Singles – Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Women's Singles – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- Men's Doubles – Liu Yuchen & Ou Xuanyi (China)
- Women's Doubles – Liu Yuchen & Ou Xuanyi (China)
- Men's Doubles – Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)
- Mixed Doubles – Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)



21. In December 2022, Indian hockey team beat Spain 1-0 in the “Women’s FIH Nations Cup 2022” final and earned themselves a place in the 2023-24 FIH Pro League. This was the inaugural season of the Women's FIH Nations Cup, with a promotion to 2023 Women’s Pro League. Total 8 teams participated in the Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022 which was hosted by Spain in Valencia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian hockey team – won the “Women’s FIH Nations Cup 2022” hosted by Spain (defeating - Spain)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

22. Pakistan’s Sidra Ameen became the second successive winner of the ICC Women’s Player of the Month for November 2022. While England’s T20 World Cup-winning captain Jos Buttler has been named ICC Men’s Player of the Month for November 2022 for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jos Buttler (England) – named “ICC Men’s Player of the Month for November 2022”
- Sidra Ameen (Pakistan) – named “ICC Women’s Player of the Month for November 2022”

23. Usain Bolt has failed to top the list of the most written-about athletes for the first time in years, as he has been replaced by India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra in 2022. Chopra leads the way with 812 articles ahead of a troika of Jamaican women sprint stars, Elaine Thompson-Herah, with 751 articles, world 100m champion Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce (698) and world 200m champion Shericka Jackson (679), with Bolt still featuring in 574 articles. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has received the Padma Shri in 2022 in the field of Sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra (with 812 articles) – replaced Usain Bolt in the list of the most written-about athletes in 2022
- Neeraj Chopra received Padma Shri in 2022

24. In December 2022, Indian shuttlers clinched total 6 Gold medals at the “Peru Para Badminton International” in Lima, Peru. In the men’s section, World No. 3 Sukant Kadam and Nehal Gupta won the titles in the SL4 and SL3 singles events. In the women’s section, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur won the titles in the SH6 and SL3 singles categories. Men’s doubles pair of Nehal and Breno Johann (SL3-SL4) and women’s doubles combination of Parul Parmar and Vaishali Nilesh Patel (SL3-SU5) also bagged gold medals in their respective events. Mandeep Kaur also took a silver and bronze medal in women’s doubles and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 respectively. Overall, Indian shuttlers won 6 Gold, 1 Silver & 7 Bronze medals in this tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian shuttlers – clinched 6 Gold, 1 Silver & 7 Bronze medals at the “Peru Para Badminton International” in Lima, Peru
- 6 Gold medalists: Sukant Kadam, Nehal Gupta, Nithya, Mandeep Kaur, Nehal & Breno (pair), Parul & Vaishali (pair)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Dina Boluarte | PM – Betssy Chavez

25. On December 14, Tata Steel Limited signed an MoU with Hockey India to become an Official Partner of the ‘FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023’ in Odisha. The 15th edition of the Hockey Men’s World Cup will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023. The FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela will be the fourth time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament after having played hosts in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tata Steel – became an Official Partner of the ‘FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023’ in Odisha
- FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 (15th edition) – will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela (in Jan)
- It will be the 4th time of India hosting the tournament
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Dilip Tirkey | Secretary General – Bhola Nath
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

26. In December 2022, the Under-18 girls team won the silver medal losing to UAE in the final at the recently concluded “Under-18 Asia Rugby Sevens” held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The bronze medal match was won by Malaysia. The U18 boys have achieved the 4th place. The Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) is the sole governing body for the sport of Rugby in India. The IRFU is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, and is a full member of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Asian Rugby Football Union (ARFU) and World Rugby. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s Under-18 girls team – won the silver medal at the “Under-18 Asia Rugby Sevens” held in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Under-18 girls: Gold – UAE | Bronze – Malaysia | India’s U-18 boys achieved the 4th place

27. In December 2022, World number one Iga Swiatek was crowned “WTA Player of the Year 2022” for the first time in her career, while Czech Republic’s Barbora Krejckova and Katerina Siniakova were named “WTA Doubles Team of the Year 2022”. Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil was named the “WTA Most Improved Player of the Year”. The “WTA Coach of the Year 2022” award went to David Witt. Moreover, among the winners of ‘2022 WTA Player Service Awards’, Ons Jabeur received the ‘Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award’, Gabriela Dabrowski collected the ‘Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award’ for a third time and Maria Sakkari won the ‘Jerry Diamond ACES Award’ for helping promote the sport via off-court activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2022 WTA Awards:
 - Player of the Year – Iga Swiatek (Poland)
 - Doubles Team of the Year – Barbora Krejckova & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
 - Most Improved Player of the Year – Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)
 - Coach of the Year – David Witt (US)
- 2022 WTA Player Service Awards:
 - Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award – Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
 - Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award – Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)
 - Jerry Diamond ACES Award – Maria Sakkari (Greece)

28. The United States, Canada, and Mexico are all set to jointly host the prestigious “FIFA World Cup 2026”. Canada will be hosting the prestigious FIFA World Cup for the very first time in comparison to the United States and Mexico which will be hosting it for the second and third time respectively. FIFA has released a list of 16 cities from these 3 countries which will be hosting the matches. The three countries won the bid to host the tournament in 2018 and named it “United 2026”. These North American nations will be hosting the tournament in a completely new and expanded format by giving platforms to 48 teams/nations. The natural format of FIFA had 32 teams drawn into 8 groups of 4 countries. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- US + Canada + Mexico = to jointly host the prestigious “FIFA World Cup 2026”
- Canada – will be hosting the prestigious FIFA World Cup for the very first time
- 48 teams/nations will participate in FIFA World Cup 2026 (as per new format)

29. On December 14, Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women’s 100m breaststroke at the 16th edition of the “FINA World Swimming Championships 2022” in Melbourne, Australia. Chahat Arora completed the 100m breaststroke race in 1:13.13s at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre’s 25m short course pool. Moreover, Chahat also set a new national record in the women’s 50m breaststroke at the same tournament on December 17. She clocked 32.91s to top heat 2 at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre’s 25m short course pool and bettered her own previous record of 32.94s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th edition of the “FINA World Swimming Championships 2022” – held in Melbourne, Australia
- Chahat Arora – set a national record in the women’s 100m breaststroke, clocking 1:13.13s
- Chahat Arora – also set a new national record in the women’s 50m breaststroke, clocking 32.91s

30. On December 14, R. Praggnanandhaa won the Julius Baer Challenger Championship. He defeated Pranav Venkatesh. The Julius Baer Challenger Championship took place December 11-14, 2022, on chess24. It is the final stage of the Magnus Chess Academy Challenge Challengers Chess Tour. The format includes four, three-game mini-matches between Praggnanandhaa and Pranav, the 2021 Challengers champion against the 2022 Challengers champion. The prize fund is \$10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Praggnanandhaa – won the “Julius Baer Challenger Championship 2022” (defeating - Pranav Venkatesh)
- Julius Baer Challenger Championship – final stage of the ‘Magnus Chess Academy Challenge Challengers Chess Tour’
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924

31. On December 15, India topped the 19th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) 2022 held in Bogota, Colombia. This is the 3rd consecutive year and 4th overall that India has put up an all gold performance at IJSO. Six students represented the Indian team in the finals of IJSO 2022 and they all won Gold medals, of which 5 were from ALLEN Career Institute Pvt Ltd, based in Kota, Rajasthan. The winning students of ALLEN include Vasu Vijay, Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya, Banibrata Majee, Rajdeep Mishra, and Avaneesh Bansal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (with 6 Gold) – topped the 19th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) 2022 held in Bogota, Colombia
- This is the 3rd consecutive year & 4th overall that India has put up an all gold performance at IJSO
- 5 Gold medalists were from – ALLEN Career Institute Pvt Ltd (Kota, Rajasthan)

32. On December 18, Argentina has defeated two-time champions France in the “FIFA World Cup 2022” held at Lusail Stadium, Qatar. Argentina defeated France 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 tie to win their third World Cup in 36 years. Lionel Messi created history by becoming the first man to win the adidas Golden Ball twice at FIFA World Cup. Lionel Messi was also named ‘Best Player of the Tournament’. Kylian Mbappe of France also performed very well. ‘Now is All’ was the Slogan/Motto of FIFA 2022 and ‘La’eeb’ was the Official Mascot. La’eeb is an Arabic word meaning super-skilled player. ‘Al Rihla’ was the match ball until the quarterfinals. While ‘Al Hilm’ ball was used in the Semi-finals & Final of the FIFA World Cup 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Argentina – won the “FIFA World Cup 2022” at Lusail Stadium, Qatar (defeating - France)
- Lionel Messi – created history by becoming the first man to win the adidas Golden Ball twice at FIFA World Cup
- ‘Best Player of the Tournament’ – Lionel Messi
- FIFA 2022: Slogan/Motto – ‘Now is All’ | Official Mascot – ‘La’eeb’ | Balls used – ‘Al Rihla’ & ‘Al Hilm’

33. On December 17, Rehan Ahmed became the youngest men’s Test cricketer for England. He made his Test debut against Pakistan in Karachi. He was 18 years and 126 days & he also broke Brian Close’s previous record set in July 1949. He was not the youngest player to play a Test for England. Holly Colvin made her debut for the women’s team against Australia at Hove in 2005 at 15 years and 336 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rehan Ahmed – became the youngest men’s (not overall) Test cricketer for England (18 years & 126 days)
- Holly Colvin – overall youngest Test cricketer of England (15 years & 336 days)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

34. Indian Navy’s sailboat INSV Tarini set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023. This ocean sailing race was scheduled to be flagged off from Cape Town on 2 January, 2023 and to culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The race is one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean races. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INSV Tarini – to participate in the 50th edition of ‘Cape to Rio Race 2023’, an ocean sailing race (in Jan)
- The race was scheduled to be flagged off from Cape Town (South Africa) & to culminate at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

35. The 2023 women’s World Boxing Championships will be hosted by Delhi from March 15 to 31. India will host the biennial event for the third time in the tournament’s history. Since the inception of the tournament in 2001, the prestigious event has taken place twice in India previously in 2006 and 2018, both times in the capital. Besides this, India has also hosted the Women’s Youth World Championships in 2017 in Guwahati. India has never conducted the men’s world championship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – to host the ‘2023 Women’s World Boxing Championships’ (3rd time after 2006 & 2018)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

36. On December 22, Tata Motors has extended its association with ‘Maharashtra Open’, also known as ‘Tata Open Maharashtra’, as the title sponsor for the fifth consecutive year. This is South Asia’s only ATP 250 tournament, scheduled to begin on 31 December in Pune. Maharashtra Open is owned by IMG and managed by Reliance-backed RISE Worldwide and will be held at the Balewadi Stadium by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) in association with the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors – extended its association with ‘Maharashtra Open’ as the Title Sponsor (for the 5th consecutive year)
- This is South Asia’s only ATP 250 tournament
- ‘Maharashtra Open’ is owned by – IMG | Managed by – RISE Worldwide (Reliance)
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran



37. Morocco will host the next FIFA World Cup in February 2023. Morocco also hosted Club World Cups in 2013 and 2014. The 2023 FIFA Club World Cup will be one of the last seven-team editions for continental champions with an expanded 32-team tournament planned to start in 2025. Moreover, The United States, Canada, and Mexico will jointly host the “FIFA World Cup 2026”. Canada will be hosting the World Cup for the very first time. 48 teams/nations will participate in FIFA World Cup 2026 as per new format. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Morocco – selected by FIFA to host the next “Club World Cup” in February 2023
- US + Canada + Mexico = to jointly host the prestigious “FIFA World Cup 2026”
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

38. Brazil maintained top spot in the “FIFA World Ranking”, released in December 2022, despite Argentina winning their first FIFA World Cup title since 1986 in Qatar 2022. Brazil have held the number one position since February 2022, when they dethroned Belgium. Morocco and Australia both climbed 11 places. Morocco is ranked 11th and is the top-ranked African team, while Australia is ranked 27th. Third place was occupied by France. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “FIFA World Ranking” – released in December 2022 | 1st – Brazil, 2nd – Argentina, 3rd – France

39. On December 21, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18) has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the Olympic Games Paris 2024, plus non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. 2024 Olympics will be hosted in Paris, France. The ‘Phrygian cap’ is its mascot. Viacom18 is owned by Network18 which is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Viacom18 – secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast ‘2024 Summer Olympics’ to be held in Paris, France
- Viacom18 – also secured non-exclusive rights to broadcast ‘2024 Winter Youth Olympics’ in Gangwon, South Korea
- They will be broadcast by Viacom18 in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka
- Viacom18 is owned by Network18 (a subsidiary of Reliance Industries)

40. On December 18, Jaipur Pink Panthers defeated Puneri Paltan 33-29 to emerge as the Champions of the “Pro Kabaddi League Season 9”. Sunil Kumar is the Captain and Sanjeev Baliyan is the coach of Jaipur Pink Panthers and the team is owned by Abhishek Bachchan. Pink Panthers’ Arjun Deshwal emerged as Most Valuable Player of the Season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jaipur Pink Panthers – emerged as the Champions of the “Pro Kabaddi League Season 9” (defeating - Puneri Paltan)
- Jaipur Pink Panthers Team: Owner – Abhishek Bachchan | Coach – Sanjeev Baliyan | Captain – Sunil Kumar

41. Argentina’s World Cup-winning captain Lionel Messi has been named BBC Sports Personality’s “World Sport Star of the Year 2022”. Messi led Argentina to their first World Cup (2022) triumph in 36 years in Qatar. In addition, he has scored a staggering 793 goals in his career. Moreover, English football player Beth Mead has been awarded the “BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022”. She was the player of the tournament and top scorer at Euro 2022. Besides, British gymnast Jessica Gadirova won the “BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year 2022”. Jamaica’s eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt has been honoured with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” at BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022. England’s Lionesses and Sarina Wiegman won the “BBC Team of the Year & Coach of the Year Award 2022”. English rugby league player Rob Burrow won the “BBC Helen Rollason Award 2022”. Football volunteer Mike Alden has been honoured with the “BBC Unsung Hero Award 2022”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 2022 BBC Sports Personality Awards:
 - World Sport Star of the Year – Lionel Messi (Argentina - Football)
 - Sports Personality of the Year – Beth Mead (UK - Football)
 - Young Sports Personality of the Year – Jessica Gadirova (Ireland - Gymnastics)
 - Lifetime Achievement Award – Usain Bolt (Jamaica - Runner)
 - Team of the Year & Coach of the Year Award – Lionesses Team (England) & Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands)
 - Helen Rollason Award – Rob Burrow (UK - Rugby)
 - Unsung Hero Award – Mike Alden (Football Volunteer)

42. Ace Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty jumped two places to attain the career-best World No. 5 spot in the Men's Doubles with 75,806 rating points in the latest "BWF World Rankings" issued on December 20. Satwik and Chirag had a great run in the 2022 calendar year as the duo won two world tour titles at Indian Open Super 500 and French Open Super 750 and also claimed a maiden gold at the Commonwealth Games and a bronze at the World Championships. HS Prannoy also made noticeable gains in the latest ranking as he once again broke into the top 10, grabbing the World No. 9 spot after starting the year at world number 26. P. V. Sindhu continued to hold on to the World No. 6 position in Women's Singles, while in Men's Singles, Lakshya Sen continued to be the best-placed Indian at World No. 7 spot. In the Women's Doubles, combination of Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly climbed two places to World No. 18 position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Latest "BWF World Rankings" – issued on December 20, 2022
- India's Best Men's Doubles pair: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty – attained World No. 5 spot (their career-best)
- India's Best Women's Doubles pair: Gayatri Gopichand & Treasa Jolly – attained World No. 18 spot
- India's Best Men's Singles: Lakshya Sen – attained World No. 7 spot
- India's Best Women's Singles: P. V. Sindhu – attained World No. 6 spot

43. The '2022 FIFA World Cup Awards' were announced on December 19, 2022. Argentina's Lionel Messi, with 7 goals & 3 assists, won the "Golden Ball Award". While France's Kylian Mbappe, with 8 goals, won the "Golden Boot Award". "Golden Glove Award" was given to Argentina's Emiliano Martinez. Moreover, Argentina's Enzo Fernandez won the "FIFA Young Player Award". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2022 FIFA World Cup Awards:
 - Golden Ball Award – Lionel Messi (Argentina)
 - Golden Boot Award – Kylian Mbappe (France)
 - Golden Glove Award – Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
 - FIFA Young Player Award – Enzo Fernandez (Argentina)

44. On December 24, All-rounder Sam Curran became the costliest cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in its 15-year history. The 24-year-old English cricketer was bought for ₹18.5 Crore by Punjab Kings in the IPL auctions held in Kerala for the 2023 season. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sam Curran (UK) – became the costliest cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the IPL
- He was bought for ₹18.5 Crore by Punjab Kings

45. United World Wrestling (UWW) announced that the 36th edition of the “Asian Wrestling Championships 2023” will be held in New Delhi, India from March 28 to April 2, 2022. The continental championship will see competitions in men’s freestyle, women’s freestyle and men’s Greco-Roman divisions. The Indian capital will be hosting the annual event for the 7th time. The last edition of the Asian Championships was held in Mongolia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 36th Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 – held in New Delhi, India (from March 28 to April 2, 2022)

46. On December 29, Rajasthan’s first female bodybuilder Priya Singh Meghwal has won a Gold medal in the 39th International Women’s Bodybuilding Competition held in Thailand. Her next targets are Universiade (International multi-sports events) and the 2024 Olympics to be held in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priya Singh Meghwal (Rajasthan) – won Gold in the 39th ‘International Women’s Bodybuilding Competition’ in Thailand
- [Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht](#) | [PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha](#)

47. On December 29, GM Magnus Carlsen claimed his 4th world rapid chess crown, by defeating Germany’s GM Vincent Keymer in the “2022 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship” held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. China’s GM Tan Zhongyi won the Gold in “2022 World Women’s Rapid Championship”, by defeating Dinara Sadaukassova of Kazakhstan. India’s Women GM Savitha Shri won the Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) – won Gold in the “2022 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship” (defeating - Vincent Keymer)
- Tan Zhongyi (China) – won Gold in the “2022 World Women’s Rapid Championship” (defeating - Dinara Sadaukassova)
- India’s Women GM Savitha Shri – won Bronze in “2022 World Women’s Rapid Championship” held in Kazakhstan

48. Italy will host the “Tour de France”, a bicycle race, for the first time in 2024. Italy will host the first three stages of the 2024 race, which will end on July 21 in Nice, France. It will be the first time since 1905 that the finish is not the French capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Italy – will host the “Tour de France”, a bicycle race, for the first time in 2024
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Giorgia Meloni](#)

49. In December 2022, the Railways team topped the medals tally with 10 medals (5 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronze) at the “6th Elite Women’s National Boxing Championships 2022” held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh & Haryana claimed second and third position, respectively. The gold medalists at the championship include - Manju Rani (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Sakshi (52kg), Shiksha (54kg), Manisha (57kg), Poonam (60kg), Shashi Chopra (63kg), Manju Bamboria (66kg), Sanamacha Chanu (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Saweety Boora (81kg), and Nupur (81kg+). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “6th Elite Women’s National Boxing Championships 2022” – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Railways team – topped the medals tally with 10 medals (5 Golds, 3 Silvers & 2 Bronze) | 2nd – MP, 3rd – Haryana



50. On December 26, Indian archers dominated the “Asia Cup 2022” stage 3 held in Sharjah, UAE from December 20 to 25 and topped the medals tally at the continental meet with 10 medals - 5 golds, 3 silvers & 2 bronze. Seven of India’s 10 medals were won by compound archers. The gold winners include - Women’s team compound (Pragati, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Aishwarya Sharma), Men’s team compound (Priyansh, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao), and 3 Men’s team recurve - Mrinal Chauhan, Akash, & Parth Sushant Salunke. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian archers – topped the medals tally at “Asia Cup 2022” stage 3 held in Sharjah, UAE (5 golds, 3 silvers & 2 bronze)
- Gold Winners (5):
 - Women’s team compound (Pragati, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Aishwarya Sharma)
 - Men’s team compound (Priyansh, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao)
 - Mrinal Chauhan
 - Akash
 - Parth Sushant Salunke

51. On December 29, Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento), fondly known as “The King of Football”, passed away in Sao Paulo, Brazil at the age of 82. He was one of the most prominent sporting figures of the 20th century and the only men’s football player to have won three FIFA World Cup titles (1958, 1962 and 1970). In the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, he became the youngest-ever world champion at 17 years old, scoring in the final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pele (‘Edson Arantes do Nascimento’ or fondly known as ‘The King of Football’) – a Football Player – passed away
- Brazilian Pele – is the only men’s football player to have won 3 FIFA World Cup titles (1958, 1962 & 1970)
- In 1958, he became the youngest-ever World Champion at 17

52. On December 27, Indian Oil’s Brijesh Damani from Kolkata won his maiden National Billiards Championship. He defeated Dhruv Sitwala in finals to become the National billiards champion for the first time. Moreover, Kamal Chawla defeated Sparsh Pherwani to win his first-ever men’s senior snooker national title. Keerthana Pandian of Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu’s Anupama Ramachandran to win the junior girls snooker national title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Brijesh Damani (Kolkata) – won his maiden ‘National Billiards Championship’ (defeating - Dhruv Sitwala)
- Kamal Chawla – won his first-ever men’s senior snooker National Title (defeating - Sparsh Pherwani)
- Keerthana Pandian (Karnataka) – won “Junior Girls Snooker National Title” (defeating - Anupama Ramachandran of TN)

53. On December 31, Cristiano Ronaldo, who was formally with Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus, signed a two-and-half-year-deal with Saudi Arabia’s Al Nassr Football Club. The five-time Ballon D’or winner will join on a deal until 2025 but did not disclose any financial details. Ronaldo’s contract has been estimated by media to be worth more than €200 million (\$214.04 million). With this, Cristiano Ronaldo becomes highest-paid footballer ever in history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) – signed a two-and-half-year-deal to join Saudi Arabia’s “Al Nassr FC”
- The deal is estimated by media to be worth more than €200 million (\$214.04 million)
- With this, Cristiano Ronaldo becomes highest-paid footballer ever in history



54. On December 30, Indian ace Koneru Humpy won India's first-ever silver medal in the women's section of the "FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship" held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She finished strongly, beating Zhongyi Tan, who won the World Rapid title of the same tournament. Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva won Gold, while Polina Shuvalova of Russia won Bronze. While in Men's section, Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen won Gold medal, defeating Hikaru Nakamura of the US who won Silver. While Bronze medal was won by Haik Martirosyan of Armenia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Koneru Humpy – won India's first-ever silver medal in the women's section of "FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship"
- Women's Section: Gold – Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhstan)
- Men's Section: Gold – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)



Persons in News

1. Three Indian-origin women - Dr. Ana Baburamani, Neelima Kadiyala and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee, are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians who have been selected as “Superstars of STEM” for 2023-2024 by Science & Technology Australia (STA). They will undertake a two-year program in 2023 and 2024 to step into the media spotlight as STEM experts. The Superstars of STEM initiative is supported by STA, which is a peak body in science and technology, representing more than 105,000 scientists and technologists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 Indian-origin women – selected as “Superstars of STEM” for 2023-2024 by Science & Technology Australia (STA)
- These 3 women are: Dr. Ana Baburamani, Neelima Kadiyala and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

2. In December 2022, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone unveiled the FIFA World Cup trophy during the final took place at Lusail Stadium in Qatar. Earlier, she represented India at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as one of the jury members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – unveiled the ‘2022 FIFA World Cup’ trophy during the final at Lusail Stadium, Qatar
- [Qatar – Doha – Riyal](#) | [PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani](#)

3. In December 2022, the ‘Dream Crew’ for the first civilian mission to the moon has been announced and it includes Indian actor Dev Joshi. Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa recently announced that Indian actor Dev Joshi, K-Pop star T.O.P. will be among the 8 people who will join him on a flyby around the moon on a SpaceX spaceship in 2023 as part of his “dearMoon project”. The rocket that has been developed by Elon Musk’s SpaceX will make a week-long journey to the moon and back. Other six members of the dream crew are - American DJ Steve Aoki, British photographer Karim Illiya, Czech artist Yemi AD, filmmaker Brendan Hall, YouTuber Tim Dodd, and Irish photographer Rhiannon Adam. This will be Maezawa’s second space journey after his 12-day trip to the International Space Station on the Soyuz Russian spaceship in 2021. Actor Dev Joshi is an Indian television actor known for portraying the role of Baal Veer in Sony Sab’s Baal Veer and Baalveer Returns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yusaku Maezawa (Japanese billionaire) – announced 8 names for his “dearMoon project”, first civilian mission to Moon
- This ‘Dream Crew’ includes – Indian actor Dev Joshi (known for portraying the role of ‘Baal Veer’ in India)
- The rocket that has been developed by SpaceX
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S.](#) | [Founder & CEO – Elon Musk](#) | [Founded in – 2002](#)

4. On December 21, Ashutosh Manke, a 13-year-old boy from Madhya Pradesh, has been named ‘Swachhta Ambassador’ for Katni district, Madhya Pradesh. Ashutosh Manke, a student of 9th standard at CM Rice Model School, sent a postcard on cleanliness, giving his suggestions for the maintenance of garbage carts and general cleanliness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashutosh Manke – is named ‘Swachhta Ambassador’ for Katni district, Madhya Pradesh
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)



5. On December 23, Sania Mirza, daughter of a TV mechanic from Mirzapur, has been selected to become a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force and would be India's first Muslim girl to become fighter pilot and the state's first female IAF pilot. She secured this position by passing the NDA exam. Sania is the second girl in the country who has been selected as a fighter pilot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sania Mirza (UP) – became India's 2nd & UP's 1st female IAF pilot (India's first Muslim girl to become IAF pilot)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

6. On December 25, Maldives criminal court sentenced former President Abdulla Yameen to 11 years in prison and fined him \$5 million after finding him guilty of corruption and money laundering charges. He lost power in 2018 but has been declared presidential candidate for the Progressive Party of the Maldives for an election due in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

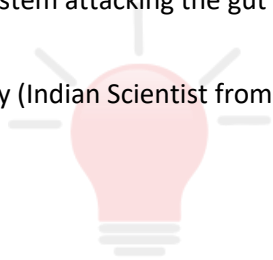
Key Points:

- Abdulla Yameen – former President of Maldives – sentenced to 11 years in prison with \$5 million fine
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

7. On December 28, Indian scientist Dr Mahima Swamy, who hails from Bengaluru, has been chosen to join the prestigious "European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator Network", recognising her as one of the top talents in biology in Europe. A key part of her work is the study of inflammatory bowel diseases and how these can be prompted by the body's immune system attacking the gut lining in the absence of infection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Mahima Swamy (Indian Scientist from Bengaluru) – chosen to join the "EMBO Young Investigator Network"



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. On December 2, Baguette, the staple French bread, was inscribed into the UN's list of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) by UNESCO. The baguette is a long and thin loaf made of flour, water, salt and yeast, and is consumed as a staple in France. The French government plans to introduce an artisanal baguette day called the "Open Bakehouse Day", to enhance people's connection with the heritage. India nominated "Garba Dance" form Gujarat for inscription on UNESCO's ICH list. The elements which have been on the representative list of intangible cultural heritage from India in the past decade include Kolkata's Durga Puja (2021), Kumbh Mela (2017), Navroz (2016), Yoga (2016), traditional brass and copper craft of utensil-making among coppersmiths of Punjab (2014), Sankirtana, a ritual musical performance of Manipur (2013), and the Buddhist chanting of Ladakh (2012), Kalbelia folk songs and dance of Rajasthan, and Mudiyetu, a dance drama from Kerala (2010), Ramman, a religious festival and theatre performance of Garhwal in the Himalayas (2009), and Kutiyattam or Sanskrit theatre, Ramlila, and Vedic chanting (2008). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Baguette' (French Bread) – inscribed into UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage
- India – nominated 'Garba Dance' form of Gujarat for inscription on UNESCO's ICH list
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

2. Jammu and Kashmir's first Tribal Winter Festival was held in the Bandipora district. It was organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson. The festival highlighted the customs and traditions of tribals and also assured the development of sports infrastructure in the area to engage the local youth. People from the Kashmiri community, Gujjars and Bakerwals danced together. The 'gatka' was another attraction performed by two tribal communities portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid all geographic, social and political odds. A skit highlighting the ills of drug abuse was also presented by school children. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K's first 'Tribal Winter Festival' – held in Bandipora district
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

3. The 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival 2022 was celebrated at Naga Heritage Village Kisama from 1st December to 10th December. The Festival was held at the heritage village of Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima. In 10 days festival, a visitor gets the opportunity to catch a ring side view of all the Naga tribes, their culture and distinctiveness at one place. total of 132 stalls will be set up in Kisama wherein, 100 stalls will be taken up by the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises and 32 temporary stalls. Besides, the daily cultural events, a host of activities such as Hornbill Music Festival, photo fest, fashion shows, adventure sports, Night carnival, Hortiscape etc were lined up in this 10 day festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 23rd Hornbill Festival – was celebrated in Naga Heritage Village Kisama, Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

4. On December 16, Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation inaugurated the "Delhi International Arts Festival" at Kartavya Path with the tagline - 'Where Bharat Meets India'. The festival was organised from December 16 to 30, 2022. The festival aims to celebrate the great Epics, the Warriors Who Fought for Our Freedom, and the many policy decisions and schemes instituted by our Government towards 'Women Empowerment', towards 'Cleaning Our Holy Rivers', towards keeping our Country 'Clean and Free from Dirt and Disease'. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture + Prasiddha Foundation = organised the “Delhi International Arts Festival” at Kartavya Path
- Tagline of the fest – ‘Where Bharat Meets India’
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakashi Lekhi

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 26th edition of “National Youth Festival” in the twin cities of Hubballi and Dharwad on January 12, which will mark National Youth Day 2023. The youth festival will mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Around 7,500 representatives from all states will participate in the youth festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – to inaugurate the 26th edition of “National Youth Festival” in Hubballi & Dharwad, Karnataka
- The youth festival will mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda



Science & Technology

1. On December 6, Researchers at IIT Madras have developed and deployed a system that could generate electricity using energy from seawaves. The Ocean Wave Energy Generator system, dubbed “Sindhuja-I”, was deployed by the researchers about 6 Km from the coast of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu. Sindhuja-I can currently produce 100 watts of energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – developed and deployed “Sindhuja-I”, an Ocean Wave Energy Generator system
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

2. On December 2, Google launched a new app called ‘Reading Mode’ to support individuals with visual imparities and dyslexia to read long-form content on screen. The app works on devices running Android 9.0 or above. The app turns any app or webpage into a more accessible version. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched “Reading Mode” app to support individuals with visual imparities & dyslexia
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

3. On December 3, the United States unveiled the ‘B-21 Raider’ stealth bomber, the world’s first sixth-generation aircraft that will soon be delivered to the US Air Force. The aircraft is developed by Northrop Grumman. B-21 will be the most maintainable bomber ever built, designed to deliver both conventional and nuclear munitions with formidable precision. The B-21 Raider is named in honour of the Doolittle Raids of World War II. The designation B-21 recognizes the Raider as the first bomber of the 21st century. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US unveiled the ‘B-21 Raider’ stealth bomber, the world’s first sixth-generation aircraft
- The aircraft is developed by – Northrop Grumman
- HQs of Northrop Grumman – Virginia, US | CEO – Kathy Warden
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

4. On December 3, A full-stack debt support and risk mitigation platform, Spocto, launched Innovation Lab (SIL) for Debt Collection System. It will also enable digitisation in the ecosystem of the collection. Since SIL will solicit inputs from the borrower and lender segments alike, it aims to further reduce the delinquency rate by 10% by 2025. SIL is designed to fast-track work on disruptive technologies focusing on AI/ML, big data, data security, etc. through an accelerated mechanism. The innovation lab will also launch 3-4 tech-driven initiatives that will cater to different segments: banking partners, NBFCs, collection agencies, fintech & end consumers in the Q4 of FY 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spocto – launched ‘Innovation Lab for Debt Collection System’
- Spocto – aims to reduce the delinquency rate by 10% by 2025

5. “iNCOVACC (BBV154)” became the world’s first intra-nasal vaccine to receive both Primary series and Heterologous booster approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Restricted Use in Emergency Situation for ages 18 and above, in India. iNCOVACC was developed by Bharat Biotech in partnership with Washington University, St. Louis. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “iNCOVACC (BBV154)” became the world’s first intra-nasal vaccine to receive both Primary series & Heterologous booster approval from CDSCO
- This vaccine is manufactured by = Bharat Biotech + Washington University, St. Louis
- [HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana](#) | [Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella](#)

6. In December 2022, OpenAI has launched “ChatGPT”, an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot. ChatGPT chatbot crossed 1 million users in less than a week of its launch. ChatGPT is the OpenAI’s conversational chatbot which can talk back almost as another human being would do. Once a user signs up for ChatGPT, they can use the chatbot to have a conversation, and the expectation is that it will give reasonably intelligent answers in the form of an essay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OpenAI – launched “ChatGPT”, an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot
- [HQs of OpenAI – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sam Altman](#)

7. Researchers from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram and IIT Indore have developed a new Artificial Light-Harvesting System that can efficiently capture light for power conversion by mimicking photosynthesis, the process by which plants absorb sunlight and produce sugars. The results of the study have been published in Chemical Science, a journal published by the prestigious Royal Chemical Society. The paper has been co-authored by Sukhendu Mandal, Associate Professor at IISER. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISER (Thiruvananthapuram) + IIT Indore = developed a new Artificial Light-Harvesting System, capturing light for power conversion by mimicking photosynthesis
- [Director of IIT Indore – Dr. Suhas Joshi](#)

8. A new species of head-shield sea slug of the genus Melanochlamys Cheeseman named “Melanochlamys bengalensis” was discovered from West Bengal’s Digha and adjoining places like Bakkhali, Tajpur, New Digha, Udaipur, Talsari, Chandipur and Kanika Islands (Odisha). The new species represents a distinct clade compared to the other species of the genus Melanochlamys. It is a small, 12mm-14mm long, black animal with its shell inside the body and no backbone (invertebrate). Its distribution is recorded on around a 295-kilometre stretch from Bakkhali of West Bengal to Konika Island of Odisha. The research paper on the new species has been published in the international journal, Molluscan Research, of Malacological Society of Australasia and the Society for the Study of Molluscan Diversity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Melanochlamys bengalensis”, a new species of head-shield sea slug – discovered from Digha, West Bengal
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

9. On December 6, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with Gurugram-based private space firm, Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited, for its ‘Human and Cargo Transportation Capsule Program’. The MoU was facilitated by India’s nodal space authorization body, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (In-Space). According to ISRO, the start-up is incubated under ‘JSIC’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + Vyom Space (Gurugram) = an MoU for its ‘Human and Cargo Transportation Capsule Program’
- The MoU was facilitated by – In-Space
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)



10. China launched Shenzhou-15, a spacecraft with a three-person crew to its under-construction Tiangong space station. The spaceship carrying the aircraft was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. The launch was carried out with a Long March-2F carrier rocket. The crew will stay in orbit for about six months, a period in which the construction of the low-orbit space station is expected to be completed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched ‘Shenzhou-15’ to its under-construction Tiangong space station from – Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre
- The launch was carried out with a Long March-2F carrier rocket
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

11. On December 8, the government of the Union Territory of Ladakh partnered with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for developing Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal “Geo-Ladakh” for UT-Ladakh. The project encompasses spatial database generation (water resources, vegetation and energy potential) using remote sensing, geospatial techniques and the development of a Geo-portal for hosting this database. The project also aims towards training of UT-Ladakh officials on Geospatial techniques and applications. Portal provides geospatial data visualization and analytics for UT-Ladakh, consisting of Spatial viewer, Carbon Neutrality, Geospatial utility mapping and Geo-Tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh + IIRS (ISRO) = partnered for developing Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal “Geo-Ladakh” for Ladakh
- The Portal provides Spatial viewer, Carbon Neutrality, Geospatial utility mapping & Geo-Tourism
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh](#) | [Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

12. On December 7, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with Social Alpha to launch “SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)”. SpIN is India’s first dedicated platform for innovation, curation, and venture development for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem. The tie-up is a one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry. Social Alpha is a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups. Social Alpha (Foundation in Bengaluru, Karnataka) is a joint initiative of Tata Trust & Indian Government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + Social Alpha = an MoU to launch “SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)” India’s first dedicated platform for innovation, curation & venture development
- Social Alpha (Foundation in Bengaluru, Karnataka) – a joint initiative of Tata Trust & Indian Govt
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

13. On December 8, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested the booster motor called “PSOM-XL” at its rocket port in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It has been developed by Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur, an arm of Solar Industries India Limited. This is the first step in the end-to-end production of PSLV through the industry. The commercial arm of Department of Space (DoS), NewSpace India Ltd, has selected the HAL-L&T led consortium to make five PSLV-XL rockets. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ISRO successfully tested the booster motor called “PSOM-XL” at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- The booster motor is developed by Economic Explosives Ltd (Nagpur) for ISRO’s ‘PSLV-XL’ rockets
- HAL-L&T led consortium is selected to make five ‘PSLV-XL’ rockets
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

14. Students of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) launched the first electric formula racing car from the institute. The formula car ‘RF23’ is built completely by students of Team Raftar. Like RF23, technologies in the autonomous race car will be put to various stress tests. The team looks forward to representing India at International level, fostering industry-standard engineering practices and nurturing real-world technical expertise among engineering students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – launched the first electric formula racing car ‘RF23’ from the institute
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

15. On December 11, SpaceX launched a private mission to the moon with a Japanese lander “HAKUTO”, and United Arab Emirates rover “Rashid” aboard Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida, US. ‘Rashid’ will be the first Moon mission for the Arab world if it is successful. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched a private mission to the moon with Japanese lander “HAKUTO” & UAE’s rover “Rashid”
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

16. On December 10, three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have been added to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Meizotropis pellita has been assessed as ‘critically endangered’, Fritillaria cirrhosa as ‘vulnerable’, and Dactylorhiza hatagirea as ‘endangered’. Meizotropis pellita, commonly known as Patwa, is a perennial shrub with restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand. Fritillaria cirrhosa (Himalayan fritillary) is a perennial bulbous herb. The plant is a strong cough suppressant and source of expectorant drugs. Dactylorhiza hatagirea (Salampanja) is extensively used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and other alternative systems of medicine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 medicinal plant species (found in the Himalayas) – have been added to IUCN Red List
- Species: Meizotropis pellita (critically endangered), Fritillaria cirrhosa (vulnerable), Dactylorhiza hatagirea (endangered)
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

17. On December 9, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a joint hypersonic vehicle trial along with the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). The trials achieved all required parameters and demonstrated Hypersonic vehicle capability. ISRO operates under the Department of Space (DOS) which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India, while the Chairman of ISRO acts as the executive of DOS as well. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + IDS – successfully conducted a joint Hypersonic Vehicle Trial
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969



18. The first of its kind in the subcontinent, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 3D bioprinting was established in partnership between BioConvergence (BICO) company CELLINK and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. The CoE is established at the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc. It will provide access to 3D bioprinting systems, and focus on advancing research on heart, bone, cartilage and cancer through the use of 3D bioprinting. 3D bioprinting is the method of printing three dimensional biomedical structures. Currently, it can be used to print tissue and organ models to help research drugs and potential treatments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CELLINK + IISc Bangalore = partnered to establish the first of its kind 'CoE for 3D bioprinting' at IISc Bangalore
- [Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan](#) | [Established in – 1909](#)

19. A new species of the elusive wren babblers has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. It has been named as "Lisu wren babbler". The team had sighted the new species in March this year at Mugaphi peak in Changlang district. Their finding was published by Indian BIRDS, a peer-reviewed journal of south Asian ornithology. There has been only one report of the sighting of the wren babbler in India way back in 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Lisu wren babbler" – new species of wren babblers – discovered in Arunachal Pradesh
- The finding was published by – Indian BIRDS journal
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

20. On December 12, Hyderabad-based MTAR Technologies has signed an MoU with Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for design and development of a 'Two Stage to Low Earth Orbit All Liquid Small Satellite Launch Vehicle' powered by semi cryogenic technology with a payload capacity of 500 kg. Both the parties have entered into framework MoU for various requirements including avionics, sub systems testing, facilitation of launch etc. and any other requirements that might emerge during the course of design, development and launch phase. The MoU shall remain in force for three years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MTAR Technologies + IN-SPACe = an MoU for design & development of a 'Two Stage to Low Earth Orbit All Liquid Small Satellite Launch Vehicle'

21. On December 14, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced a 'major scientific breakthrough' in the decades-long quest to harness fusion. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, for the first time, produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called Net Energy Gain. The achievement will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The US Researchers achieved 'Net Energy Gain' in nuclear fusion reaction for the first time
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – California, US
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

22. On December 15, India successfully carried out night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile. The test was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile. The trial has proved the capability to enhance the range of the Agni-5 missile if required. The missile, which uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with a very high degree of accuracy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – carried out night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile
- Test was carried out from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha | Range – up to 5,000 Kms
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

23. On December 11, the historical launch of the Arab world's first lunar rover marked the culmination of a two-year long effort by ST Advanced Composites (STAC), a Chennai-based MSME that had been entrusted with the task of manufacturing and supplying key structural parts of the rover. Weighing a little less than 10 kg, 'Rashid' rover is the Arab world's first lunar rover, conceived by Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, UAE's national space agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ST Advanced Composites (Chennai) – was assigned the task of manufacturing key structural parts of 'Rashid' rover
- 'Rashid' rover (UAE) – the Arab world's first lunar rover
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

24. On December 16, SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography), A US-French satellite was launched by NASA from a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite will map almost all of the world's oceans, lakes and rivers & measure the height of water on more than 90% of Earth's surface, allowing scientists to track the flow and identify potential high-risk areas. It will also survey millions of lakes as well as 1.3 million miles (2.1 million kilometres) of rivers. The satellite will shoot radar pulses at Earth, with the signals bouncing back to be received by a pair of antennas, one on each end of a 33-foot (10-meter) boom. The satellite will reveal the location and speed of rising sea levels and the shift of coastlines, key to saving lives and property. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched 'SWOT' from Falcon 9 rocket to map world's oceans, lakes & rivers
- SWOT – Surface Water and Ocean Topography | NASA + French Space Agency = collaborated to build this Satellite
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

25. On December 9, the United States Air Force (USAF) successfully tested 'AGM-183A', an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon, or ARRW ("Arrow") which is United States military's first hypersonic weapon to reach operational status. The exact speed of the AGM-183A isn't known, although the Lockheed Martin-designed weapon is based on previous test vehicles built by DARPA that have an alleged maximum speed of Mach 20, or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAF – successfully tested its 1st hypersonic missile 'AGM-183A', an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)
- Expected speed – Mach 20, or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph) | Designed by – Lockheed Martin
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

26. On December 19, Dharti Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd introduced world's first GMS-based Cowpea Hybrids. It released three hybrids in Cowpea - Bubbly, Sherly and Poorvaja. Hybrids of Cowpea are highly suitable for off-season cultivation and are not photoperiod sensitive. Heterosis Breeding uplifts the whole physiology of the crop by utilizing benefits from sum total of all good genes and interactions thereof. This results in higher yields, better disease tolerance, wider adaptability, better fruit quality and enhanced response to fertigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Dharti Agro Chemicals Pvt Ltd – introduced world's first GMS-based Cowpea Hybrids
- There are three hybrids in Cowpea – Bubbly, Sherly & Poorvaja



27. On December 17, Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated “ICMR-NARFBR” (National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research) at Genome Valley, Hyderabad. NARFBR is an apex facility which will provide ethical care and use and welfare of laboratory animals during research. It will help in capacity building of new researchers and will create processes for pre-clinical testing of new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics within the country along with quality assurance checks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘ICMR-NARFBR (National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research)’ – inaugurated in Hyderabad
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

28. National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Astronomers discovered two exoplanets “Kepler-138c” and “Kepler-138d” with Hubble Space Telescope. These exoplanets are located in a planetary system 218 light-years away in the constellation Lyra. The discovery of a planetary system known as “Kepler-138” was published in the journal Nature Astronomy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s Astronomers discovered two exoplanets “Kepler-138c” and “Kepler-138d” with Hubble Space Telescope
- They are 218 light-years away in the constellation Lyra
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)

29. On December 21, European Space Agency’s (ESA) “Vega C” rocket was lost in space after it launched from the spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. The rocket was carrying two satellites part of the Airbus’ PIÃOiades Neo Earth-imaging constellation but failed to deliver them in Low Earth orbit (LEO). PIÃOiades Neo 5 and 6 were the 138th and 139th Airbus Defence and Space satellites to be launched by Arianespace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Vega C” rocket of ESA – lost in space after it launched from Kourou, French Guiana (Operated by - Arianespace)

30. On December 20, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based deep tech startup, QNu Labs, to develop indigenous Satellite QKD (Quantum Key Distribution) products. With this MoU, QNu Labs, with the support of ISRO and IN-SPACe, aims to demonstrate unlimited distance Satellite QKD based quantum secure communication. IN-SPACe was constituted in June 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IN-SPACe + QNu Labs (Bengaluru) = an MoU to develop indigenous Satellite QKD products
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

31. On December 23, Bharti Airtel and Apollo Hospitals conducted India’s first 5G-driven, artificial intelligence (AI)-guided Colonoscopy trials in collaboration with technology companies HealthNet Global, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Avesha. As per current protocol, colon cancer is detected through a colonoscopy procedure which is manual, requires great attention for accuracy and is time-consuming, taking 30-40 minutes per case. The AI-guided colonoscopy procedure helped in image processing in real-time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Apollo Hospitals + AWS + Avesha = conducted India’s first 5G-driven & AI-guided Colonoscopy trials
- [HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi](#) | [MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal](#) | [Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal](#)



32. On December 21, NASA awarded SpaceX a contract worth approximately \$94 million to provide launch services for the Sentinel-6B mission which is an international partnership between the U.S. and Europe to continue global sea level observations for at least the next decade. The Sentinel-6B mission is targeted to launch in November 2025, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The ocean-monitoring satellite will join its twin Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich which was launched in November 2020. The satellite is being jointly developed by NASA, ESA (European Space Agency), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – awarded a contract to SpaceX to provide launch services for the ‘Sentinel-6B’ mission
- The satellite is jointly developed by = NASA + ESA + EUMETSAT + NOAA
- Sentinel-6B mission – an international partnership between US & Europe to continue global sea level observations
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

33. NASA has formally retired its ‘Mars InSight’ lander four years after it arrived on the surface of the Mars. It was the first robotic probe specially designed to study the deep interior of a distant world. It last communicated with Earth on December 15. InSight landed on Mars in late November 2018 with instruments designed to detect planetary seismic rumblings never before measured anywhere but Earth, and its original two-year mission was later extended to four. One of InSight’s chief accomplishments was establishing that the red planet is, indeed, seismically active, recording more than 1,300 marsquakes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – formally retired its ‘Mars InSight’ lander which landed on Mars in November 2018
- It was the first robotic probe specially designed to study the deep interior of a distant world
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

34. On December 20, Scientists working on Australia’s Great Barrier Reef have successfully trialled a new method for freezing and storing coral larvae. In a December lab trial, the world’s first with Great Barrier Reef coral, scientists used the “Cryomesh” technology to freeze coral larvae at the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists successfully trialled a new method/technology called “Cryomesh” for Coral Reef Conservation
- Great Barrier Reef – Australia

35. On December 22, the Government announced that India’s maiden human space flight mission, ‘Gaganyaan’, is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024. This was stated by Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. Two uncrewed flights - ‘G1 mission’ & ‘G2 mission’, are scheduled, before the final human space flight - ‘H1 mission’, to demonstrate the performance of the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s maiden human space flight mission, ‘Gaganyaan’, is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024
- Two uncrewed flights - ‘G1 mission’ & ‘G2 mission’ will be launched before the final human space flight - ‘H1 mission’



36. On December 23, 15 Start-ups, selected in the first cohort of “NIRMAN Accelerator Program”, will start working towards solutions in healthcare and agriculture domains. NIRMAN Accelerator Program was launched by Start-ups Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur. The accelerator program is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) through its NIDHI scheme. It will help solve challenges in the product development journey of indigenous innovations.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 15 Start-ups selected in the first cohort of “NIRMAN Accelerator Program” – launched by SIIC, IIT Kanpur
- [Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar](#)

37. Bengaluru-based ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has teamed up with Google to unveil an all-India inclusive language data initiative for open-sourcing datasets called “Project Vaani”. They have come together for an unusual digital project, mapping the language diversity of India by collecting speech sets of about a million people across 773 districts over 3 years. The project intends to record over 1,50,000 hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts. The goal of the project is to boost the development of technologies such as automatic speech recognition, speech to speech translation and natural language understanding. With this launch, ‘Vaani’ joins the ‘Bhasha AI’ umbrella of ARTPARK and IISc’s pan-India language initiatives that include SYSPIN (Synthesizing Speech in Indian languages) and RESPIN (Recognizing Speech in Indian languages). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Project Vaani” is being implemented by = ARTPARK (IISc, Bengaluru) + Google
- The project intends to record over 1,50,000 hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts
- [HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998](#)

38. On December 25, IIT Kanpur has developed an artificial heart under its ‘Hridayantra’ programme. It would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems. It will reduce the sufferings of the patients. After the success of the trial on animals, heart transplantation in humans will begin within two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – developed an artificial heart under its ‘Hridayantra’ programme
- [Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar](#)

39. On December 27, IIT Roorkee in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi have developed ‘SwasthGarbh’ smartphone app to provide antenatal care and real-time medical support to pregnant women. The app further aims to benefit women in rural areas and those who do not have easy access to doctors. It can be downloaded from Google Play Store. A research paper highlighting the benefits of SwasthGarbh app has also been published in peer-reviewed IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics. The app will come handy during pandemic situations when patients are afraid to visit hospitals due to the risk of catching coronavirus infection, or are unable to do so due to country-wide lockdowns or movement restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Roorkee + AIIMS Delhi – developed ‘SwasthGarbh’ app to provide real-time medical support to pregnant women
- [Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi](#)



40. On December 27, a rare and potentially deadly brain-eating amoeba has been identified in South Korea for the first time. The brain-eating amoeba, known as 'Naegleria Fowleri', is typically found in warm freshwater and soil, and can cause a rare and severe infection known as primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). Though it is a rare disease and it is difficult to estimate the exact number of cases, there have been 143 reported cases in the United States from 1962 to 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Naegleria Fowleri', a rare brain-eating amoeba – identified in South Korea for the first time
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

41. On December 26, IIT Guwahati and IIT Bombay collaborated with European universities for 'LOTUS' project to build a low-cost technology to check the quality of potable and other water in India. The LOTUS Indo-European project, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission. The core of the LOTUS sensor is a chip with carbon nanotube-based sensing elements that are capable of measuring multiple quality parameters such as Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Potential of Hydrogen (pH), chlorine, and arsenic. For the commercial production of the sensor for the Indian market, IIT Guwahati is collaborating with Linxens India Private Limited and Hydroscope Technology Private Limited, a start-up firm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati + IIT Bombay + European universities = building sensor to check Indian water quality under project 'LOTUS'
- IIT Guwahati + Linxens India Pvt Ltd + Hydroscope Technology Pvt Ltd = partnered for commercial production of sensor
- Director of IIT Guwahati – Dr. T. G. Sitharam
- Director of IIT Bombay – Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri

42. On December 27, Bhopal-based ICAR-NIHSAD (Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases) developed the first indigenous vaccine technology for 'H9N2' avian influenza virus in chickens. This vaccine technology has been transferred to 4 private companies - Secunderabad-based Globion India, Pune-based Venkateshwara Hatcheries, Gurugram-based Indovax Pvt Ltd and Ahmedabad-based Hester Biosciences. The technology transfer of "Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens" was facilitated by Agrinnovate India (AgIn) in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-NIHSAD – developed the first indigenous vaccine technology for 'H9N2' avian influenza virus in chickens
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Himanshu Pathak | Established in – 1929
- HQs of ICAR-NIHSAD – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | Director – Aniket Sanyal

43. On December 27, Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop signed an agreement to jointly work on development and deployment of hyperloop technology. TuTr, a deeptech start-up incubated at IIT Madras is a front runner in this space and is promising a low-cost hyperloop solution as its key value proposition. TuTr has unique strength in pod and propulsion system design. The research will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection. The partnership seeks to design, develop, and scale up the technology for commercialisation. The Phase-I work will take place on the 50-meter test track at IIT Madras. The subsequent work to achieve a 10-km track will be completed in Phase-II and -III involving a consortium of other industry partners from the automotive, construction and engineering sectors. Hyperloop is a future option for high-speed, low cost, sustainable transport system for both passengers and cargo. The hyperloop system has key elements such as tubes, pods, propulsion systems, and track. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tata Steel + TuTr Hyperloop = an agreement to jointly work on hyperloop technology
- TuTr – a deeptech start-up incubated at IIT Madras
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

44. In December 2022, IISc Bangalore scientists have developed a germ-destroying air filter to inactivate germs. The newly developed air filtering technique that uses ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea. The air-filtering technique was granted a patent in 2022. The deployment of these novel antimicrobial filters in ACs, central ducts, and air purifiers can play a crucial role in fight against air pollution and mitigate the spread of air-borne pathogens such as several coronaviruses. The technology was transferred to AIRTH, a start-up that is replacing the existing germ-growing air filters with these germ-destroying air filters for commercial purposes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc Bangalore – developed a germ-destroying air filter to inactivate germs
- It uses ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909



Appointments & Resignations

1. December 2, Prasanth Kumar, CEO, South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd was elected as the President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for 2022-23. Rana Barua, Group CEO, Havas Group India, was unanimously elected the vice-president of the association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasanth Kumar – elected as the President of the AAAI for 2022-23
- Rana Barua – elected as the Vice-President of the AAAI
- HQs of AAAI – Mumbai, MH | President – Prasanth Kumar | Vice President – Rana Barua

2. On December 2, Hansraj Ahir assumed charge as chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). He was Minister of State for Home Affairs and Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers from 2014-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hansraj Ahir – assumed charge as Chairperson of NCBC
- HQs of NCBC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Hansraj Ahir

3. On December 2, Mahua Acharya, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of state-owned Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL), announced his resignation from the post. He will leave the office on January 13, 2023. CESL is focused on delivering clean, affordable and reliable energy. It is a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) - a joint venture of public sector companies under Ministry of Power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahua Acharya – resigned from the post of MD & CEO of Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)
- HQs of CESL – New Delhi (a subsidiary of EESL)
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Vishal Kapoor | Chairman – K. Sreekant

4. On December 2, Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Professor Emeritus at CMI, appointed as the part-time chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India for a period of three years. will take up this role as an additional responsibility while continuing as Professor Emeritus at CMI. NSC is an autonomous body formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of the Dr. C Rangarajan commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar – appointed as part-time Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India

5. On December 6, Meghna Ahlawat has been elected as the first female President of the Table Tennis Federation of India. While eight-time national champion Kamlesh Mehta takes over as the new Secretary General. Patel Nagender Reddy has been elected as the Treasurer. Ahlawat is the wife of outgoing TTFI president and current Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana Dushyant Chautala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghna Ahlawat – elected as the first female President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)
- Kamlesh Mehta – elected as new Secretary General of TTFI
- Patel Nagender Reddy – elected as the Treasurer of TTFI
- HQs of TTFI – New Delhi | President – Meghna Ahlawat | Secretary General – Kamlesh Mehta | Established – 1926



6. On December 2, K. V. Suresh Kumar, scientist of Department of Atomic Energy, assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu. His tenure at BHAVINI will be 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. V. Suresh Kumar – assumed charge as Chairman & MD of Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI)
- HQs of BHAVINI – Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu | CMD – K. V. Suresh Kumar

7. On December 1, Senior bureaucrat Sanjay Malhotra took charge as the Secretary in Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. Malhotra replaced Tarun Bajaj, who superannuated on November 30. A 1990-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, Malhotra was working as an officer on special duty (OSD) in the revenue department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Malhotra – took charge as the Secretary in Department of Revenue (replacing - Tarun Bajaj)
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaudhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

8. Vijender Sharma has been elected as the new President of Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Rakesh Bhalla as Vice-President for 2022-23. The institute, which is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament, comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijender Sharma – elected as the new President of Institute of Cost Accountants of India for 2022-23
- Rakesh Bhalla – elected as the Vice-President of Institute of Cost Accountants of India for 2022-23
- HQs of ICAI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – Vijender Sharma | Vice-President – Rakesh Bhalla

9. Uttar Pradesh government has appointed IPS officer Laxmi Singh as the police commissioner of Gautam Budh Nagar (Noida), making her the first woman Police Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh to head a commissionerate in the state. She is the wife of Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh, who previously served as a joint director in the Enforcement Directorate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laxmi Singh – became the first woman Police Commissioner of UP, after being appointed as Noida's Police Chief
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

10. On November 2, C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), took charge as the Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, a statutory institution established by the Government of India to implement the 'Biological Diversity Act, 2002'. The National Biodiversity Authority is the Competent National Authority of India for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. Achalender Reddy – took charge as the Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
- HQs of NBA – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairperson – C. Achalender Reddy

11. Hinduja group flagship Ashok Leyland has appointed Sanjay V. Jorapur as its President and Head of Human Resources. Mr. Jorapur succeeds Amanpreet Singh, who would now move on to a senior role at the Hinduja Group in Mumbai. Moreover, Ashok Leyland has appointed Shenu Agarwal as MD & CEO of the company with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sanjay V. Jorapur – appointed as President of Ashok Leyland
- Shenu Agarwal – appointed as MD & CEO of Ashok Leyland
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, TN | CEO – Shenu Agarwal | President – Sanjay V. Jorapur (owned by Hinduja Group)

12. On November 1, IAS Sanjay Kumar took charge as Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, in Shashtri Bhawan in New Delhi. Sanjay Kumar replaced Anita Karwal IAS upon her superannuation on November 30, 2022. Mr Kumar is a former Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Kumar – took charge as Secretary of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

13. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of 16 months in service to Vinay Mohan Kwatra, (IFS:1988), as Foreign Secretary beyond the date of his superannuation on December 31, 2022. Kwatra had assumed office as Foreign Secretary on May 1, 2022, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla to the post. Earlier, Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinay Mohan Kwatra – tenure extended as Foreign Secretary for 16 months

14. In December 2022, legendary P. T. Usha, fondly known as the 'Payyoli Express', is elected as the first woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She also became the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year-old history. The 58-year-old Ms. Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medallist and fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final, was declared elected unopposed for the top post in the polls. Ajay H. Patel has been elected as senior Vice President, Rajlaxmi Singh Deo and Gagan Narang as Vice Presidents of the Indian Olympic Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. T. Usha ('Payyoli Express') – elected as the first woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- Ajay H. Patel – elected as senior Vice President | Rajlaxmi Singh Deo & Gagan Narang – elected as Vice Presidents
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – P. T. Usha | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta

15. Former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan took oath as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), according to Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Sudan, a 1983-batch (retired) IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, was administered the oath by UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni. Sudan was also a consultant with the World Bank. The UPSC is headed by a chairperson and can have a maximum of 10 members. With the appointment of Preeti Sudan, there is still a vacancy of 4 members in the commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Preeti Sudan (Former Health Secretary) – took oath as a Member of the UPSC
- UPSC is headed by a Chairperson & can have a maximum of 10 members
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Soni



16. Uttarakhand government has appointed Prason Joshi, the CEO and CCO of McCann Worldgroup India, as the state's Brand Ambassador. He is a lyricist, writer and artist. Joshi, a native of Uttarakhand, is a prominent and highly awarded member of the Indian advertising and media fraternity. He has been awarded the 'Padma Shri' as well as 'Young Global Leader Award' by the World Economic Forum in 2006. He was also the first Asian to become the jury president at the Cannes International Festival of Creativity in 2014 for the prestigious Titanium category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prason Joshi – appointed as Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand (CEO & CCO of McCann Worldgroup India)
- Awards: 'Padma Shri' + 'Young Global Leader Award' by WEF

17. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former Indian cricketers Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape as new members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The three-member committee comprises Malhotra, Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik. The Committee also has Sulakshana Naik as its third member, who has played for the Indian women cricket team. Malhotra replaced former India seamer Madan Lal and Paranjape came in place of Rudra Pratap Singh. In November, the BCCI had sacked the entire selection panel headed by Chetan Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI – appointed Ashok Malhotra & Jatin Paranjape (former Indian cricketers) as new members of CAC
- CAC comprises 3 members | 3rd member – Sulakshana Naik
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

18. On December 8, Justice Tashi Rabstan has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as incumbent Chief Justice Ali Mohd Magrey retired on December 7. He was appointed by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. High court judges retire at the age of 62, while Supreme Court judges retire on 65. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice Tashi Rabstan – appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

19. On December 8, Dina Boluarte (Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra) became Peru's first female President, succeeding incumbent President Pedro Castillo. She sworn in amid a political maelstrom when her predecessor and former boss Castillo was ousted in an impeachment trial. She is associated with Peru Libre party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dina Boluarte – became the first female President of Peru (replacing - Pedro Castillo)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Dina Boluarte | PM – Betssy Chavez

20. K. S. Jawahar Reddy took over as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He took over the reins from Sameer Sharma. He will further continue to be in post till 2024. Moreover, Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains has been given an extension of six-months and will continue in the post until 31st May 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. S. Jawahar Reddy – took over as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (replacing - Sameer Sharma)
- Iqbal Singh Bains – has been given extension of 6-months as Chief Secretary of MP (till 31st May 2023)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel



21. On December 7, the government has appointed Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran as the Chair of Business 20 (B20) India to lead the business agenda during India's G-20 presidency. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the Indian government to lead the B20 India process. B20 is the official G-20 dialogue forum with the global business community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Chandrasekaran – appointed as the Chair of B20 India to lead the business agenda during India's G-20 presidency
- CII – has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat to lead the B20 India process
- [HQs of CII – New Delhi](#) | [President – Sanjiv Bajaj](#) | [VC – Sanjiv Puri](#) | [DG – Chandrajit Banerjee](#) | [Founded in – 1895](#)

22. The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has elected China's Liu Shiwen and India's Sharath Kamal Achanta as the joint chairs of its Athletes' Commission (AC) at an election that took place in Amman, Jordan. Shiwen and Sharath will lead the AC together, with joint chairs elected to the ITTF's AC for the first time. The other members of the Athletes' Commission are Omar Assar, Ingela Lundback, Jon Persson, Daniely Rios, Melissa Tapper and Kelly Van Zon. As part of being elected Chairs of the commission, Shiwen and Sharath also became members of the ITTF Executive Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Liu Shiwen (China) + Sharath Kamal (India) = elected as the joint chairs of ITTF's Athletes' Commission (AC)
- Shiwen & Sharath also became members of the ITTF Executive Committee
- [HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Petra Sorling](#) | [CEO – Steve Dainton](#)

23. On December 8, Sushmita Shukla, an Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, is appointed as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, making her the second-ranking officer at the prominent institution. Her appointment will be effective from March 2023. John Williams is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New York Fed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushmita Shukla – appointed as First Vice President & Chief Operating Officer at Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- President & CEO of New York Fed – John Williams
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

24. On December 11, Prasar Bharati Additional Director General Sunil Srivastava has been unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for a 3-year term. Prasar Bharati had hosted the 59th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in New Delhi in November. The ABU is a non-profit, professional association of broadcasters from Asia and Pacific regions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Srivastava – elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for a 3-year term
- [HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Gaurav Dwivedi](#) | [DG – Mayank Kumar Agrawal](#)
- [HQs of ABU – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#) | [President – Satoru Masagaki](#) | [Vice President – Sunil Srivastava](#)

25. On December 7, Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named interim CEO of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House after its current CEO Markus Dohle announced his resignation from the role. Malaviya, who has been President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the publisher's American division Penguin Random House US since 2019, will assume the role of Interim CEO of Penguin Random House starting January 1, 2023. Bertelsmann is the parent company of Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nihar Malaviya – appointed as interim CEO of Penguin Random House (New York, US)

26. On December 7, Shaji K V took the charge as Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from December 7, 2022. He has taken over from Suchindra Misra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, who was holding additional charge. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaji K V – appointed as Chairman of NABARD (replacing - Suchindra Misra)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982

27. On December 9, Congress leader Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Mukesh Agnihotri, the leader of the opposition in the outgoing Assembly, took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu (INC) – sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh
- Mukesh Agnihotri (INC) – took oath as the Deputy CM of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

28. Sanjeev Bisht has been elected as the Chairman of the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) for the year 2022-23. Bisht is the Vice President of Spices and Aqua of Agri Business Division of ITC Ltd in Andhra Pradesh. The All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF), established in the year 1987, works towards protecting the interests of the spice exporters in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjeev Bisht – elected as the Chairman of the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) for the year 2022-23
- HQs of AISEF – Ernakulam, Kerala | Chairman – Sanjeev Bisht

29. On December 12, Bhupendra Patel was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat Governor Acharya Devrat administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Chief Minister and his Cabinet members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupendra Patel – sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat
- Acharya Devrat (Gujarat Governor) – administered the oath of office & secrecy to Chief Minister & his Cabinet members
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

30. In December 2022, Aam Aadmi Party candidate Bobby Kinnar became the first transgender councillor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Bobby contested from Sultanpuri 43 A ward. Bobby is the President of the Delhi unit of 'Hindu Yuva Samaj Ekta Awam Anti-Terrorism Committee'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bobby Kinnar – became the first transgender councillor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar



31. On December 13, The World Health Organization (WHO) announced to appoint Dr. Jeremy Farrar as its new chief scientist. Dr. Farrar will join the WHO in the second quarter of 2023, replacing Soumya Swaminathan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – appointed Dr. Jeremy Farrar as its next Chief Scientist for Q2 of 2023 (replacing - Soumya Swaminathan)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

32. On December 12, Justice Dipankar Datta was sworn in as Supreme Court judge by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on December 12. Justice Datta was the former Bombay High Court Chief Justice. The President of India appointed Justice Dipankar Datta in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India. His appointment to the Supreme Court raises the judicial strength to 28 out of a total sanctioned strength of 34 judges for the court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice Dipankar Datta – sworn in as Supreme Court judge (28th out of total sanctioned strength of 34 judges in SC)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

33. On December 13, Cindy Hook has been appointed as the inaugural CEO of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Australia. She would be moving to the Queensland state capital and starting the new role in February. Hook was based in Singapore as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific. Andrew Liveris is the Brisbane 2032 President. Australia has twice previously hosted the Summer Olympics, at Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cindy Hook – appointed as the inaugural CEO of '2032 Olympic & Paralympic Organising Committee'
- Australia has hosted the Summer Olympics twice – Melbourne in 1956 & Sydney in 2000
- Upcoming Olympics Venues:
 - 2024 Summer Olympics – Paris, France | 2026 Winter Olympics – Milan & Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy
 - 2028 Summer Olympics – Los Angeles, US | 2032 Summer Olympics – Brisbane, Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach | Established in – 1894

34. On December 13, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd appointed Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He is also the CMD of Rishikesh-based THDC India Limited. Until now, Yamuna Kumar Chaubey NHPC's Director (Technical) was holding the additional charge of CMD of the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi – appointed as the CMD of NHPC Ltd (replacing - Yamuna Kumar Chaubey)
- He is also the CMD of THDC India Ltd (Rishikesh, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi

35. In December 2022, The Centre nominated Manoj Govil to the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the place of erstwhile MCA Secretary Rajesh Verma. Manoj Govil is the Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The SEBI Board comprises nine members, including the Chairperson Madhabhi Puri Buch. There are two Government nominees, one RBI nominee, a public interest member and four Wholetime Members. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Manoj Govil (MCA Secretary) – appointed to the Board of SEBI
- The SEBI Board comprises total 9 members
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

36. On December 13, Senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, Dr P. C. Rath, was formally elected President of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24, in an annual meeting held in Chennai. Dr Rath has pioneered many percutaneous cardiac interventions like complex coronary angioplasty and stenting, robotic angioplasty and percutaneous valve treatment procedures. The CSI is a national body of cardiologists within India and those settled abroad. It has more than 5,000 members and was formed in 1948 under the stewardship of Bharat Ratna Dr Vidhan Shankar Roy, who served as the first President of the society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. C. Rath – formally elected President of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24
- HQs of CSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – P. C. Rath

37. On December 15, Mette Frederiksen was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2nd Term. PM Modi congratulated her and hoped for continuing cooperation in bolstering the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership. Frederiksen is from Social Democratic party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mette Frederiksen (Social Democratic party) – re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2nd term
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

38. On December 20, Senior nuclear scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a period of three years. Mr. Shukla succeeds G. Nageswara Rao for this post. A graduate in mechanical engineering from the Jabalpur University, Shukla joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1981. Shukla has been associated with several committees of the AERB and the BARC Safety Council (BSC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dinesh Kumar Shukla – appointed as the Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for 3 years
- HQs of AERB – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairperson – Dinesh Kumar Shukla

39. On December 16, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has been appointed as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, by President Draupadi Murmu. As per the Central University Act, 2009, Dr Manoj Chaudhary has been appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University for five years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – appointed as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara
- Manoj Chaudhary – appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University

40. On December 17, Indian origin Leo Varadkar was re-elected for second term as Ireland's Prime Minister. He replaced Micheal Martin. Varadkar served as PM between 2017 and 2020 as the country's youngest-ever leader and first openly gay prime minister. Varadkar's mother is Irish and father is Indian. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Leo Varadkar (Indian origin) – re-elected for second term as Prime Minister of Ireland (replacing - Micheal Martin)
- [Ireland – Dublin – Euro | PM – Leo Varadkar](#)

41. On December 15, Harvard University appointed Claudine Gay as its new President. Claudine is the dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She will be the first Black (African American) leader of Harvard, and the second woman to hold the position, succeeding Lawrence S. Bacow. Dr. Gay will take office in July 2023. Harvard University is a private Ivy League research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Claudine Gay – appointed as new President of Harvard University (succeeding - Lawrence S. Bacow)
- She will be the first Black (African American) leader of Harvard & the second woman to hold the position

42. On December 20, Katrina Kaif was signed as a brand ambassador for Pepsico India's packaged-water brand Aquafina. She was earlier the brand ambassador for the company's fruit flavoured sugar drink Slice for the last 16 years. According to Dentsu, the Indian advertising market will hit \$11.1 billion in 2022, led primarily by digital advertising which will grow 31.6% and television ads which are expected to increase at 14.5%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Katrina Kaif – signed as a brand ambassador for Pepsico India's packaged-water brand, 'Aquafina'

43. On December 22, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated P. T. Usha to the panel of Vice Chairpersons in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). Ms. Usha is the first nominated member in the history of the Rajya Sabha to be included in the panel. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jagdeep Dhankhar (Rajya Sabha Chairman) – nominated P. T. Usha to the panel of Vice Chairpersons in the Rajya Sabha
- P. T. Usha – is the first nominated member in the history of the Rajya Sabha to be included in the panel

44. On December 20, Sports brand Puma India has on-boarded Bollywood actor and entrepreneur Anushka Sharma as its new brand ambassador, part of its commitment towards the women's business in India. With this, She has joined Puma's roster of ambassadors such as Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, and recently Harrry Sandhu. The actor will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories including select collections through myriad activities and brand campaigns throughout the year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anushka Sharma – appointed as brand ambassador of Puma for women's business in India
- Other ambassadors of Puma – Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, & Harrry Sandhu
- [HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Bjorn Gulden \(Arne Freundt from Jan 2023\)](#)

45. On December 19, Centre has appointed Justice Hemant Gupta as Chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) two months after his retirement as a judge of the Supreme Court. The Centre also appointed Ganesh Chandru and Advocate Anant Vijay Palli as its part-time members. Set up in 2019, the NDIAC has been declared to be an institution of national importance and is mandated to be a seven-member body that is headed by a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court or an eminent person. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Hemant Gupta – appointed as Chairperson of NDIAC
- Ganesh Chandru + Anant Vijay Palli = appointed as its Part-time Members
- [HQs of NDIAC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Justice Hemant Gupta](#) | [Founded in – 2019](#)

46. On December 24, Former Military Commander Sitiveni Rabuka has become Fiji's 12th Prime Minister. He has commanded two infantry battalions on peacekeeping duties in Lebanon and in the Sinai Desert, Egypt. He was awarded the French Legion D'Honneur for bravery in saving a French officer during an attack on the UN Headquarters in Lebanon in 1980. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sitiveni Rabuka – appointed as 12th Prime Minister of Fiji
- [Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar](#) | [President – Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere](#) | [PM – Sitiveni Rabuka](#)

47. On December 22, the Air India management has appointed Air India Express CEO, Alope Singh, as the Chief of Air India's low-cost airline business from January 1, 2023. The Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) business will consist of AirAsia India and Air India Express. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alope Singh – appointed as the Chief of Air India's Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) business
- [HQs of Air India – New Delhi](#) | [MD & CEO – Campbell Wilson](#) (subsidiary of Tata Group)

48. In December 2022, Former Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore K. S. Rangappa has been elected as a fellow of The World Academy of Science (TWAS) for the advancement of science in developing countries. The fellowship comes into effect from January 1, 2023. TWAS is the programme unit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) with its headquarters in Trieste, Italy. TWAS was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the developing world. TWAS has the objective of encouraging scientific research in solving major challenges facing developing countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. S. Rangappa – elected as a fellow of TWAS for advancement of science in developing countries
- TWAS – a programme unit of the UNESCO & it was founded in 1983
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#) | [Members – 193 Countries](#)

49. On December 22, a 1997 batch IFS Officer, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan who is presently the Ambassador of India to Lebanon, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suhel Ajaz Khan – appointed as India's next Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
- [Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal](#) | [PM – Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud](#) | [King – Salman bin Abdulaziz](#)

50. On December 29, G. Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Rao, a 1990 batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre, was previously the Managing Director of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- G. Kamala Vardhana Rao – appointed as the CEO of FSSAI
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Arun Singhal

51. On December 27, The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as the MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank for three years effective January 23, 2023. He is also the founder of Suryoday SFB. The Bank was originally incorporated as Suryoday Micro Finance Pvt Ltd at Chennai in 2008 and subsequently got converted into a public limited company as Suryoday Micro Finance Ltd in 2015. The SFB commenced its business with effect from January 23, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Baskar Babu Ramachandran – reappointed as the MD & CEO of Suryoday SFB
- Suryoday SFB was originally incorporated as ‘Suryoday Micro Finance Pvt Ltd’ at Chennai in 2008
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu Ramachandra

52. On December 26, the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) will be the secretariat for the ‘Science 20 (S20)’, which is one of the several groups of the G20. The G20 is being presided over by India in 2023 and the theme of the S20 for 2023 is “Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development”. Within this broad theme, deliberations will be held in different parts of India over the course of the year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc, Bengaluru – will be the secretariat for the ‘Science 20 (S20)’, a part of G20
- Theme of the S20 for 2023 – “Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development”

53. On December 27, Amway India, one of the country’s leading FMCG Direct-Selling companies, launched its campaign, ‘Passion ko Do Poshan’ with Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu. The campaign reiterates the brand’s continuous efforts towards focusing on fueling one’s passion with adequate nutrition support to achieve excellence, in line with its commitment to helping people live better, healthier lives through a powerful and inspiring digital film featuring its brand ambassador Mirabai Chanu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amway India – launched its campaign ‘Passion ko Do Poshan’
- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu – named as the brand ambassador of the campaign

54. On December 26, Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ was sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for a third time by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. Rabi Lamichhane, Chief of the Rastriya Swatantra, Bishnu Poidel (UML) and Narayankaji Shrestha (Maoist Centre) have been inducted as the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister with Home, Finance and Physical infrastructure respectively. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850-km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ – sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for 3rd time
- Rabi Lamichhane – appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister
- Nepal – shares a border of over 1,850-km with 5 Indian states: Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, UP & Uttarakhand
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’



55. On December 27, Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the new chairman and CEO of the Railway Board. He replaced VK Tripathi. He has also served as the divisional railway manager (DRM) at the Lucknow division of Northern Railway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Kumar Lahoti – appointed as new chairman & CEO of Railway Board (replacing - VK Tripathi)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti

56. On December 26, Senior bureaucrat Santosh Kumar Yadav appointed as the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He is currently additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. Moreover, Subhasish Panda has been appointed as Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Vice Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Santosh Kumar Yadav – appointed as the chairman of NHAI
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Santosh Kumar Yadav | Founded in – 1988

57. On December 28, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti of Kuwait as United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The Initiative was launched by Ukraine, Turkiye, the Russian Federation and the United Nations on 22 July 2022 to enable the resumption of exports from Ukraine of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizer, including ammonia, through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor. Mr. Dashti succeeds Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan who served as United Nations Coordinator since August 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti (Kuwait) – appointed as UN Coordinator for Black Sea Grain Initiative
- The Initiative was launched by – Ukraine, Turkiye, Russia & UN on 22 July 2022
- HQs of UN – New York, US | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Established in – October 24, 1945
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

58. On December 29, Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). His appointment comes after Suresh N. Patel completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission on December 24. The commission is headed by a CVC and can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners. Besides Mr. Srivastava, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar is the other Vigilance Commissioner. The tenure of a CVC and vigilance commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Praveen Kumar Srivastava (Vigilance Commissioner) – appointed as the acting CVC (succeeding - Suresh N. Patel)
- The commission is headed by a CVC & can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners
- Other Vigilance Commissioner – Arvind Kumar
- Present Central Vigilance Commissioner – Suresh N. Patel | CVC is appointed by – President of India
- Tenure of CVC & Vigilance commissioner – 4 Years | Superannuation age – 65 Years

59. Lieutenant General Arvind Walia has been appointed as the next Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He succeeded Lt Gen Harpal Singh who superannuated on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lt Gen Arvind Walia – appointed as the next Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army (succeeding - Lt Gen Harpal Singh)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju



60. On December 29, Maharashtra government announced that Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran will head the new Economic Advisory Council of Maharashtra. To make Maharashtra a trillion-dollar economy, the state government is setting up an Economic Advisory Council. It will function as a private research organization with focus on issues related to agriculture, banking, engineering and education, among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Chandrasekaran (Tata Sons Chairman) – to head the new Economic Advisory Council of Maharashtra
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

61. In December 2022, US Vice President Kamala Harris has named Indian American Rajeev Badyal as member to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG), which is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations. Badyal, vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the advisory group. Previously he was the vice president of satellites at SpaceX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Badyal (Indian American) – added to the USA's National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG)
- Rajeev Badyal – Vice-President of Project Kuiper of Amazon
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. On December 3, Filmmaker SS Rajamouli bagged the best director award at the New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC) for his film “RRR”. In the US, “RRR” was distributed by Variance Films. Cate Blanchett won the Best Actress award for her role in Todd Field’s “Tar”. Colin Farrell won the Best Actor award for his performances in Kogonada’s “After Yang” and Martin McDonagh’s “The Banshees of Inisherin”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SS Rajamouli – won ‘Best Director’ award at the New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC) for “RRR”
- Best Actor – Colin Farrell for “After Yang” & “The Banshees of Inisherin” | Best Actress – Cate Blanchett for “Tar”

2. On December 1, Farmkart’s founder and CEO Atul Patidar received the prestigious ‘Pride of Central India 2022’ award for transforming the lives of lakhs of rural farmers in the region. Union Minister of Civil Aviation of India Jyotiraditya Scindia handed over the award to Farmkart CEO Atul Patidar at a ceremony held in New Delhi. Dainik Bhaskar Group’s ‘Pride of Central India’ honours people with exceptional and inspirational work in education, health, art, business, and social work. Also, Farmkart was chosen by Startup Grind, powered by Google for Entrepreneurs, as one of the Top 50 Global Innovative Startups in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Patidar – received the prestigious ‘Pride of Central India 2022’ award of Dainik Bhaskar Group
- HQs of Farmkart – Indore, Madhya Pradesh | Founder & CEO – Atul Patidar

3. On December 1, the fifth edition of ‘Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022’ is awarded to ‘The Chipko Movement: A People’s Movement’ by historian and activist Shekhar Pathak, translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry. The award is given for non-fiction on contemporary India by writers of any nationality. The Prize has been named after Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, an eminent freedom fighter who also championed the cause of women’s rights, refugee rehabilitation and local handicrafts. Shekhar Pathak established the People’s Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR) in 1983 and also penned Asia ki Peeth Per (On Asia’s Back), a biography of the Himalayan explorer Pandit Nain Singh Rawat, along with Uma Bhatt. The book covers the ordinary people of the movement and shows that it was “diverse in leadership and ideology and was never a singular Gandhian movement,”. Past awardees of the prize have included Milan Vaishnav for When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics, Ornit Shani for How India Became Democratic, and Jairam Ramesh for A Chequered Brilliance, a biography of VK Krishna Menon. Last year’s prize went to Dinyar Patel for the biography Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘The Chipko Movement: A People’s Movement’ book – won 5th ‘Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022’
- Authored by – Shekhar Pathak | Translated from Hindi to English by – Manisha Chaudhry

4. On December 2, five winners were announced by Prince William as recipients of the prestigious Prince of Wales’s annual “Earthshot Prize 2022” (2nd edition). The prize is given by The Royal Foundation, co-founded by Prince William himself. India’s Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup, Kheyti, won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category, United Kingdom’s Notpla in Build A Waste Free World category, Kenya’s Mukuru Clean Stoves in Clean Our Air category, and Australia’s Indigenous Women of The Great Barrier Reef in Revive Our Oceans category. Prince William founded the Earthshot Prize in 2021 to provide funds for projects that work towards saving the planet. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Five winners were announced by Prince William as recipients of “Earthshot Prize 2022” (2nd edition)
- Kheyti (India) – ‘Protect & Restore Nature’ category
- Notpla (UK) – ‘Build A Waste Free World’ category
- Mukuru Clean Stoves (Kenya) – ‘Clean Our Air’ category
- Indigenous Women of The Great Barrier Reef (Australia) – ‘Revive Our Oceans’ category

5. On December 5, Melbourne-based Veena Nair, an Indian-origin teacher in Australia has received the “2022 Prime Minister’s Prize for Excellence in Science” for teaching in secondary schools. She has been awarded for demonstrating practical application of STEAM to students, and how they can use their skills to make a real impact in the world. The annual awards celebrate the contributions of 12 of the country’s leading scientists, innovators and science teachers. She won the Educator of the Year Award by the Design and Technology Teachers’ Association of Australia in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Veena Nair (an Indian-origin teacher) – received the “2022 Prime Minister’s Prize for Excellence in Science” by Australia
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

6. Mina Sue Choi of South Korea won the prestigious “Miss Earth 2022” in a competition held in Okada Manila, Philippines. The 24-year-old communication student succeeded Destiny Wagner (Miss Earth 2021) of Belize and became her country’s first-ever Miss Earth winner. Australia’s Sheridan Mortlock, Palestine’s Nadeen Ayoub, and Colombia’s Andrea Aguilera finished in the Top 4 and were awarded the elemental titles of Miss Air, Miss Water, and Miss Fire, respectively. This year’s competition themed “ME Loves Fauna” marked the 22nd edition of the Miss Earth pageant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mina Sue Choi (South Korea) – won the prestigious “Miss Earth 2022” held in Philippines
- Pageant’s 3 elemental titles:
 - Miss Air – Sheridan Mortlock (Australia)
 - Miss Water – Nadeen Ayoub (Palestine)
 - Miss Fire – Andrea Aguilera (Colombia)

7. On December 6, World champion American hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis won the “World Athlete of the Year 2022” awards. McLaughlin-Levrone broke the world women’s 400m hurdles record twice while Duplantis set three new world highs this year. US-born Swede Duplantis claimed the award for the second time in three years with three world records in 2022 plus the men’s world indoor title in March and the world outdoor gold in July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA - Hurdler) – named “2022 Women’s World Athlete of the Year”
- Mondo Duplantis (Sweden - Pole Vaulter) – named “2022 Men’s World Athlete of the Year”

8. Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas, aeronautical engineer Sirisha Bandla, Booker-winning author Geetanjali Shree and social worker Sneha Jawale are the four Indians on the BBC’s “100 Women” list of influential figures of the year 2022. The annual list celebrates the achievements of women internationally, from grassroots volunteers to global leaders, and is used by the broadcaster to focus on women’s experiences around the world through a dedicated series of interviews, documentaries and features. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “100 Most Influential Women’s List 2022” – released by BBC
- 4 Indians on the list:
 - Priyanka Chopra Jonas (Actor & Producer)
 - Sirisha Bandla (Aeronautical Engineer)
 - Geetanjali Shree (Booker Prize-winning author)
 - Sneha Jawale (Social Worker)

9. Tree Tag, a green start-up by climate-conscious individuals from Kerala emerged first in the recently held ‘Climathon-2022’. They won the award under the category of “Life On Land”, addressing the problem statement such as ‘monitoring and protecting existing forest eco-systems’. The start-up received Rs five lakh as prize money in the hackathon which was held in Kerala Technology Innovation Zone (KTIZ), Kochi. Climathon-2022, a hackathon, was organised by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in collaboration with EY Global Delivery Services, UNDP, Startup India, Global Shapers Kochi, NASSCOM, TiE Kerala. The Climathon-2022 focused on climate change with the theme of “Securing a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future”. The hackathon which was held in four phases received 174 ideations across India for 16 problem statements under 7 Sustainable Development Goals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tree Tag (a start-up from Kerala) – won the “Climathon-2022” under the category of ‘Life On Land’
- Theme of Climathon-2022 – “Securing a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

10. On December 6, in a major achievement, Maharashtra’s Nagpur Metro has been included in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the longest double-decker viaduct metro. Built on Wardha Road, this viaduct is around 3.14 km long. Maha Metro’s Managing Director Brijesh Dixit was honoured by the Guinness World Records at an event held in Nagpur. It has already been recognised as the longest of such structures in Asia by the India Book of Records as well as the Asia Book of Records, respectively. This double-decker viaduct was built jointly by Maharashtra Metro and NHAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagpur Metro – included in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the longest double-decker viaduct metro
- This viaduct is around 3.14 km long & built on Wardha Road
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

11. India’s 17-year-old Manisha Ramadass from Tamil Nadu was named as the "Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022" by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). She won 32 out of her 34 Women's Singles SU5 matches in 2022. Japanese badminton player Daiki Kajiwara was named as the "BWF Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022". Denmark's Viktor Axelsen was named the "BWF Male Player of the Year 2022". Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi was named "BWF Female Player of the Year 2022". While Fajar Alfian & Muhammad Rian were named the "BWF Most Improved Players of the Year 2022". 21-year-old from Japan, Kodai Naraoka, was named the "Eddy Choong Most Promising Player of the Year 2022". And China's mixed doubles duo Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong were named "BWF Pair of the Year 2022". While Germany's duo Thomas Wandschneider & Rick Cornell Hellman the "BWF Para Badminton Pair of the Year 2022". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- BWF Player of the Year Awards 2022:
 - BWF Male Player of the Year: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
 - BWF Female Player of the Year: Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
 - BWF Pair of the Year: Zheng Si Wei/Huang Ya Qiong (China)
 - BWF Most Improved Player of the Year: Fajar Alfian/Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia)
 - Eddy Choong Most Promising Player of the Year: Kodai Naraoka (Japan)
 - BWF Male Para Badminton Player of the Year: Daiki Kajiwara (Japan)
 - BWF Female Para Badminton Player of the Year: Manisha Ramadass (India)
 - BWF Para Badminton Pair of the Year: Thomas Wandschneider/Rick Cornell Hellman (Germany)

12. On December 9, Former tennis star Ashleigh Barty won Australia’s prestigious “Don Award” for the second time in her career. She also became the third after hurdler Sally Pearson (2012 and 2014) and pole vaulter Steve Hooker (2008 and 2009) to win the award twice. Ash Barty won 3 Grand Slams in her career. Barty's latest victories include the Wimbledon Open 2021 and the French Open 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashleigh Barty (Australia - Former Tennis Player) – won Australia’s prestigious “Don Award” for the second time
- She is the 3rd person to receive this award after Sally Pearson & Steve Hooker

13. On December 6, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is awarded the title of “Global Ambassador for Diabetes” at the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal. Tarik Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Portugal received the award on behalf of the Prime Minister. Participants included doctors, health professionals and medical personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Diabetes Congress 2022 – held in Lisbon, Portugal
- Sheikh Hasina – awarded the title of “Global Ambassador for Diabetes”
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

14. Sony Entertainment Television has become the Official Satellite Partner of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) will be telecasted on Sony Entertainment Television for the first time in history. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023 under the support of Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya to be held on 20th February 2023 in Mumbai. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards is a prestigious platform that acknowledges and celebrates the pathbreaking contribution of the Indian Entertainment Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sony Entertainment Television – Official Satellite Partner of ‘DPIIF Awards 2023’ (be held in Mumbai in Feb)
- DPIFF – will be telecasted on Sony Entertainment Television for the first time in history

15. On December 12, S. S. Rajamouli’s period action movie “Rise Roar Revolt (RRR)” has been nominated for a ‘Golden Globe Award’ in the best picture non-English language category as well as for best original song. A pre-Independence fictional story, ‘RRR’ stars Ram Charan and Jr NTR as real-life Indian revolutionaries in the 1920s Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, respectively. Earlier, SS Rajamouli bagged the Best Director award at the New York Film Critics Circle in December, 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “RRR” – nominated for ‘Golden Globe Award’ in Best Picture non-English language category (directed - S. S. Rajamouli)

16. On December 8, Indian-American Krishna Vavilala was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award by US President Joe Biden. The Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Awards, led by AmeriCorps, is an annual event held to honour citizens, who exhibit outstanding character, worth ethic, and dedication to their communities. AmeriCorps is an agency of the United States government which engages more than five million Americans in service through a variety of volunteer work programmes in many sectors. Originally from Andhra Pradesh, Vavilala is a retired Electrical Engineer, and currently, the founder and Chairman of the Foundation for India Studies (FIS), a 16-year-old non-profit organisation, whose signature project “the Indo-American Oral History Project” won the ‘2019 Mary Fay Barnes Award for Excellence’. In 2006, Vavilala established the India Studies programme at the University of Houston. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Krishna Vavilala (Indian-American) – awarded the ‘Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award’ by USA
- Krishna Vavilala – is originally from Andhra Pradesh and founder & Chairman of Foundation for India Studies (FIS)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

17. In December 2022, Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu received the 25th “SIES (South Indian Education Society) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award 2022” for Public Leadership. Other awardees in various categories included the Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan, eminent industrialist Ratan Tata, renowned cardiologist Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Ajay Sood and famous Harikatha artiste Vishakha Hari. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Venkaiah Naidu – received the 25th “SIES (South Indian Education Society) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award 2022” for Public Leadership
- Other Awardees: Arif Mohammed Khan, Ratan Tata, MS Valianathan, Ajay Sood, Vishakha Hari

18. On December 12, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) presented the 2022 Masters of the WGO award to Chennai-based gastroenterologist K. R. Palaniswamy for his contributions to the field of gastroenterology. Prof. Palaniswamy received the award at the World Congress of Gastroenterology held in Dubai. Masters of the WGO Award is the highest honour WGO bestows to individuals for their outstanding dedication to the mission of the organisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. R. Palaniswamy – received the “2022 Masters of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Award”
- HQs of World Gastroenterology Organisation – Wisconsin, United States

19. The Government of Goa, in association with the All India Deaf Arts and Cultural Society (AIDACS), New Delhi, and the Goa Association of the Deaf, is organising the 10th Miss and Mister Deaf India 2023, an annual beauty pageant for the deaf youth of India as part of the Purple Fest, from January 6 to 8, 2023 in Goa. The event, which will be held at the Gera School (TGS) Auditorium, will provide the deaf youth community of India with a national platform to showcase their talent and venture into the mainstream fashion industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th ‘Miss & Mister Deaf India 2023’, an annual beauty pageant for the deaf youth of India – to be held in Goa (in Jan)
- It will be organised by = Government of Goa + All India Deaf Arts and Cultural Society + Goa Association of the Deaf
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



20. On December 13, Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) has been honoured with “FICCI CSR Special Commendation Award” for its efforts to counter the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards were felicitated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda. Moreover, NTPC limited the prestigious “FICCI Special Jury Commendation Award” in the Environmental Sustainability category for the project - ‘Revival & Operation of Municipal Solid Waste Plant’ in Varanasi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jindal Steel & Power – received the “FICCI CSR Special Commendation Award”
- NTPC limited – received the “FICCI Special Jury Commendation Award”
- HQs of Jindal Steel & Power – New Delhi | Chairman – Naveen Jindal | MD – Bimlendra Jha
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

21. On December 13, SpiceJet has been awarded the ‘Safety Performer of the Year 2022’ award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines. Recently, the airline was audited by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and its operations, safety processes, and systems were found to be strong and at par with the global best practices and safety standards. The airline was the only scheduled Indian airline part of the audit conducted by ICAO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpiceJet – awarded the ‘Safety Performer of the Year 2022’ award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards
- HQs of SpiceJet – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman & MD – Ajay Singh
- HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano | Members – 193

22. On December 15, Spain’s Rafael Nadal was crowned the ITF world champion for the fifth time in his career. Iga Swiatek of Poland won the women’s award. She was also named WTA Player of the Year. In the men’s doubles category, American Rajeev Ram and Briton Joe Salisbury won the award for the first time, while Czech duo Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniaková took the women’s doubles honour for the third time. Moreover, retired Roger Federer has also won the award five-times behind Pete Sampras (6) and 2021 winner Novak Djokovic (7). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – named as ‘ITF World Champion’ in men’s category (5th time in his career)
- Iga Swiatek ([Poland - Tennis](#)) – named as ‘ITF World Champion’ in women’s category

23. In December 2022, the 20th edition of “Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2022” was started with the theme of “Sustainable Summits”. ‘Matto ki Saikil’ (or Matto’s bicycle), a 95-minute long drama which Indian filmmaker Prakash Jha produced and also features in, had a special screening on the opening day. The festival aims to raise awareness on climate change and its disproportionate impact on countries like Nepal, according to organisers. 2022’s festival screened more than 60 films from 30 countries over five days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th edition of “Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2022” started
- Theme – “Sustainable Summits”

24. On December 16, Sonakshi Sinha was awarded PETA India’s 2022 Person of the Year title. Her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title. Last year, Alia Bhatt was awarded the same title. Moreover, John Abraham and Fatima Sana Shaikh are PETA India’s Most Beautiful Vegetarians of 2022. PETA India was founded in the year 2000. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sonakshi Sinha – awarded as PETA India’s ‘2022 Person of the Year’ title
- John Abraham & Fatima Sana Shaikh – named PETA India’s ‘Most Beautiful Vegetarians of the Year 2022’
- [HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA](#) | [President – Ingrid Newkirk](#)

25. Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz has been named the Most Improved Player of the Year in the 2022 ATP Awards. Alcaraz, also honoured as the ATP No. 1 presented by Pepperstone. He won five titles in 2022. Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski won the ATP Doubles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone. Coach Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain has been named the Coach of the Year. Norway’s Casper Ruud has been voted by fellow players as the first Scandinavian winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award. Andy Murray of the UK has been named the 2022 Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award recipient in recognition of his support for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Murray donated all his prize money of 2022, worth more than \$6,30,000. Spain’s Rafael Nadal won Fans’ Favourite Award (Singles) for the first time in the ATP Awards. While Thanasi Kokkinakis & Nick Kyrgios won the Fans’ Favourite Award (Doubles). BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells) won the ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year. Sebastian Torok, a journalist for the Argentine newspaper LA NACION, won the Ron Bookman Media Excellence Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2022 ATP Awards:
 - Most Improved Player of the Year – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
 - ATP Singles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
 - ATP Doubles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone – Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski
 - Coach of the Year – Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spain)
 - Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award – Casper Ruud (Norway)
 - Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award – Andy Murray (UK)
 - Fans’ Favourite Award (Singles) – Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 - Fans’ Favourite Award (Doubles) – Thanasi Kokkinakis & Nick Kyrgios
 - ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year – BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells)

26. On December 15, the 20th edition of the “Chennai International Film Festival”, where 102 films from 51 countries were scheduled to be screened, was inaugurated in Chennai. The film “Triangle of Sadness”, directed by Ruben Ostlund (Palme d’Or winner at the Cannes Festival 2022) was screened as the opening film at the event organised by the Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation in association with PVR. Apart from the world cinema section, 15 films which included 3 Tamil movies, were screened as part of the Indian Panorama. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Triangle of Sadness” film – screened as opening film at the 20th “Chennai International Film Festival”
- The film is directed by – Ruben Ostlund (Swedish Filmmaker)

27. On December 16, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC) won the IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022 in Chennai. NMDC was felicitated at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence. NMDC is the largest producer of the iron ore in the country. With an eco-friendly, economic and efficient approach, NMDC is taking up transformational projects to retain its domestic leadership and foray towards becoming a global mining company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 37th Indian Engineering Congress – held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- NMDC (largest producer of the iron ore in India) – won the ‘IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022’
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

28. Malayalam filmmaker Basil Joseph has won the Best Director award at the “Asian Academy Creative Awards 2022” for his 2021’s hit Netflix superhero film ‘Minnal Murali’. The Asia-Pacific’s Most Prestigious Awards for Creative Excellence were presented in December 2022 at Chijmes Hall, Singapore. Cinematographer Shreya Dev Dube won the Best Cinematography award for the Netflix film ‘Thar’. The Best Feature Film award went to Netflix film ‘Asakusa Kid’ of Japan. Singapore, with 8 awards, received the most awards, followed by India (7 awards). In platforms, Netflix was the biggest winner with 5 awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Academy Creative Awards 2022” – held at Chijmes Hall, Singapore
- Best Director – Basil Joseph (for his Malayalam film ‘Minnal Murali’)
- Best Cinematography – Shreya Dev Dube (for the film ‘Thar’)
- Best Feature Film – ‘Asakusa Kid’ (Japan)
- Maximum awards won by any country – Singapore | Maximum awards won by any platform – Netflix

29. On December 17, Sargam Koushal was named Mrs World 2022, beating contestants from 63 countries to bring the title back to India after 21 years. Mrs World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the U.S. presented the crown to Mumbai-based Mrs. Koushal at a ceremony held in Las Vegas. Mrs Polynesia was named the first runner-up, followed by Mrs Canada as the second runner-up. Aditi Govitrikar, the actor-model brought the Mrs India crown to India in 2001. Mrs World is the first beauty pageant for married women, launched in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sargam Koushal – named “Mrs World 2022”
- Runner up – Mrs Polynesia | 2nd Runner up – Mrs Canada
- She brought the title back to India after 21 years | Aditi Govitrikar won the title in 2001

30. S. S. Rajamouli’s movie “Rise Roar Revolt (RRR)” has now secured a place in the global list of ‘Top 50 Films of 2022’ curated by Sight and Sound magazine. RRR was placed at 9th spot. The list also includes Shaunak Sen’s acclaimed documentary “All that Breathes” which secured the 32nd spot. The film has been lauded internationally, winning awards at the Sundance Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival among others. Aftersun, directed by Dir Charlotte Wells, secured first place in the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. S. Rajamouli’s ‘RRR’ (9th) – featured in the global list of ‘Top 50 Films of 2022’ by Sight and Sound magazine
- Shaunak Sen’s ‘All that Breathes’ – secured the 32nd spot | First spot – ‘Aftersun’ (by Dir Charlotte Wells)

31. On December 20, Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda awarded the DS Group in the category of ‘Environment Sustainability’ at the 20th FICCI CSR Awards. Dharampal Satyapal Group was awarded for its water conservation project, Water Economic Zone, in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Started in 2018, the ‘Water Economic Zone (WEZ)’, focuses on enhancing natural resources, particularly water and soil whereby ensuring groundwater recharge. The FICCI CSR Awards recognises the efforts of companies in integrating and internalising Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DS Group (Noida, UP) – awarded in the category of ‘Environment Sustainability’ at the 20th FICCI CSR Awards
- Dharampal Satyapal Group was awarded for ‘Water Economic Zone’ in Udaipur, Rajasthan

32. On December 21, Infosys has been recognised for Leadership in Corporate Transparency and Performance on Climate Change by global environmental non-profit CDP, securing a place on its annual ‘A List’. Infosys is one of a small number of companies that achieved an ‘A’ out of nearly 15,000 companies scored. Infosys has been featured in the leadership category under the CDP Climate Change disclosure for the seventh year in a row. CDP’s annual environmental disclosure and scoring process is widely recognized as the gold standard of corporate environmental transparency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys – recognised for ‘Leadership in Corporate Transparency and Performance on Climate Change’ by CDP
- Infosys secured place in ‘A List’ | Infosys has been featured in this list for the 7th year in row
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Chairman – Nandan Nilekani | Founded in – 1981

33. On December 20, RBL Bank, one of India’s leading private sector banks, won the “IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022” in the ‘Best CRM System Implementation and Most Impactful Project’ category along with BUSINESSNEXT. BUSINESSNEXT is a composable suite of deep tech platforms - CRMNEXT, CUSTOMERNEXT & DATANEXT and pre-assembled products for the BFSI industry. The award identifies and honours technology companies and banks for their outstanding work in implementing and innovating financial technology using emerging technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + BUSINESSNEXT = won the “IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022”
- Category – ‘Best CRM System Implementation and Most Impactful Project’
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – R. Subramaniakumar | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

34. On December 21, RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Miniratna PSU under the Railways Ministry, received the “Best Presented Annual Report (BPA) Award for 2021” instituted by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA). This award is considered the most prestigious accolade for financial reporting in the South Asian region. The annual report of the RailTel won the ‘Certificate of Merit’ in the ‘Infrastructure and Construction Sector’ category. The award ceremony was hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal in Kathmandu on December 18. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RailTel – received the SAFA’s “Best Presented Annual Report Award for 2021” at Kathmandu, Nepal
- RailTel won the ‘Certificate of Merit’ in the ‘Infrastructure and Construction Sector’ category
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD – Sanjai Kumar

35. On December 21, Shah Rukh Khan became the only Indian to be named in an international list of 50 greatest actors of all time by Empire magazine. The publication highlighted his notable characters from four movies Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed ‘Devdas’, Karan Johar’s ‘My Name Is Khan’ and ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’, and ‘Swades’, directed by Ashutosh Gowariker. The list also recognises Hollywood giants like Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Anthony Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson and many others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shah Rukh Khan – only Indian to be named in international list of ‘50 Greatest Actors of All Time’ by Empire magazine



36. On December 19, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, won the Platinum Icon at the Digital India Awards 2022 for their initiative “DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data” under the ‘Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development’ category. The Awards instituted in 2009, under the aegis of National Portal of India, are one of a kind in India for honouring the efforts of different Government entities in the digital realm. These are conducted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). The year 2022 marked the 7th edition of the Digital India Awards. DataSmart Cities initiative is based on a ‘People, Platform, Process’ strategy. Moreover, other awards given under various categories are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th edition of ‘Digital India Awards 2022’ – by NIC (MeitY)
- ‘Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development’ category:
 - Platinum Icon: Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA
 - Gold Icon: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
 - Silver Icon: Center for e-governance (Karnataka)
- ‘Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business’ category:
 - Platinum Icon: Mine Mitra (Uttar Pradesh)
 - Gold Icon: eAbkari (Odisha)
 - Silver Icon: Invest Punjab
- ‘Digital Initiatives at Grassroot Level’ category:
 - Platinum Icon: e-Vivechna App (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Gold Icon: DeGS Computer Basic Training Grassroot level (Jharkhand)
 - Silver Icon: Ksheerasree Portal (Kerala)
- ‘Digital Initiatives in Collaboration with Startups’ category:
 - Platinum Icon: Digital Workforce Management System (Kerala)
 - Gold Icon: Smart Nutrient Management of the Soil (Telangana)
 - Silver Icon: Digital Deposit Refund System (Uttarakhand)
- ‘Digital Empowerment of Citizens’ category:
 - Platinum Icon: National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
 - Gold Icon: Transport Mission Mode Project (eTransport)
 - Silver Icon: Judgment Search Portal
- ‘Public Digital Platforms’ category:
 - States:
 - Platinum Icon: Duare Sarkar (West Bengal)
 - Gold Icon: e-Services Manipur
 - Central Ministries & Departments:
 - Platinum Icon: Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE) Portal (CBIC)
 - Gold Icon: eShram

37. 24 litterateurs were awarded the “Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2022” by the Sahitya Akademi. The ‘Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022’ was awarded to Udaya Nath Jha for his valuable contribution to the field of classical and medieval literature in the eastern region. The awards in 24 languages included 7 books of poetry, 7 of novel, 2 of short stories, 3 dramas, 2 literary criticism and 1 each of autobiographical essays, collection of articles and literary history. The award recognizes total 24 Indian languages, including English. 17 books were selected for the translation awards. In Assamese language, Manoj Kumar Goswami won the award for his collection of short stories ‘Bhool Satya’; Anuradha Roy won in English language for her novel ‘All the Lives we never lived’; Gulam Mohammad Shaikh won in Gujarati for ‘Gher Jatan’, a collection of autobiographical essays, Mr. Rajendran won in Tamil for his novel ‘Kala Pani’, while Tapan Bandopadhyay won in Bengali for his novel ‘Birbal’. The ‘Sahitya Akademi Yuva Praskar’ for those under 35 years was awarded to 23 winners, including English. The ‘Bal Sahitya Puraskar’ was given to 22 winners, including English. The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022’ – awarded to Udaya Nath
- ‘Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation 2022’ – awarded to 17 books
- ‘Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022’ – given in 24 Indian languages
- Some important awardees:
 - Anuradha Roy (English)
 - Badri Narayan (Hindi)
 - Gulam Mohammad Shaikh (Gujarati)
 - Mr. Rajendran (Tamil)
 - Tapan Bandopadhyay (Bengali)
 - Praveen Dashrath Bandekar (Marathi)
 - Manoj Kumar Goswami (Assamese)
 - Anis Asnfa (Urdu)
 - M. Thomas Mathew (Malayalam)
 - Madhuranthakam Narendra (Telugu)
 - Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy (Kannada)
 - Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo)
 - Veena Gupta (Dogri)
- ‘Sahitya Akademi Yuva Praskar 2022’ – given in 23 Indian languages
- Some important awardees:
 - Mihir Vatsa (English)
 - Bhagwant Anmol (Hindi)
 - Bharat Kheni (Gujarati)
 - Suman Parari (Bengali)
 - Anagha J Kolath (Malayalam)
 - Pawan Nalat (Marathi)
 - Pradyumna Kumar Gogoi (Assamese)
 - Shruti Kanitkar (Sanskrit)
 - P Kali Muthu (Tamil)
 - Pallipattu Nagaraju (Telugu)
 - Maqsood Aafaque (Urdu)
 - Alangbar Muchahary (Bodo)
 - Ashu Sharma (Dogri)
 - Dadapeer Jyman (Kannada)



- 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022' – given in 22 Indian languages
- Some important awardees:
 - Arshia Sattar (English)
 - Kshama Sharma (Hindi)
 - Kirit Goswami (Gujarati)
 - Kuldeep Sharma (Sanskrit)
 - Pattipaka Mohan (Telugu)
 - Zafar Kamali (Urdu)
 - Joya Mitra (Bengali)
 - Diganta Oza (Assamese)
 - G Meenakshi (Tamil)
 - Tammanna Beegara (Kannada)
 - A Sethumadhavan (Malayalam)
 - Sangeeta Barve (Marathi)
 - Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' (Dogri)
 - Dewbar Ramchiary (Bodo)
- HQs of Sahitya Akademi – Delhi | President – Chandrashekhara Kambara

38. 'Naatu Naatu' song of S. S. Rajamouli's film "Rise Roar Revolt (RRR)" was shortlisted for the Oscars 2023 under the 'Best Original Song' category. Naatu Naatu has created history as it became the first Indian song to be shortlisted for the Academy Award. The song was composed by M. M. Keeravani, while Chandrabose penned the lyrics. Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava sang the vocals for the song. The music video for the song was shot at the Mariinsky Palace in Kyiv, Ukraine, in August 2021. The Academy announced the shortlisted candidates for 10 categories. India's official entry for Oscars 2023 in the 'International Feature Film' category is the Gujarati language film "Chhello Show" (Last Film Show), directed by Pan Nalin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Naatu Naatu" song of 'RRR' film – shortlisted for the Oscars 2023 under the 'Best Original Song' category
- Composed by – M. M. Keeravani | Lyrics – Chandrabose | Singers – Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava
- "Chhello Show" (Last Film Show) – shortlisted for the Oscars 2023 under the 'International Feature Film' category

39. On December 20, Guru Nanak Dev University, in its fourth cycle of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), has been accredited with a CGPA of 3.85 out of 4 at A++ grade which will be valid for the next 7 years. GNDU authorities claim that it is the only state/central/private university in India to get this score. This assessment is based on a set of 7 criteria under different key aspects based on the functioning and organisational focus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) – accredited with a CGPA of 3.85 out of 4 at A++ grade by NAAC
- It is the only state/central/private university in India to get this score

40. On December 22, Ms Shalini Kumari from Bihar, India received first prize in the 'Grassroots Innovation Competition' at the 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum for her innovation 'Modified walker with adjustable legs'. She has won the cash prize of USD 1,500. The technology was transferred to the industry, Vissco Rehabilitation Aids, a leading manufacturer of orthopaedic products in India. The forum was organized by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), India at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The 2nd and 3rd prize has been won by grassroots innovators from Philippines and Myanmar, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum – held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Shalini Kumari (Bihar) – received first prize (\$1,500) in the ‘Grassroots Innovation Competition’
- She has won the prize for her innovation ‘Modified walker with adjustable legs’

41. On December 20, Sethrichem Sangtam was awarded the first ‘Rohini Nayyar Prize’ for his outstanding contribution to rural development. Mr. Sangtam works with 1,200 marginalised farmers in Eastern Nagaland through his organisation ‘Better Life Foundation’, which focusses on rural livelihood security, environment sustainability and education for change. The average income of the farmers tripled as a result of his interventions. The prize had been instituted by the family of the late Dr. Rohini Nayyar, an eminent scholar-administrator who spent much of her professional life working on issues related to rural development in India. Dr. Nayyar, a well-known economist and former principal adviser at the erstwhile Planning Commission, was one of India’s foremost authorities on rural development. She passed away in October 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sethrichem Sangtam – awarded the first ‘Rohini Nayyar Prize’ for his work for marginalised farmers in Nagaland
- He worked through his organisation – ‘Better Life Foundation’
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi \(addi. charge\)](#)

42. On December 21, the “Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22” was jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender “Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation” and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection “A Sky Full of Bucket Lists”. The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments. In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sudeep Sen + Shobhana Kumar = jointly won “Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22”
- Sudeep Sen won the prize for – ‘Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation’ book
- Shobhana Kumar won the prize for – ‘A Sky Full of Bucket Lists’ book

43. On December 20, Thalappil Pradeep received “VinFuture special prize 2022” in Hanoi. He received the prize for innovation of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater. He is a Professor at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thalappil Pradeep (IIT Madras professor) – received “VinFuture special prize 2022”
- He received prize for innovation of low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic & other heavy metals from groundwater
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

44. On December 23, NHPC Limited has been awarded as winner of ‘Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India - Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector’ at PRAKASHmay 15th Enertia Awards 2022. The Award has been conferred to NHPC in recognition of its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW. The award also recognizes that NHPC has more than 5000 MW of projects under construction and an ambitious 7000 MW plus plan for Solar capacity addition. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NHPC Limited – awarded as winner of ‘Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India - Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector’ at PRAKASHmay 15th Enertia Awards 2022
- NHPC has a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi

45. On December 23, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) won “DSCI’s Excellence Award 2022” for best practices in the government sector. The award has been awarded for its significant role in securing national critical ‘Aadhaar’ infrastructure that provides digital identity-based welfare services to residents. Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM. UIDAI is the first Government Organization to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701). The award was given in the three day ‘Annual Information Security Summit (AISS)’ of DSCI in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) of DSCI’ – held in New Delhi
- UIDAI – won “DSCI’s Excellence Award 2022” for ‘Best Practices in the Government Sector’
- UIDAI – first Government Organization to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009
- HQs of DSCI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Rajendra S. Pawar | CEO – Vinayak Godse (setup by NASSCOM)
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh | Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

46. On December 22, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences released its Oscar shortlists for the 95th edition in 10 categories. “Joyland” is the first film from Pakistan to get shortlisted for the Oscars (2023). The Pakistani film is among 15 films that made the cut for the best international feature film honour and will advance to the final stage of nominations. Joyland was also the first film from Pakistan to be selected for the ‘Cannes Film Festival’ and to win the Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences released its Oscar shortlists for the 95th edition in 10 categories
- “Joyland” is the first film from Pakistan to get shortlisted for the Oscars (2023)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Shehbaz Sharif | President – Arif Alvi

47. On December 24, ‘Ekalabya Puraskar’ for the year 2022 was presented to cyclist Swasti Singh. The award is given every year to encourage young sports talents. She presented with a citation, trophy and Rs 5 lakh cash in a programme organized by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable wing of IMFA. She was honoured for her performance from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022 at both national and international levels. Football player Pyari Xaxa and Hockey player Shilanda Lakra also were honoured with a citation and Rs 50,000 cash each. Ekalabya Puraskar was instituted by IMPACT in the year 1993. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swasti Singh (cyclist) – awarded with ‘Ekalabya Puraskar 2022’
- Ekalabya Puraskar – was instituted by IMPACT in the year 1993

48. On December 26, Tata Steel has been certified as 'Great Place to Work' by Mumbai-based Great Place to Work Institute for 2023. This is the 6th consecutive year that the Company has received the recognition for its efforts towards building an inclusive and sustainable organisation. Tata Steel is one of the world's most geographically diversified steel producers, with operations and commercial presence across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Steel – certified as 'Great Place to Work for 2023' (6th consecutive year) by Great Place to Work Institute (Mumbai)
- [HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran](#)

49. On December 26, Cricket Australia (CA) chief executive Nick Hockley and Australian Cricketers' Association CEO Todd Greenber, announced that Australia's Men's Test Player of the Year Award is renamed to honour legendary spinner Shane Warne. The Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Australia's Men's Test Player of the Year Award' – renamed after Shane Warne (Legendary Australian Cricketer)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

50. On December 2022, Vishal Mittal, a student at the University of Canberra (UC), Australia, was recognised as an Ambassador of Change, for his outstanding work as a Student Mentor and contribution to the UC community. Total 9 Ambassadors of Change were recognised for their work in a variety of areas. In 2022, the University of Canberra was ranked number one in the world for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishal Mittal (Student at University of Canberra, Australia) – recognised as an 'Ambassador of Change'
- Total 9 Ambassadors of Change were recognised for their work in a variety of areas
- University of Canberra – ranked No. 1 in the world for reducing inequalities as per the 'THE Impact Rankings 2022'

51. On December 28, Rajasthan government's Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has been honoured with the "Effective Government Communication Award" for taking public welfare schemes through digital media to the general public and the beneficiaries. The award was given by the Public Relations Society of India (PSRI) at the 44th Annual Convention of PSRI in Bhopal. The department has done innovations like the Information e-Bulletin, Sujus Video Bulletin, and Sujus Awaaz (Podcast). Moreover, a 'Sujus' Mobile App has also been launched by the department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – received the "Effective Government Communication Award" from Public Relations Society of India
- 'Sujus' Mobile App – is launched by Rajasthan Govt
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

52. On December 26, Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first "Gouri Amma Award" instituted by the Kerala-based K. R. Gouri Amma Foundation. Dr. Aleida is also an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission that works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America. The award comprising \$3,000, a statuette and citation will be given away by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in January 2023. K. R. Gouri (commonly known as Gouri Amma) was an Indian politician from Alappuzha in central Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aleida Guevara (Cuba) – selected for the first "Gouri Amma Award" instituted by K. R. Gouri Amma Foundation (Kerala)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)



53. On December 29, four veteran diplomats and a US lawmaker have been honoured with this year's annual "Diwali - Power of One" award for their efforts in working towards a peaceful and secure world. Also known as the 'Oscars of Diplomacy', the award is presented to former Permanent Representatives or former High-Level members of the UN Secretariat or member state. Former Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN and current Ambassador to Canada Kaha Imnadze, and former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations Keisha McGuire were among those who were honoured. The other three who were awarded were former Interim Defence Minister and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN and current Ambassador to the US Georgi Velikov Panayotov, former Permanent Representative of Benin to the UN and now Ambassador to the US Jean-Claude do Rego and former Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives, Eliot Lance Engel. Engel was conferred the '2022 Lifetime Achievement Award'. The 'Diwali Stamp - Power of One Awards', instituted in 2017 by the Diwali Foundation USA. Ruchira Kamboj is India's Permanent Representative to the UN and President of the UNSC for the month of December, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4 veteran diplomats & 1 US lawmaker – honoured with 2022's "Diwali - Power of One" award
- 'Diwali - Power of One' award is also known as 'Oscars of Diplomacy'
- Winners:
 - Kaha Imnadze (diplomat from Georgia)
 - Keisha McGuire (diplomat from Grenada)
 - Georgi Velikov Panayotov (diplomat from Bulgaria)
 - Jean-Claude do Rego (diplomat from Benin)
 - Eliot Lance Engel (diplomat from US)
- Eliot Lance Engel – conferred the '2022 Lifetime Achievement Award'
- 'Diwali - Power of One' award – instituted in 2017 by the Diwali Foundation USA

54. On December 29, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat' of Chhattisgarh police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' in the institutional category. The campaign was launched by the Chhattisgarh police with intensified efforts in districts of Korea, Rajnandgaon and presently continuing in Korba. Early in 2022, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), an organisation of the Ministry of Home Affairs included the Nijaat (meaning Riddance or Liberation) campaign among the thirty best smart-policing campaigns in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Nijaat' campaign of Chhattisgarh police – won 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' in the institutional category by IACP
- IACP – International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

55. On December 24, 9th Atal Samman Samaroh was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honored. Prabhu Chandra Mishra received "Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman" for his excellence in field of science & research. His area of work is StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails. Prabhu Mishra is the President of International Association of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine and ace Regenerative Medicine scientist. He also wrote an interesting book on stemcells, called StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th Atal Samman Samaroh – organized at Vigyan Bhawan on birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Prabhu Chandra Mishra – received “Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman” for his excellence in field of science & research
- “StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility” book – written by Prabhu Chandra Mishra

56. IIT Madras’ BS in Data Science and Applications won a silver prize in the ‘Best Online Program’ category in the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards, often referred to as ‘the Oscars of Education’. It was awarded for providing a hybrid mode of teaching/ learning facilities, utilising multimedia and a combination of electronic and traditional educational models. Additionally, NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, won the Gold in the ‘Lifelong Learning category’. NPTEL is India’s largest technical dissemination program. It is a consortium of seven IITs and IISc, and IIT Madras leads this effort. The project is funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and aims to enhance the quality of engineering education in India by providing free online courses and video lectures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras’ courses – won silver prize in ‘Best Online Program’ category at “Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards”
- These awards are often referred to as – ‘The Oscars of Education’
- ‘NPTEL’, a joint initiative of IITs & IISc – won Gold prize in the ‘Lifelong Learning’ category
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

57. The 27th edition of International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) was held in Thiruvananthapuram from December 6 to 9, 2022. Bolivia’s ‘Utama’ film won the Golden Crow Pheasant (Suvarna Chakoram) for the Best Film. Tayfun Pirselimoglu (Turkish screenwriter) won the Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajatha Chakoram) award for the Best Director. Lijo Jose Pellissery’s ‘Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam’ won the Rajatha Chakoram award through an audience poll. Firas Khouri’s ‘Alam’ won the Rajatha Chakoram for Best Debut and the Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) award for the Best Asian Film. Manipuri filmmaker Romi Meitei’s ‘Our Home’ won the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award for Best International Film. ‘Ariyippu’ directed by Mahesh Narayanan won the NETPAC award for the Best Malayalam film. Siddharth Chauhan won the Federation of Film Societies of India’s (FFSI) K. R. Mohanan Award for Best Debut Director from India for ‘Amar Colony’. IFFK Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Hungarian master Bela Tarr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 27th edition of ‘International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)’ – held in Thiruvananthapuram
- Golden Crow Pheasant (Suvarna Chakoram) for the Best Film – ‘Utama’ film (Bolivia)
- Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajatha Chakoram) award for the Best Director – Tayfun Pirselimoglu (Turkey)
- Audience Poll award for the ‘Best Film’ – ‘Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam’ film (by Lijo Jose Pellissery)
- Rajatha Chakoram for Best Debut & NETPAC Award for the Best Asian Film – ‘Alam’ (by Firas Khouri)
- FIPRESCI Award for Best International Film – ‘Our Home’ (by Romi Meitei)
- NETPAC Award for the Best Malayalam Film – ‘Ariyippu’ (by Mahesh Narayanan)
- FFSI’s K. R. Mohanan Award for Best Debut Director from India – Siddharth Chauhan (for ‘Amar Colony’)
- IFFK Lifetime Achievement Award – Bela Tarr (Hungary)



58. On December 22, Antim Panghal, an Indian female wrestler, nominated for the honour of United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year. She won India's first-ever gold medal in the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022 in August 2022. In addition to Antim Panghal, the five women nominated for the United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year award include Nonoka Ozaki of Japan, Amit Elor of the United States, Emma Malmgren of Sweden, and Andreea Ana of Romania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Antim Panghal (Haryana - Wrestler) – nominated for the “United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year”
- 5 other nominated women: Nonoka Ozaki (Japan), Amit Elor (US), Emma Malmgren (Sweden) & Andreea Ana (Romania)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

59. In December 2022, ACC Limited, the cement and building materials company of Adani Cement, has won the “National Award for Safety Excellence (FY2021-22)” at the 10th Global Safety Summit (GSS) in the Large Enterprise-Cement Manufacturing sector. The award, instituted by the Fire and Safety Forum and United Nations Global Compact Network India (SDGS Outreach Partner), was presented by Shri Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Global Safety Summit (GSS) – held in New Delhi
- ACC Limited – won the “National Award for Safety Excellence (FY2021-22)”



Schemes & Initiatives

1. On December 2, the Civil Aviation Ministry has notified the operational guidelines for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components. For the implementation of this scheme during 2022-23 to 2024-25, a corpus of Rs 120 Crore has been allocated. The total PLI per manufacturer is capped at ₹30 crore which is 25% of the total financial outlay of ₹120 crore. Indian MSMEs and start-ups manufacturing drones and having annual sales turnover of ₹2 crore will be eligible for the scheme. In the case of drone component makers, the eligibility threshold will be ₹0.5 crore. For Indian non-MSMEs that are into making drones, the annual sales turnover requirement will be ₹4 crore for claiming the PLIs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Civil Aviation Ministry – notified the operational guidelines for the PLI scheme for drones & drone components
- For the implementation of this scheme during 2022-23 to 2024-25, a corpus of Rs 120 crores has been allocated
- Total PLI per manufacturer is capped at ₹30 Cr
- Annual sales turnover criteria: ₹2 Cr for MSMEs/start-ups, ₹0.5 Cr for drone component makers, ₹4 Cr for non-MSMEs

2. On December 2, Government revised the scheme for facilitating 'Start-Ups Intellectual Property Protection' (SIPP) to upgrade the professional charges of the facilitators. The facilitation fee has been increased by at least 100%. The revised scheme is applicable from 02 December 2022. The scheme was launched in 2016 to protect and promote Intellectual Property Rights IPR of Startups and to encourage innovation and creativity among them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government revised the scheme for facilitating 'SIPP' to upgrade the professional charges of the facilitators
- SIPP – Start-Ups Intellectual Property Protection (launched in 2016) | The facilitation fee is increased by at least 100%

3. On December 1, Yogi Adityanath launched One District One Sport (ODOS) on the lines of the highly successful One District One Product (ODOP) scheme of the government. The scheme serves the two interrelated objectives of the government, including promoting sports culture and keeping the younger generation healthy in the state and providing a platform for sportspersons to nurture their talents and skills in order to take part in prestigious national and international championships and win medals. For complete list of 75 districts and their sports: [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yogi Adityanath (UP) – launched 'One District One Sport (ODOS)' scheme
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

4. On December 1, under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the government has committed to provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks. PMFBY is the 3rd largest crop insurance scheme in the World and tipped to become number one in coming years as around 5 Crore farmer applications are being received under the scheme every year. The scheme was initiated in 2016. All savings bank account holders in the age 18 to 70 years in participating banks can apply for the scheme. Recently introduced Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS), Yield Estimation System based on Technology (YES-Tech), Collection of Real Time Observations and Photographs of Crops (CROPIC) are some of the key steps taken under the scheme to bring in more efficiency and transparency. To address farmer grievances in real time, an integrated help line system is under beta testing in Chhattisgarh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Under PMFBY, government has committed to provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks
- PMFBY was launched in 2016 | Age criteria – 18 to 70 years

5. The first phase of the “Nirogi Haryana” scheme was launched by President of India Droupadi Murmu in the presence of Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Kurukshetra. In the scheme, Antodaya families would be provided intensive health check-up free of cost. Six categories have been identified as per various age groups. Comprehensive health check-up and other tests will be performed as per age-related categories to rule out/screen communicable/non-communicable diseases. All beneficiaries will be assessed on over 25 parameters. If any disease is detected/diagnosed, further investigation and treatment will be provided free of cost. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Droupadi Murmu – launched “Nirogi Haryana” scheme
- Antodaya families would be provided intensive health check-up & treatment free of cost
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh](#) | [CM – Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | [Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

6. On December 9, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the “Sanitation Workers’ Development Scheme” to protect the welfare of conservancy workers in the State. He launched a mobile application to help identify and collect census data of sanitation workers as part of the scheme. With the support of the Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad, the local bodies propose to implement the scheme effectively. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin also unveiled the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Perungudi junction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “Sanitation Workers’ Development Scheme” to protect the welfare of conservancy workers
- M. K. Stalin – also unveiled the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Perungudi junction
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

7. In December 2022, in an attempt to ensure that benefits of welfare schemes & government facilities reach people’s doorsteps, the Arunachal Pradesh Government conducted the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ camp at Gossang village in Upper Siang District. Organized by the Upper Siang District Administration, the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ is the second edition of the Sarkar Aapke Dwar (SAD) programme. ‘Sarkar Aapke Dwar’ scheme was passed in the 2018-19 budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – launched the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ scheme
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

8. On December 16, Tamil Nadu government launched the ‘Friends of Library’ scheme, wherein books will be personally provided to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries. Accordingly, differently abled persons, senior citizens, children and hospital in-patients among others who cannot come to a library will benefit from the initiative. In its first phase, the scheme will cover 2,500 libraries including 31 district libraries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched the ‘Friends of Library’ scheme
- Books will be personally provided to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)



9. On December 14, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated 'Orunodoi 2.0' scheme to help 17 lakh women in state. Under this scheme, women of Assam will receive Rs 1,250 in their bank account every month. Permanent residents of Assam, composite household income should be less than Rs 2 lakh per annum, households having any member who is dwarf or ailing from Cerebral palsy, ASD and Thalassaemia, Hemophilia, Leprosy, Autism spectrum disorder will be included in this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam) – inaugurated 'Orunodoi 2.0' scheme
- Eligible women of Assam will receive Rs 1,250 in their bank account every month
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur](#) | [CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) | [Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

10. On December 16, Central Government has approved the continuation of Central Sector Scheme 'Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)' till March 31, 2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier. IFLDP has been approved for implementation with 6 sub-schemes - Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP), Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS), Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD), Establishment of Institutional Facilities (EIF), Brand Promotion of Indian Brands in Footwear and Leather Sector, and Development of Design Studios in Footwear and Leather Sector. All sub-schemes have been on-boarded on National Single Window System (NSWS). The financial outlay of IFLDP is Rs 1700 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt approved the continuation of Central Sector Scheme 'Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)' till March 31, 2026
- Financial outlay of IFLDP – Rs 1700 Cr

11. On December 18, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao directed State Finance Minister T. Harish Rao to start releasing the crop investment, 'Rythu Bandhu funds', for the Yasangi harvest (Rabi) season from December 28. The State government would deposit Rs 7,600 Crore in the bank accounts of all farmers. Through the scheme, the government provides crop investment to the farmers at the rate of Rs 10,000 per acre for both Vanakalam (Kharif) and Yasangi (Rabi) seasons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana CM – directed to start releasing the 'Rythu Bandhu funds' for the Yasangi harvest (Rabi) season
- State Govt provides crop investment to the farmers at the rate of Rs 10,000 per acre for both Kharif & Rabi season
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

12. On December 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth over 6,800 crore rupees in Tripura and Meghalaya. In Tripura, the Prime Minister launched projects worth 4,350 Cr rupees. The projects include 'Grih Pravesh' programme for beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Rural. In Meghalaya, the Prime Minister unveiled projects worth over 2,450 Cr rupees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched projects worth Rs 4,350 Cr in Tripura & worth over Rs 2,450 Cr in Meghalaya
- 'Grih Pravesh' programme – launched in Tripura under 'PM Awas Yojana'
- [Tripura: Capital – Agartala](#) | [CM – Manik Saha](#) | [Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong](#) | [CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)



13. On December 15, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) of Ministry of Minority Affairs has renamed as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme. The integrated scheme converges 5 erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil. The scheme was approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission. PM VIKAS aims to improve livelihoods of the minorities, particularly the artisan communities, using the components of skill development, education, women leadership & entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram scheme – renamed as ‘Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)’
- The scheme belongs to Ministry of Minority Affairs
- The integrated scheme converges 5 schemes: Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni & Nai Manzil
- [Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, UP](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla](#)

14. According to the information was given by Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on December 20, Ministry of AYUSH is running a Central Sector Scheme namely, “AYURSWASTHYA Yojana”, with two components - AYUSH & Public Health (PHI), and Centre of Excellence (CoE), from the Financial Year 2021-22. It was launched by merging two erstwhile schemes of this Ministry namely - (i) Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-Aid for Promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives (PHI), and (ii) Central Sector Scheme for assistance to AYUSH organizations engaged in AYUSH Education/Drug Development & Research/Clinical Research etc. The maximum admissible financial assistance under the Centre of Excellence component of AYURSWASTHYA Yojana, to an organization/institute is Rs 10 Crore for a maximum period of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of AYUSH – is running a Central Sector Scheme namely, “AYURSWASTHYA Yojana” from FY 2021-22
- Two components of the scheme – AYUSH & Public Health (PHI), and Centre of Excellence (CoE)
- Maximum admissible financial assistance under the ‘Centre of Excellence’ component – Rs 10 Crore
- [Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai](#)

15. On December 18, Odisha’s Keonjhar district is India’s highest recipient of funds under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) scheme, and has spent ₹3,000 Crore under the scheme over the past 7 years. With a geographical area of 8,303 sq km, Keonjhar is hugely rich in mineral reserves, especially iron ore. The DMF fund is augmented by mining companies’ contribution of 30% of their royalty amount for mining leases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Keonjhar district (Odisha) – India’s highest recipient of funds under the ‘District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Scheme’
- DMF fund is augmented by mining companies’ contribution of 30% of their royalty amount for mining leases
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

16. On December 21, Minister of State for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha shared that Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) provides skill development and training programmes for the benefit of artisans and craftsmen in the handicrafts sector under the component ‘Skill Development in Handicrafts Sector’ of National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP). Further, Office of DC (Handicrafts), under the Ministry of Textiles, is implementing the “SAMARTH” scheme for capacity building in textile sector to provide skill training to handicraft artisans. Under SAMARTH scheme, more than 13,235 artisans have been trained in the last 3 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Textiles – is implementing “SAMARTH” scheme for capacity building of handicraft artisans in Textile sector
- Under SAMARTH scheme, more than 13,235 artisans have been trained in the last 3 years
- [Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh](#)

17. On December 26, the Women and Child Development department of Maharashtra has started ‘Balsnehi’ (child-friendly) buses and vans under the vision of rehabilitating street children. For the initiative, teams including a teacher, a counsellor, a driver, and an assistant will roam around a district in the dedicated vehicle to accumulate the children into the mainstream and ensure they are a part of education under government schemes and other initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – started ‘Balsnehi’ (child-friendly) buses & vans under the vision of rehabilitating street children
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

18. On December 23, the Central government announced to provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 Cr beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year from January 1, 2023. The Centre will spend more than Rs 2 lakh Cr in this period as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes. 5 kg food grains per person to Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries and 35 kg per household to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries (poorest of the poor) will be provided free of cost for next one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt – to provide free foodgrains under NFSA for 1 year from January 1, 2023
- 5 kg food grains per person to PHH beneficiaries & 35 kg per household to AAY beneficiaries will be provided



Important Days & Dates

1. The UN General Assembly has adopted December 2 as the “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery” to raise awareness of the dangers of slavery, forced labour, child labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking, as well as to call for an end to modern-day slavery. Africa has the highest rate of modern slavery, followed by Asia and the Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery”

2. December 4 is marked as “International Cheetah Day” every year. The day is dedicated to encouraging people worldwide to help this animal win the race against extinction. American zoologist Dr Laurie Marker is credited with creating “International Cheetah Day”. Dr Marker founded the “Cheetah Conservation Fund” in 1991 and she designated December 4 as International Cheetah Day in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – International Cheetah Day
- “Cheetah Conservation Fund” – was founded in 1991 by Dr Laurie Marker

3. “National Pollution Control Day” is honoured every year on December 2. It honours those who died in the Bhopal Gas catastrophe on December 2nd and 3rd in 1984. Thousands of people died in Bhopal on that day due to leakage of deadly gas MIC, Methyl Isocyanate. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is one of the deadliest industrial pollution catastrophes in the history. This day is celebrated to create awareness among people to prevent any industrial disasters. 2022 marks the 38th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “National Pollution Control Day” (38th anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984)
- Bhopal Gas Tragedy – took place due to leakage of Methyl Isocyanate gas on December 2nd and 3rd in 1984

4. On December 3, ‘International Day of Disabled Persons’ or ‘International Day of Persons with Disabilities’ is observed every year. The day was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2022, the theme was “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 3 – International Day of Disabled Persons’ or ‘International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Theme – “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”

5. “World Computer Literacy Day” is celebrated annually on December 2. This day was established by National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT). NIIT first celebrated the day on December 2, 2001 to coincide with its 20th anniversary. Through Computer Literacy Day, NIIT aims to address the digital divide that affects millions across the world and make computers more accessible to everyone. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “World Computer Literacy Day” by – NIIT (since 2001)
- NIIT – 1st celebrated the day on December 2, 2001 to coincide with its 20th anniversary



6. World Wildlife Conservation Day is observed on December 4 to spread awareness about preserving Earth's endangered flora and fauna. The day spreads awareness about preserving the natural world by striving to end wildlife crime and supporting the US Endangered Species Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – World Wildlife Conservation Day

7. Every year, Indian Navy Day is observed on December 4 to commemorate the commencement of 'Operation Trident' against Pakistan during the Indo-Pak War organised by Indian Navy on December 4-5 in 1971. The 'Father of the Indian Navy', Maratha monarch Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle, is the creator of the country's naval force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – Indian Navy Day (commemorates the commencement of 'Operation Trident' against Pakistan in 1971)
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

8. The Indian High Commission celebrated the 2nd "Maitri Diwas", also known as "India-Bangladesh Friendship Day", in Dhaka on December 6, 2022. The second Maitri Diwas marks the 50th Anniversary of India-Bangladesh Diplomatic Relations. It is on this day in 1971 that India recognized an independent and sovereign Bangladesh, ten days before Bangladesh's liberation. The decision to mark December 6 as Maitri Diwas was taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during PM Modi's state visit to Bangladesh in March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 6 – 2nd "Maitri Diwas" or "Friendship Day" (50th Anniversary of India-Bangladesh Diplomatic Relations)
- India – recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state on December 6, 1971

9. "International Volunteer Day" (IVD) aka "International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development" 2022 was observed on December 5 by UN. The day is observed annually to recognize and promote the tireless work of UN Volunteers & volunteers across the globe. In 2022, the theme of the day was "Solidarity through Volunteering". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – International Volunteer Day or International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 2022's Theme – "Solidarity through Volunteering"
- HQs of UN Volunteers Programme – Bonn, Germany | Executive Coordinator – Toily Kurbanov

10. December 5 is observed as the 'World Soil Day' (WSD), to highlight the value of healthy soil and to promote the sustainable management of soil resources. The first World Soil Day was observed in 2014. World Soil Day highlights what else has to be done to protect soil despite campaigns to raise awareness of its value. Industrialization and inadequate agricultural land management both decrease soil quality. In 2022, "Soils: Where food begins" is the theme of World Soil Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – World Soil Day (since 2014)
- 2022's Theme – "Soils: Where food begins"

11. On December 1, World AIDS Day was observed across the globe by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) & World Health Organization (WHO). In 2022, the theme was "Equalize". The Red ribbon is the universal symbol of AIDS awareness and support for people living with HIV. UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNAIDS started operations in 1996. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 1 – World AIDS Day – by UNAIDS & WHO
- 2022's Theme – “Equalize”
- AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome | HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HQs of UNAIDS – Geneva, Switzerland | Executive Director – Winnie Byanyima

12. Every year on December 7, India commemorates Armed Forces Flag Day in order to raise donations for the welfare of the Armed Forces Staff. This day is observed to honour Indian soldiers, sailors, and pilots. The Defense Minister's Committee on August 28, 1949, created the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The money collection is managed by the local branches of the Kendriya Sainik Board in India, which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Defense. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – Armed Forces Flag Day

13. International Civil Aviation Day was observed globally on December 7, 2022. International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 at the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation by the International Civil Aviation Organization. In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly declared this day. ICAO was established on 7th December 1944. During the same year, the International Services Transit Agreement and the International Air Transport Agreement were also signed. “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” is the theme of this day till 2023. In every 5 years, the ICAO announce a special anniversary theme for this global day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – International Civil Aviation Day
- 2022's Theme – “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” (until 2023)
- HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano | Members – 193

14. The Indian Army observed the 262nd Army Service Corps Day (ASC Day) on December 8, 2022. The ASC was formed in 1760 by the East India Company. The ASC is currently headquartered in Bengaluru. The ASC is in charge of army logistics, procuring and distributing food supplies, fuel, hospital items, etc. This day also marked 11th Reunion of ASC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 262nd Army Service Corps Day (ASC Day) – observed by Indian Army
- HQs of ASC – Bengaluru, Karnataka | DG – Gen. Manoj Kumar Singh Yadav | Motto – “Seva Asmākam Dharma”

15. SAARC Charter Day is observed every year on December 8. 2022 marks the 38th edition of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Charter Day. It was on this day, 37 years ago, that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an intergovernmental organisation, was established by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to promote economic growth in South Asia. On 8 December 1985, the SAARC Charter was adopted, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Afghanistan acceded to SAARC later. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 38th edition of SAARC Charter Day
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

16. The 55th Submarine Day was commemorated at Eastern Naval Command to mark the formation of Indian Navy's submarine arm with the commissioning of its first submarine, erstwhile INS Kalvari, on December 8, 1967. The ceremony was held at the Submarine Cenotaph at INS Virbahu, at ENC, the mother base of Indian submarines, which was commissioned on May 19, 1971. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 8 – 55th Submarine Day (commemorated at - Eastern Naval Command)
- INS Kalvari – first submarine of Indian Navy’s submarine arm was commissioned on December 8, 1967
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- Motto of the Indian Navy – ‘Sam No Varunah’

17. Every year Human Rights Day is celebrated on December 10. It commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948. This year marks the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 72nd Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day was formally established in 1950, following the adoption of UNGA Resolution 423. For 2022, the theme was “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – 72nd Human Rights Day
- UNGA adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” on December 10, 1948
- 2022’s Theme – “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All”

18. The “International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime” or “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide” is observed annually on December 9. It is observed to raise awareness about genocide and the role of the United Nations’ ‘Genocide Convention’ in preventing it. 2022 marked the 74th anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ which was adopted in 1948 by UN General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – UN International Day of Victims of Genocide
- 2022 marked 74th anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ | Adopted in 1948 by UNGA

19. On December 1, Nagaland celebrated its 60th statehood day. Nagaland became a separate state in 1963. Nagaland is the first State in the northeast to be bifurcated from Assam as the 16th State of the Indian Union. In April 2022, the area of coverage of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) saw a reduction for the first time in decades, with the Central government lifting 15 police station areas out of the purview of AFSPA in Nagaland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 60th statehood day of Nagaland
- Nagaland is 16th state of Indian Union & became a separate state in 1963
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

20. International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is observed annually on December 9 to raise public awareness on the malpractice of corruption and its harmful effects on progress and development. The theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2022 was “Uniting the World Against Corruption”. The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003. The Assembly also designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – 20th International Anti-Corruption Day (since 2003)
- 2022’s theme – “Uniting the World Against Corruption”



21. Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded 1st Prize in the category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation and 2nd Prize in the category for Teleconsultation conducted during the celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 on December 10 & 11 at International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the significance of Universal health coverage which aims to ensure quality healthcare closer to the people without any financial hardships. In 2022, the theme of the day is “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – Universal Health Coverage Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All”
- J & K – awarded 1st Prize in ‘Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation’ & 2nd Prize in ‘Teleconsultation’ category

22. December 11 was celebrated as the UN’s “International Mountain Day”. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) & is being celebrated since 2003. 2022’s theme was “Women Move Mountains”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – UN’s International Mountain Day (since - 2003)
- 2022’s Theme – “Women Move Mountains”

23. Every year, “International Day of Neutrality” is observed on December 12 to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations. The day was first observed in 2017. Turkmenistan is recognized by the UN as a Permanently Neutral state since 12 December 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – International Day of Neutrality (since 2017)
- Turkmenistan – the only country to get recognised by the UN as a permanently Neutral State

24. Every year, UNICEF Day is celebrated on December 11. The word UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the purpose served by the organisation is to save children's lives by providing them with humanitarian aid across the world. It also defends children's rights and helps them fulfill their potential from childhood through adolescence. The fund for UNICEF was generated after World War II and then became a permanent organisation in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – UNICEF Day
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

25. December 10 is observed as ‘Swahid Diwas’ to commemorate those who lost their lives during the Assam movement. The Assam movement was an indigenous stir seeking identification and deportation of illegal immigrants in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – observed as ‘Swahid Diwas’
- The day commemorates the ones who lost their lives during the Assam movement
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

26. National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on December 14, 2022. The purpose is to showcase the achievements of the nation in energy efficiency and conservation. To raise awareness about energy efficiency and its conservation, the BEE, under the guidance of Ministry of Power, recognizes and encourages endeavours of industrial units, institutions, and establishments in reducing energy consumption by felicitating them with Energy Conservation Awards on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, celebrated on 14th December every year. On this occasion, 'EV-Yatra portal' and mobile app was also launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – National Energy Conservation Day – by BEE
- 'EV-Yatra portal' & mobile app was launched on this day

27. Nobel Prize Day is observed on December 10 to honour the work of Alfred Nobel. The day also marks the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel, who created a series of award categories for achievements made for the benefit of humanity. The Nobel Prize is considered one of the most prestigious international awards given to people who gave their best contribution in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Alfred Nobel was also known as 'Merchant of Death'. The reason behind his nickname was because of his inventions and the most prestigious award is given after his name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – Nobel Prize Day
- It is to observed to honour the work of Alfred Nobel and to mark the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel

28. Bodhi Day is an annual observance that is observed on December 8. The day is a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. The word enlightenment is also known as bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Lumbini (now in Nepal) to a Kshatriya family in 563 BC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – Bodhi Day (commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment)

29. The Border Security Force (BSF) celebrated its 58th Raising Day on December 1, 2022. Various programmes were organised at various battalions, sector headquarters and border outposts. After the Indo-Pak and Indo-China war, BSF was formed on December 1, 1965 as an integrated central agency so that security of borders of the country and related issues could be ensured. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 58th Raising Day of BSF
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Sujoy Lal Thaisen (addi.) | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – "Duty Unto Death"

30. Vijay Diwas is celebrated across the nation on December 16 to commemorate India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war. The Indian Navy conducted Operation Trident and Operation Python during the 1971 war. Vijay Diwas tends to immortalise the story of every single brave Indian Army warrior who sacrificed his life during the 1971 conflict against Pakistan. During the 1971 war, the Indian Army lost 3,900 brave soldiers. Affixing to the surrender of the Pakistani Army, India also ensured the independence of Bangladesh which was erstwhile known as East Pakistan. The day is also known as Bijoy Dibos in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 16 – Vijay Diwas in India & Bijoy Dibos in Bangladesh
- The day commemorates India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war
- Indian Navy conducted 'Operation Trident' & 'Operation Python' during the '1971 Indo-Pak War'

31. “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” is annually observed on December 17 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. Inaugurated by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA, the first annual day was observed in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers (since 2003)

32. On December 19, Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated “Good Governance Week 2022” (December 19 to 25) and ‘Prashasan Gaon ki Ore Campaign’. 3,120 new services identified by district collectors across the country were added for online service delivery during the 5-day campaign. The minister also launched the Good Governance Week portal. The Annual Report on CPGRAMS for this year was released on this occasion to reflect the progress the country has made in Redressal Public Grievances in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 19 to 25 – Good Governance Week 2022 (Sushasan Saptah)
- Jitendra Singh inaugurated – ‘Prashasan Gaon ki Ore Campaign’ on this occasion

33. International Human Solidarity Day is observed on 20 December, every year. The day was introduced by the UN General Assembly. The day commemorates the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund on the same date in 2002. The main aim of solidarity is to develop our movement and to show care and concern for justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 – International Human Solidarity Day

34. Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on December 18 in India. The day aims at promoting the rights of the minority community across the country. Minorities Rights Day was first observed in India on December 18, 2013. Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in India in 2006. The ministry was formed out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The United Nations on December 18, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual’s Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities. Minority Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – Minorities Rights Day (since 2013)
- Ministry of Minority Affairs – set up in India in 2006 out of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- [Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smriti Irani](#) | [Constituency – Amethi, UP](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla](#)

35. Goa Liberation Day is celebrated on 19 December every year as a reminder that the state of Goa got its freedom from the Portuguese after a long time and it remained under the control for 450 years. It was on 19 December 1961 that Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 19 – Goa Liberation Day

36. World Arabic Language Day is observed on December 18 to honour the Arabic language, which is spoken by over 400 million people globally. The day has been celebrated since 2012 to mark the adoption of Arabic as the sixth official language of the United Nations by the UN General Assembly on 18 December, 1973. In 2022, the theme was “The Contribution of the Arabic Language to Human Civilization and Culture”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 18 – World Arabic Language Day
- 2022's Theme – “The Contribution of the Arabic Language to Human Civilization and Culture”
- UN language days:
 - Arabic (18 December)
 - Chinese (20 April)
 - English (23 April)
 - French (20 March)
 - Russian (6 June)
 - Spanish (23 April)

37. International Migrants Day is celebrated annually on 18 December to draw focus towards the social and economic conditions of migrants all across the globe. The day aims to educate the public on the issues concerning migrants, mobilise political will and resources to address the global issue of migration, and to draw focus towards the rights of the migrants. As per the World Migration Report 2022, 281 million people are international migrants living in a country other than their place of birth. There is no official announcement regarding the theme of the International Migrants Day 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – International Migrants Day

38. On December 20, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) commemorated its '59th Raising Day'. SSB guards the India's border with Nepal and Bhutan and it works under the administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. SSB was conceived in November 1962 under the name of 'Special Service Bureau', which was eventually created in March 1963 with the sole purpose of achieving 'Total security preparedness in the remote border regions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 – 59th raising day of SSB
- SSB – guards the India's border with Nepal & Bhutan
- HQs of SSB – New Delhi | Director General – S. L. Thansen (under Ministry of Home Affairs)

39. National Farmers Day, also known as Kisan Diwas, is observed across India on December 23 to mark the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. The day was first observed in 2001. Choudhary Charan Singh served as the 5th Prime Minister of India between 28 July, 1979 to 14 January, 1980. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 23 – Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day (since 2001)
- The day marks the birth anniversary of – Choudhary Charan Singh (5th PM of India)

40. December 15 is celebrated as International Tea Day in several countries such as - India, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. This day not only celebrates tea as a special beverage but also promotes sustainable tea manufacture, business, and consumption. The theme for International Tea Day 2022 is not known yet. People started to observe International Tea Day in New Delhi in 2005. In most tea-producing countries, the season of tea production begins in May, which is why the UN celebrates May 21 as International Tea Day. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 15 – International Tea Day in several countries
- May 21 – International Tea Day by the UN

41. National Mathematics Day is observed annually on December 22 to mark the birth anniversary of the eminent mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. He was born in Erode, Tamil Nadu, in 1887 to a humble Iyengar Brahmin family. In 2012, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh paid tribute to the mathematician and declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day. Moreover, 2012 was observed as the “National Year of Mathematics” in India. Besides, 1729 is globally known as the ‘Hardy-Ramanujan Number’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 22 – National Mathematics Day (birth anniversary of eminent mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan)
- 2012 – “National Year of Mathematics” in India | Hardy-Ramanujan Number – 1729

42. International Pheran Day was celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir on December 21. On this occasion, locals and tourists gathered at the historic ‘Lal Chowk’ in Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the heritage of ‘Pheran’. People wore pheran and also carried the traditional kangri with them. 40 days of harsh winter period known as ‘Chillai Kalan’ in the local language began in the Kashmir valley. Pheran or Phyan is a traditional knee-length robe (woollen gown) that is part of the unique identity of Kashmiri culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 21 – International Pheran Day – in J & K
- Pheran or Phyan – a traditional knee-length robe (woollen gown)

43. December 24 is celebrated annually in India as “National Consumer Rights Day”, also called “National Consumer Day” to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities. The day commemorates December 24, 1986, when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India. It’s easy to confuse it with World Consumer Day which is celebrated on 15 March of every year. The Theme of National Consumer Rights Day, 2022 is “Alternate Consumer Grievance/Dispute Redressal”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 24 – National Consumer Rights Day or National Consumer Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Alternate Consumer Grievance/Dispute Redressal”
- March 15 – World Consumer Day

44. Every year India observes “Good Governance Day” or “Sushasan Diwas” on December 25, in honour of former Indian Prime Minister Atal Vihari Vajpayee’s birthday. The day is celebrated to make sure that the country’s residents are treated fairly by the government and they receive the advantages of various government services. It was established with the slogan “Good Governance through e-Governance”. The government has been commemorating Good Governance Day every year since 2014. Atal Vihari Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He was elected three times as the nation’s prime minister. The “Bharat Ratna” award was given to him on March 27, 2015. Moreover, He was the first head of state to address the UN in Hindi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – Good Governance Day or Sushasan Diwas (since 2014) | Birth anniversary of Atal Vihari Vajpayee
- It was established with the slogan – “Good Governance through e-Governance”
- Atal Vihari Vajpayee received “Bharat Ratna” in 2015



45. Veer Bal Diwas was commemorated in India on December 26 for the first time. Veer Bal Diwas is celebrated in honour of four Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Sahib Ji, who was martyred in the 17th century. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was the Sikhs' 10th Guru and the founder of the Khalsa community. His four sons are Shahibjada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Fateh Singh, Sahibjada Zorawar Singh. December 26 is the day on which Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh were martyred. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the historic 'Veer Bal Diwas' programme at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 26 – 1st Veer Bal Diwas (commemorates the martyrdom of 4 Sahibzadas of 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Sahib Ji)
- 4 Sahibzadas: Shahibjada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Fateh Singh, Sahibjada Zorawar Singh

46. The 3rd edition of International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was marked on December 27, 2022. The day was first observed in 2020. This day is marked as preparedness for pandemic has always been an important aspect for health authorities across the globe. The day was founded by a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 7, 2020. The day was established by the UN General Assembly to highlight the need for preparedness, cooperation, and epidemic prevention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 27 – 3rd International Day of Epidemic Preparedness (since 2020)



Books & Authors

1. On December 6, HarperCollins announced the release of “Sultan: A Memoir”, the official autobiography of one of the greatest fast bowlers in the history of cricket, Wasim Akram. The book was written by Wasim Akram and Gideon Haigh, a veteran cricket writer from Australia. Pakistan’s Wasim Akram is often revered as ‘The Sultan of Swing’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sultan: A Memoir”, an autobiography of Wasim Akram – written by Wasim Akram & Gideon Haigh

2. Former Air Marshal P. V. Iyer has authored a book titled “Fit At Any Age: A Practitioner’s Guide”. In this book, the Air Force veteran shared his fitness mantras and regimes that will leave any reader motivated. At the age of 92, he runs roughly 7-8 kms a day, which takes him around 2 hours to complete, and then proceeds to work out for another 90 minutes or so at his home gym. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Fit At Any Age: A Practitioner’s Guide” book – authored by Former Air Marshal P. V. Iyer

3. Simon Sebag Montefiore, award-winning British historian and writer, has authored a new book titled “The World: A Family History”. In this book, Montefiore tells how humanity evolved by the stories of different and famous families. The book was published by Hachette India. Some of Montefiore’s previous books are: ‘Stalin: The Court of The Red Tsar’, ‘Jerusalem: The Biography’, ‘Written in History: Letters That Changed the World’, among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The World: A Family History” book – authored by Simon Sebag Montefiore (British Historian & Writer)
- Published – Hachette India

4. Gautaam Borah, a senior management professional, authored a new book titled “Nalanada - Until we Meet Again”. The book was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond. Mr. Borah is the author of the widely acclaimed book ‘Monetising Innovation’. The book is a gripping story of romance, vengeance, and an age-old mystery. It’s a story of Neil and Aanchal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nalanada - Until we Meet Again” book – authored by Gautaam Borah
- The book was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond

5. In December 2022, Mansi Gulati, the Founder of Manasvani, has released her book “Miracles of Face Yoga”, which has been appreciated by the President of India Droupadi Murmu. Mansi Gulati, an international Yogi, celebrated author, and thought leader, devoted her efforts to learning everything possible about yoga practices and philosophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Miracles of Face Yoga” book – released by Mansi Gulati

6. Katherine Rundell, an English Author and Academic, has won the £50,000 “Baillie Gifford Prize” for non-fiction for her book, “Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne”. The book showcases the myriad lives of Donne, who, as well as being a renowned poet was a scholar of law, a sea adventurer, an MP, a priest, and the dean of St Paul’s Cathedral during his life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Katherine Rundell – won the “Baillie Gifford Prize” for her book, “Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne”

7. Commodore Ranjit B. Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee's authored a new book titled "The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage". The book tells you how the exploits and sacrifices of the British-era Royal Indian Navy (RIN) during World War 2 were omitted by British historians who could not digest the RIN's mutiny in 1946. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage" book – authored by Ranjit B. Rai (Retd) & Aritra Banerjee

8. Former head of the Research & Analysis Wing, A. S. Dulat, penned his new memoir, "A Life in the Shadows". The book covers Dulat's interactions with multiple senior leaders and important members of India's security establishment, including current NSA Ajit Doval. Daulat is also a former special director of the Indian Intelligence Bureau. His other books include "Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years" & "The Spy Chronicles: R&AW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "A Life in the Shadows" a memoir – authored by A. S. Dulat (Former Head of RAW)

9. On December 25, an Indian Economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the RBI, Dr. C. Rangarajan, has authored a new book titled "Forks In The Road - My Days At RBI And Beyond". The book is divided into three parts. Part one 'RBI and Planning Commission'. Part two is 'Governor of RBI' and part three is 'Beyond RBI'. The book was published by Penguin Random House India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Forks In The Road - My Days At RBI And Beyond" memoir – authored by C. Rangarajan (19th Governor of RBI)



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



Obituaries

1. On December 2, Veteran Odia film actress Jharana Das passed away. She was 77. In 1997, Jharana Das received the state government's prestigious 'Jaydev Puraskar' for her lifetime contribution to Odia film industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharana Das – Odia film actress – passed away
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

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2. On December 5, Dominique Conchon-Lapierre, a French author and Padma Bhushan awardee, passed away. His 1985 novel "City of Joy", about the hardships of a rickshaw puller in Kolkata, was a massive success. Indian government honoured him with Padma Bhushan in 2008 for Social Works. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dominique Lapierre – French author – passed away (Padma Bhushan in 2008)
- He is the author of "City of Joy" book

3. Former West Indies wicket-keeper David Murray, born in Barbados, died at the age of 72. Murray played 19 Tests and 10 day one-day internationals for West Indies between 1978 and 1982 making three half-centuries. The Barbadian Cricketer received a life ban after taking part in a rebel tour of South Africa in 1983. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- David Murray (born in Barbados) – Former West Indies Cricketer – passed away
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Dame Sandra Mason

4. Indian Veteran Actor Vikram Gokhale passed away. He was 77. In 2010, Gokhale was bestowed with the 'National Award for Best Actor' for his outstanding work in the Marathi film 'Anumati'. In 2011, he was conferred with the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' by Sangeet Natak Akademi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vikram Gokhale – Indian Veteran Actor – passed away
- Awards: 'National Award for Best Actor' (2010), 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' (2011)

5. Kumble Sundara Rao, former MLA from Surathkal Constituency, Yakshagana Exponent and Tala-Maddale Artist, passed away. He was 88. He was elected as an MLA for one term in 1994 for the 10th Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Rao was an exponent of Yakshagana (Tenkatittu style) and had performed as a member of Surathkal, Dharmasthala and Ira Yakshagana Melas. He also served as the first President of Karnataka State Yakshagana Academy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kumble Sundara Rao – a Politician, Yakshagana (Tenkatittu style) Exponent & Tala-Maddale Artist – passed away
- He also served as the first President of Karnataka State Yakshagana Academy

6. On December 8, Renowned artist and writer Manohar Devadoss died in Chennai. He was 85. Mr. Devadoss has written several books and illustrated them. His last book titled "Madras Inked: Impressions of an Artist and an Architect" was co-authored by Sujatha Shankar. A Padma Shri awardee, Mr. Devadoss hailed from Madurai. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Manohar Devadoss – a renowned Artist & Writer – passed away (Padma Shri awardee)
- His last book – “Madras Inked: Impressions of an Artist and an Architect” (co-authored by Sujatha Shankar)

7. On December 6, noted Economist and former Union Minister Yoginder Kumar Alagh (Y. K. Alagh) passed away. He was 83. Professor YK Alagh was a distinguished scholar who was passionate about various aspects of public policy, particularly rural development, the environment and economics. He was a Former Professor Emeritus and Vice-Chairman of Ahmedabad-based Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, and Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat. He was Member of the erstwhile Planning Commission of India. Alagh was a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat in 1996. In 2014, he was appointed Chairman of an Expert Group on Agricultural Statistics under the National Statistical Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Y. K. Alagh – a renowned Economist & a Politician – passed away (R.S. Member from Gujarat)
- He served as,
 - Former Professor Emeritus & Vice-Chairman of Sardar Patel Institute of Economic & Social Research (Ahmedabad)
 - Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat
 - Member of the erstwhile Planning Commission of India
 - Chairman of an Expert Group on Agricultural Statistics

8. In December 2022, Nick Bollettieri, the Tennis Coach whose famed Florida tennis academy changed the face of the game by producing some of its greatest players, died at the age of 91. A pioneering mentor who coached 10 world number ones, he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nick Bollettieri (US) – a renowned Tennis Coach – passed away

9. On December 13, Poland’s only cosmonaut, Gen. Miroslaw Hermaszewski, who circled the Earth in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978, has died. He was 81. For nine days in June and July of 1978, Hermaszewski and Soviet cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk circled the Earth in the Soyuz 30 spaceship that docked at the Salyut 6 orbital space station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Miroslaw Hermaszewski – Poland’s only Cosmonaut – passed away
- He circled the Earth in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978

10. On December 10, Renowned Lavani singer Sulochana Chavan passed away. She was 92. In 2022, Chavan was awarded the Padma Shri and also conferred the title of ‘Lavani Samradnyi’ (Queen of Lavani) for her contribution to the traditional Maharashtrian musical genre of Lavani. The dance format associated with Lavani is known as Tamasha. She was honoured with the Lata Mangeshkar Award, instituted by the Government of Maharashtra, in 2010. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2012. Chavan was awarded the Lokshahir Patthe Bapurao Puraskar instituted by the Pune Municipal Corporation in 2007. She was also bestowed with the Ram Kadam Puraskar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sulochana Chavan – a Lavani Singer – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri, Lavani Samradnyi, Lata Mangeshkar Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award

11. On December 13, Pravrajika Bhaktiprana, President of the Sri Sarada Math and Ramkrishna Sarada Mission, died after prolonged illness, at the age of 102. She was born in Calcutta in 1920 as Kalyani Banerjee. After receiving proper training, she joined Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan, Tollygunge, as a nurse, in 1950. She accepted sannyas in 1959. In 1998, she was made the vice-president of Sri Sarada Math and Ramkrishna Sarada Mission and became the fourth President of the order in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pravrajika Bhaktiprana – President of Sri Sarada Math & Ramkrishna Sarada Mission – passed away
- She was born in Calcutta in 1920 as ‘Kalyani Banerjee’ (She accepted sannyas in 1959)

12. On December 3, Veteran documentarian Julia Reichert, who won an Oscar in 2020 for her feature “American Factory”, passed away at the age of 76. Across her more than 50 years as a filmmaker, Reichert received four Academy Award nominations and one win, two Primetime Emmys, a Director’s Guild Award and two Peabody Awards nods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Julia Reichert – a Documentarian & Filmmaker – passed away
- She won an Oscar in 2020 for her feature “American Factory”

13. On December 19, 1971 India-Pakistan war veteran and retired Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, Lance Naik Bhairon Singh Rathore, passed away in Jodhpur. His bravery at Rajasthan’s Longewala post was portrayed by actor Suniel Shetty in the Bollywood movie ‘Border’. He was 81. He was deployed at the Longewala post in the Thar desert of Jaisalmer. It was the bravery of these men that decimated an assaulting Pakistani brigade and tank regiment at this location on December 5, 1971. He received the Sena Medal in 1972 for his gallant action. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lance Naik Bhairon Singh Rathore – retired BSF Personnel & 1971 India-Pakistan war hero – passed away
- His role was portrayed by Suniel Shetty in the 1997 movie ‘Border’

14. On December 21, Gamaka exponent and Padma Shri awardee H R Keshava Murthy passed away. He was 89. He hailed from Karnataka. He is remembered for his inspiring mentorship to many students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- H. R. Keshava Murthy (Karnataka) – Gamaka exponent & Padma Shri awardee – passed away
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

15. On December 23, Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana, fondly known as Navarasa Natana Sarvabhooma, passed away at the age of 87. He was born in Krishna, Andhra Pradesh. He starred in more than 770 films and has worked with over 200 directors. He was the recipient of Andhra Pradesh government’s Nandi Award, Raghupathi Venkaiah National Award 2011, and Lifetime Achievement Award for Telugu Cinema at 2017 Filmfare Awards. He served as a Member of Parliament from Machilipatnam in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaikala Satyanarayana (Navarasa Natana Sarvabhooma) – a Telugu Actor & a Politician – passed away
- Awards: Nandi Award, Raghupathi Venkaiah National Award, Lifetime Achievement Award at 2017 Filmfare Awards

16. On December 31, Former Pope Benedict XVI passed away in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican where he had lived since his resignation. He was 95. He was the first pontiff in 600 years to resign. Benedict was the first German pope in 1,000 years. Since the time of Christ, there have officially been 266 Popes, starting with the first Pope, Saint Peter. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Former Pope Benedict XVI – passed away
- He was the first pontiff in 600 years to resign & he was first German pope in 1,000 years
- Pope Francis (Argentina) – is the present Pope

17. On December 23, George Cohen, a defender who played on England's World Cup-winning team in 1966, passed away. He was 83. Cohen played his entire club career for Fulham Football Club. Fulham recognized Cohen's contribution to the club by unveiling a statue of him at Craven Cottage in 2016. He was also inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- George Cohen (England) – Footballer (used to play for Fulham FC) – passed away (World Cup-winning team in 1966)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

18. On December 30, Arata Isozaki, a Pritzker-winning Japanese architect known as a post-modern giant who blended culture and history of the East and the West in his designs, passed away. He was 91. Isozaki won the Pritzker Architecture Prize, internationally the highest honor in the field, in 2019. He won Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2019. He also designed iconic building such as the Team Disney Building and the headquarters of the Walt Disney Company in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arata Isozaki – a Pritzker-winning Japanese architect known as a post-modern giant – passed away
- He won Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2019
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. On December 2, the 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture was hosted by the OP Jindal Global University on the theme “Universal Adult Franchise: Translating India’s Political Transformation into a Social Transformation” at Ambedkar Bhawan in New Delhi. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar was the chief guest at the event. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Justice D.Y. Chandrachud also delivered his speech at the event. O.P. Jindal Global, is a private university located at Sonapat in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture in New Delhi – hosted by the OP Jindal Global University (Sonapat, Haryana)
- Theme – “Universal Adult Franchise: Translating India’s Political Transformation into a Social Transformation”
- Chief Guest of the event – Shri Jagdeep Dhankar

2. On December 4, the first Sherpa meeting under India’s G20 presidency began in Udaipur that would give New Delhi the opportunity to put the agenda of developing countries before the leaders’ summit next September. India’s Sherpa to G20, Amitabh Kant, set the tone for the meeting by flagging various issues. Leaders of G20 member nations, 9 guest countries - Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE, and representatives of international organisations attended the four-day meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st Sherpa Meeting under India’s G20 presidency – held in Udaipur, Rajasthan
- India’s Sherpa to G20 – Amitabh Kant
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India \(Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023\) | 2024 – Brazil](#)

3. On December 1, the 7th edition of the “Global Technology Summit” was concluded. It was held in New Delhi in a hybrid format. The Summit is India’s annual flagship event on Geotechnology and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India. The theme for this year’s Summit was “Geopolitics of Technology”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th “Global Technology Summit” in New Delhi co-hosted by = Ministry of External Affairs + Carnegie India
- Theme – “Geopolitics of Technology”
- [Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakashi Lekhi](#)

4. The 17th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was held in Morocco’s capital Rabat from November 28 to December 3, 2022. Total 47 new items were newly added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List, including Traditional Chinese tea-making techniques and associated social practices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th session of UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage – held in Rabat, Morocco
- Total 47 new items were newly added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List
- [Morocco – Rabat – Dirham | PM – Aziz Akhannouch](#)
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries](#)



5. On December 5, the Union Minister of state for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh, addressed the curtain raiser event for “Technotex 2023”. The largest event of technical textile industry in India will be held in Mumbai from February 22 to 24, 2023. The event will focus on discussions to empower startup ventures, promote knowledge exchange on best practices and develop capacities of entrepreneurial ecosystem for startups. The event will be organized by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with FICCI under ‘National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Technotex 2023”, the largest event of technical textile industry in India – to be held in Mumbai (in Feb 2023)
- The event will be organized under ‘National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)’ by = Ministry of Textiles + FICCI
- HQs of FICCI – Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta (Subhrakant Panda from Dec) | Founded in – 1927
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

6. On December 5, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, attended the “Millets-Smart Nutritive Food” Conclave held in New Delhi with the objective of promoting the export of millets. The Conclave was organized by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry through its apex agricultural export promotion body, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The Conclave was a pre-launch event of the ‘International Year of Millets - 2023’. A knowledge book on Millets prepared in association with Knowledge partner ‘Yes Bank’ was released on the occasion. India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of around 41% in the global production. India’s top five millet producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – attended the “Millets-Smart Nutritive Food Conclave” held in New Delhi – organised by APEDA
- A knowledge book on Millets was prepared in association with Knowledge partner Yes Bank

7. As part of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week, “SHE STEM 2022”, the annual event to celebrate women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and sustainability, was successfully held for the 3rd year in a row. The event was organised by the Embassy of Sweden in India in partnership with NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the German Centre of Innovation and Research (DWIH New Delhi). Jan Thesleff is Ambassador of Sweden to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of “SHE STEM 2022” in New Delhi – organised by Embassy of Sweden in India + AIM + DWIH, New Delhi
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Ulf Kristersson

8. On December 5, the occasion of the World Soil Day, NITI Aayog organized a “National Conclave on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming 2022” in New Delhi. The conclave was co-hosted by NITI Aayog and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of Germany. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the conclave. NITI Aayog and the BMZ too also signed a Statement of Intent for collaborations, with Agro Ecology being one of the priority areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated “National Conclave on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming” in Delhi
- The conclave was co-hosted by NITI Aayog + GIZ (Germany)
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier



9. As many as 21 MoUs were exchanged and close to 46 Investment Intent Forms (IIF) amounting to around Rs 5.85 lakh Crore were submitted at the 3rd edition of “Make in Odisha Conclave 2022”. Arcelor Mittal JV with Nippon Steel, Adani Group, JSW Group, Vedanta Group and ReNew Power, among others, have envisaged interest in the State. The conclave was organised by the State government in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), in Bhubaneswar. The conclave also saw the launch of the ‘Industrial Policy Resolution 2022’ which focuses on making the State a destination of choice for industrial enterprises across the country and globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of “Make in Odisha Conclave 2022” was organised in Bhubaneswar by = Odisha Govt + FICCI
- ‘Industrial Policy Resolution 2022’ was launched during the conclave
- 21 MoUs were exchanged & 46 Investment Intent Forms (IIF) worth Rs 5.85 lakh Cr were submitted during the conclave
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

10. The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held in Singapore between December 5 and 9, 2022. Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav represented Indian at the Meeting. APRM brought together the ILO’s tripartite constituents representing Governments, workers and employers from Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States, as well as representatives of international organizations and civil society to discuss concrete steps to drive job-rich growth that is inclusive and transformative. “Social Justice for a Human-centred Recovery” is the theme of the main agenda in the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – participated in the 17th “Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the ILO” held in Singapore
- Theme – “Social Justice for a Human-centred Recovery”
- [HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Gilbert F. Hougbo | Founded in – 1919](#)

11. On December 7, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the “India Climate and Development Partners’ Meet”, hosted by the State government and the World Bank and released the “Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)”. Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050. Kerala is the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero emissions mobility policy. The government has constituted the Kerala Hydrogen Economy Mission to contribute strategic inputs and facilitate partnerships and collaborations towards transforming the State into a green hydrogen hub. Moreover, the State government signed an agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros (₹865.8 Crore) on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Climate and Development Partners’ Meet 2022” was hosted by = Kerala Govt + World Bank
- Pinarayi Vijayan – released the “Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)”
- Kerala – aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050
- Kerala – the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero emissions mobility policy
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

12. On December 6, India’s National Security Adviser (NSA), Ajit Doval, for the first time, hosted a special meeting in New Delhi with his counterparts from Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The high-level security meeting focused mainly on the security situation in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism originating from the country under the Taliban. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval (NSA) – hosted a special meeting with NSAs from Central Asian countries – in New Delhi (for the first time)

13. On December 8, the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated at Panaji, Goa. The theme of the congress was “Ayurveda For One Health”. The third edition of the ‘Ayushman’ comic book series was also released at the event. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Rosenberg’s European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany, to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems. The World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya Expo 2022 was also held in Goa from 8-11 December to strengthen the Ayurveda sector, envision its future, and facilitate interaction between professionals and consumers to boost Ayurveda commerce. The market size of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) in the country has grown from \$3 billion in 2014 to over \$18 billion now. The AYUSH industry grew 17% year-on-year during 2014-2020, while the Ayurveda market is forecast to grow at 15% CAGR from 2021-2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) – inaugurated at Panaji, Goa
- Theme – “Ayurveda For One Health”
- 3rd edition of the ‘Ayushman’ comic book series was also released at the event
- AIIA + European Academy of Ayurveda (Germany) = to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems
- HQs of AIIA – New Delhi | Director – Tanuja Manoj Nesari
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

14. On December 7, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released the World Bank report on Climate Change at the ‘India Climate and Development Partners meet’, hosted by the State government and the World Bank. Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050. Kerala also released the Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0). Kerala is the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero-emissions mobility policy. The State government inked an agreement with the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD – French Development Agency) for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros (₹865.8 Cr) on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala + World Bank = hosted the ‘India Climate & Development Partners Meet’ in Kerala
- Kerala – to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050
- Kerala – released the ‘Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030’ (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)
- Kerala + AFD = an agreement for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

15. On December 17, India’s Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav led India’s delegation at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada. According to the data shared by IUCN, 239 new species analysed in India have entered the list. Of these, 29 are threatened. The main objective of COP15 is to adopt a Global Biodiversity Framework, which will replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that expired in 2020. The global biodiversity framework calls upon member countries to protect a total of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity conservation. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav led India's delegation at the 'COP15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity' in Montreal, Canada
- 239 new species, analysed in India, have entered the IUCN Red List (Of these, 29 are threatened)
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar](#) | [PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

16. The first meeting of G20 Development Working Group (DWG) under India's G20 Presidency held in Mumbai from 13-16 December 2022. India holds the presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant addressed delegates in an opening session. Indian government has tried to bring good data governance and brought several initiatives like Data Governance Quality Index. The meeting was held with a focus on India's key priorities relating to accelerating progress on the SDGs, Lifestyle for environment and data for development. In the context of Green Development, the concept of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) ties closely with India's G20 motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and theme 'One Earth One Family One Future'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st meeting of G20 Development Working Group – held in Mumbai
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India \(Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023\)](#) | [2024 – Brazil](#)
- [India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'](#) | [Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future'](#) | [Sherpa – Amitabh Kant](#)

17. On December 10, Varanasi hosted the G-20 Development Ministers' Meeting 2022. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting. The minister also visited the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Exhibition at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) during the programme. The G-20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Varanasi – hosted the "G-20 Development Ministers' Meeting 2022"
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam Exhibition – held at Banaras Hindu University
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India \(Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023\)](#) | [2024 – Brazil](#)

18. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated the India Global Forum UAE 2022 in Dubai. It was a gala 5-day event that brought together leading political, business and cultural personalities from India, the UAE and across the world. This was the first major international event following India's ascendancy to the G20 Presidency, and was held in Dubai and Abu Dhabi from December 12 to 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated the 'India Global Forum UAE 2022' in Dubai
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

19. On December 15, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inaugurated the 7th edition of the "India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)" at New Delhi. The theme of this year's Summit is "Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin" with emphasis on the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project. In the 3-day Summit, experts from India and abroad discussed ways in which small rivers in large river basins can be protected. The summit was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – inaugurated the 7th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)” at New Delhi
- Theme – “Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin” | Summit was organised by – NMCG
- [NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti](#) | [DG – G. Asok Kumar](#)

20. On December 16, Uttar Pradesh government signed a number of agreements with investors in Singapore for reaching at least \$50 billion investment commitments target. It has been signed ahead of UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) that will be held in Lucknow from February 10-12, 2023. It includes an MoU worth \$1 billion with Singapore’s SLG Capital for setting up a data centre in the state. Moreover, UP government signed an MoU with the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) to set the pace for Singapore investors to participate in the prosperity of UP. SICCI will act as a bridge between investment companies in Singapore and the UP government. SICCI will also act as a knowledge partner, provide avenues for growth, and define the trajectory for investors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP + Singapore investors = signed agreements for reaching at least \$50 billion investment commitments target
- UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) – to be held in Lucknow (in Feb)
- UP + SICCI = an MoU for Singapore investors to participate in the prosperity of UP
- UP + SLG Capital = an MoU worth \$1 billion for setting up a Data Centre in the state
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

21. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) conducted a three-day hybrid event from December 9 to December 11, 2022 in New Delhi. The theme of the event was “Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat”. The event’s goal was to discuss the roadmap to digitization and to reaffirm India’s place on the global stage by emphasising its role and importance in international policy development on internet governance. This event focused on India’s digitization roadmap, opportunities and possibilities, and challenges. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder forum that brings together representatives from different groups to discuss public policy matters pertaining to the Internet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Internet Governance Forum – conducted a 3-day Hybrid Event in New Delhi
- Theme – “Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat”

22. Data obtained from trade sources showed that for the first time Russia has emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq in November because India snapped up oil from Moscow fearing a price cap from Dec. 5. India’s oil imports from Russia rose for the fifth straight month, totaling 908,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November, up 4% from October. Russian oil accounted for about 23% of India’s overall import of about 4 million bpd oil in November. Higher purchases of Russian oil dragged down Indian imports from the Middle East and member nations of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) declined to the lowest ever in November. During April-November, the first eight months of this fiscal year, Iraq continued to be the largest oil supplier to India followed by Saudi Arabia and Russia, which has knocked down UAE to the fourth position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq in November 2022
- India’s oil imports from Russia – rose 4% in November compared to October
- Russian oil – accounted for about 23% of India’s overall import in November
- Earlier, largest oil supplier to India were – Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia & UAE
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)



23. On December 17, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep S. Puri, addressed the Plenary Session at the 7th “Petrochemical Conclave” organised by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) at New Delhi. “India’s Petrochem Future - Sustainable and Atmanirbhar” was the theme of the conclave. The Conclave aimed to provide a comprehensive platform for varied Petrochemical stakeholders to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges with the sector and brainstorm on the impacts of forces like energy transition, Crude Oil to Chemicals, Industry 4.0, emerging Green pathways, and Circular economy. Petrochemical market size is currently in India about \$190 Billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep S. Puri – addressed the Plenary Session at the 7th “Petrochemical Conclave” organised by IOCL
- Theme – “India’s Petrochem Future - Sustainable and Atmanirbhar”
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

24. On December 21, the 19th meeting of the Experts and Coordinators of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s Interbank consortium (SCO-IBC), and the first under India’s Presidency, was held in New Delhi. During the meeting, it was decided to create a data bank of the various initiatives which have been taken so far, work towards sustainable development goals, and climate finance initiatives. India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) is presiding over the Presidency of the SCO Interbank Consortium (SCO IBC) during the period of October 26, 2022 to October 25, 2023. The SCO IBC was established on October 26, 2005, under the decision made by the Council of Heads of SCO Member States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th meeting of the Experts and Coordinators of the SCO-IBC – held in New Delhi
- IIFCL is presiding over the Presidency of the SCO-IBC during the period of October 26, 2022 to October 25, 2023
- SCO IBC was established on October 26, 2005 by the Council of Heads of SCO Member States
- HQs of IIFCL – New Delhi | MD – Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

25. On December 20, the first ‘Joint Finance and Health Task Force Meeting’ under the Indian G20 Presidency was held in virtual mode. The meeting was attended by finance and health representatives from G20 and invited countries as well as international organizations. The meeting was co-chaired by Italy and Indonesia. The ‘Bali Leaders’ Declaration 2022’ extended the mandate of the Task Force to continue the collaborations between finance and health ministries for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the first ‘Joint Finance & Health Task Force Meeting’ in a virtual mode – co-chaired by Italy & Indonesia
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India’s G20 motto – ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ | Theme – ‘One Earth One Family One Future’ | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

26. The UAE has been selected to host the 13th edition of “World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference” in February 2024. The WTO’s 12th Ministerial Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Ministerial Conference is the topmost decision-making body of the WTO and usually meets every two years. The inaugural Ministerial Conference was held in Singapore in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – will host the 13th edition of “World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference” in February 2024
- The Ministerial Conference usually meets every 2 years
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members – 164 | Founded – 1995



27. A meeting of the Joint Task Force Committee of 'India-Indonesia Investment and Business Forum' was held in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to identify new areas of cooperation, develop infrastructure, tourism, trade and connectivity to enhance business relations. This is the second meeting of the Task Force Committee. The first meeting was held in Jakarta on November 25, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd meeting of the Joint Task Force Committee of "India-Indonesia Investment and Business Forum" – held in Port Blair
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

28. On December 20, India announced to host the next special negotiation round on three of the four pillars of the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) on February 8-11, 2023. The 3 pillars are Supply Chain & Fair Economy, Tax & Anti-Corruption, & Clean Economy. And the 4th Pillar (excluded) is Trade. During the first-ever in-person ministerial in September, India decided to join only three pillars, and opted out of the crucial trade pillar. 14 countries are members of the IPEF that was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on the sidelines of the Quad Summit in Tokyo on May 23. On December 20, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal took part in a virtual ministerial meeting on IPEF's economic benefits. IPEF is also seen as an economic initiative to counter China's influence in the South and Southeast Asian nations. Its partner countries represent over 40% of the global economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host next special negotiation round on 3 of the 4 pillars of IPEF in February 2023
- The 3 pillars are – Supply Chain & Fair Economy, Tax & Anti-Corruption, & Clean Economy | 4th Pillar (excluded) – Trade
- IPEF – a US-led economic grouping comprising 14 countries
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

29. On December 30, PM Narendra Modi chaired the 2nd edition of the National Ganga Council (NGC) meeting in Kolkata via video conferencing. The Prime Minister attended the meeting virtually after he performed the last rites of his mother Heeraben who passed away early morning. PM Modi also virtually inaugurated multiple projects of the Indian Railways. The National Ganga Council has been given the overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries. Recently, the Namami Gange initiative has been recognised by the United Nations (UN) as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagships programmes aimed at reviving the natural world. The award was received by G. Asok Kumar, the Director General of the Namami Gange project during a function at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada on World Restoration Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – chaired the 2nd National Ganga Council meeting held in Kolkata
- First National Ganga Council meeting – held in 2019 in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- 'Namami Gange' initiative – recognised by UN as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagships programmes at COP15
- Namami Gange initiative: Started in – 2014 | DG – G. Asok Kumar

30. On December 27, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurated the Interpol Liaison Officers Workshop organised by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in New Delhi. The workshop, on the subject 'Letters Rogatory (LRs)/ Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) and Extradition matters', was attended by Interpol Liaison Officers (ILOs) from States, Union Territories, CBI and other law enforcement agencies. Moreover, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designed a new online portal for Mutual Legal Assistant Treaty (MLAT)/ Letter Rogatory (LR) requests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla – inaugurated the ‘Interpol Liaison Officers Workshop’ in New Delhi
- The workshop was organised by – CBI
- MHA – designed a new online portal for Mutual Legal Assistant Treaty (MLAT) / Letter Rogatory (LR) requests
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal | Motto – “Industry, Impartiality, Integrity”
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

31. On December 31, 147th International Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS) began at its international headquarters in Adyar, Chennai. The theme of this conference was “Our Responsibility in the Interconnected World”. Spain, Mexico, and the Netherlands, among others, shared their messages of love and support towards the convention and its members. The convention, which continued till January 4 saw a mix of lectures, interactive workshops and a classical dance performance by Malavika Sarukkai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 147th International Convention of Theosophical Society (TS) – held in Chennai, TN
- Theme of the conference – “Our Responsibility in the Interconnected World
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

32. On December 22, National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) recently organized an AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue). The session was chaired by Shri Abhishek Singh, President & CEO, NeGD. The panellists discussed the importance of and approaches for enabling access to quality datasets for AI. The recently released report “Unlocking Potential of India’s Open Data” was also discussed during this session. NASSCOM, MeitY along with industry partners such as Fractal, Microsoft, Infosys, IDFC Institute, TCS & Amazon had constituted the Data Taskforce in 2021 to suggest ways to unlock the potential of India’s Open Government Data. The AI Pe Charcha series has been initiated as a part of Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE), India’s first global AI summit, which was organized by MeitY in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NeGD (MeitY) – organized “AI Pe Charcha” – chaired by Abhishek Singh (President & CEO of NeGD)
- The ‘AI Pe Charcha’ series has been initiated as a part of RAISE (**R**esponsible **AI** for **S**ocial **E**mpowerment)
- HQs of NeGD – New Delhi | President & CEO – Abhishek Singh | Founded in – 2009 | Works under – MeitY



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. On December 1, in the 2nd edition of “2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500” list, Reliance Industries (Valued at Rs 17.25 lakh Cr) emerged as the most valuable listed company followed by Tata Consultancy Services (valued at Rs 11.68 lakh Cr). HDFC Bank, ranked at number three, was valued at Rs 8.33 lakh Cr. To make it to the ‘2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500’ list, companies were required to have a minimum value of Rs 6,000 Cr (\$725 million). The top line of these 500 companies is equivalent to 29% of India’s GDP, and they employ up to 1.5% of the country’s total workforce. According to the report, women make up 16% of the boards of these companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries – topped the 2nd edition of ‘2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Top 10’ list
- 2nd – TCS (Rs. 11.68 Lakh Cr) | 3rd – HDFC Bank (Rs. 8.33 Lakh Cr) | 4th – Infosys
- [HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Mukesh Ambani](#) | [Founded in – 1973](#)

2. For the first time ever, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced in 2022, most of them within their own countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) report titled “Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: A Development Approach to Solutions”. At the end of 2021, there were over 59 million people forcibly displaced within their own countries due to conflict, violence, disasters and climate change. By 2050, climate change could force more than an estimated 216 million people to move within their own countries, according to World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: A Development Approach to Solutions” report – released by UNDP
- For the first time, over 100 million people were forcibly displaced (most of them within their own countries)
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, US](#) | [Administrator – Achim Steiner](#) | [Founded in – 1965](#)

3. In the latest “Aviation Safety Rankings” released by The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), India’s position has jumped to the 48th place from the 102nd spot in 2018. The ranking, which also places it ahead of China (49), is the highest ever received by India, according to DGCA officials. The rankings are for 187 countries and assessments were done at different points of time. With a score of 85.49% each, India and Georgia are at the 48th position. The rankings are topped by Singapore with a score of 99.69%. It is followed by the UAE (98.8%) and the Republic of Korea (98.24%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Aviation Safety Rankings” – released by the ICAO
- India – ranked 48th (from 102nd in 2018) | 1st – Singapore, 2nd – UAE, 3rd – Republic of Korea
- India shared 48th position with Georgia (85.49% score each)
- [HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada](#) | [Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano](#) | [Members – 193](#)

4. Road traffic injuries are the second leading cause of death among children aged 5-14 years, according to the report titled “Preventing Injuries and Violence: An Overview” released by the World Health Organization (WHO). Around 96,559 children in the age group 5-14 years lost their lives in 2019 due to road traffic injuries. Road traffic injuries were the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29 years with 2,71,990 losing their lives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Preventing Injuries and Violence: An Overview” – released by WHO
- Road traffic injuries were the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29 years
- Road traffic injuries were the second leading cause of death among children aged 5-14 years



5. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as the second largest importer of tea from India after the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a block. During the period from January to September 2022, UAE imported 28.58 million kilograms of tea from India, a rise of 159% from the similar nine-month period of 2021. During the nine months from January to September 2022, total exports of Indian tea stood at 165.58 million kilograms, higher than 142.55 million kilograms in 2021 in the same period. Assam is the largest producer of tea in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – 2nd largest importer of tea from India | Top – Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a block
- UAE – imported 28.58 million kg of tea from India, rise of 159% from 2021 (Jan-Sep)
- Largest tea producer in India – Assam
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

6. According to a data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on December 1, India's unemployment rate increased to a three-month high at 8% during November. The unemployment rate in urban India was at 8.96%, while in rural areas, it was at 7.55%. Haryana had the highest unemployment rate in November at 30.6%, followed by Rajasthan at 24.5%, Jammu and Kashmir at 23.9%, Bihar at 17.3% and Tripura at 14.5%. Chhattisgarh (0.1%), Uttarakhand (1.2%), Odisha (1.6%), Karnataka (1.8%) and Meghalaya (2.1%) witnessed the least unemployment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's unemployment rate according to CMIE data:
- Overall – 8% | Urban – 8.96% | Rural – 7.55%
- Highest unemployment rate in November – Haryana (30.6%) | Followed by Rajasthan at 24.5%, J & K at 23.9%
- Least unemployment – Chhattisgarh (0.1%)

7. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20, according to the "Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2018-20" released by the office of the Registrar General of India. Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy. The target 3.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations aims at reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births. In India, Kerala has the lowest MMR of 19 per lakh live births followed by Maharashtra (33) and Telangana (43). Assam has the highest MMR of 195. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2018-20" – released by the office of the Registrar General of India
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20 (from 130 in 2014-16)
- Lowest MMR – Kerala (19) | Highest MMR – Assam (195)

8. NITI Aayog released the "Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India". The report was launched by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery. The report was prepared by M. N. Dastur & Company Pvt Ltd on the valuable inputs provided by the various stakeholders from the Energy and Power Sector (E&P). The purpose of CCUS policy framework is to develop and implement a practicable framework to accelerate research and development on carbon capture, utilisation and storage in India. As India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US. The government of India has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released "Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Policy Framework & its Deployment Mechanism in India"
- The report was launched by – Suman Bery | Prepared by – M. N. Dastur & Company
- India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO₂ in the world (after China & US)



9. India ranks 8th among the countries that are at the highest risk for mass killing in 2022 and 2023, according to the “Early Warning Project 2022-2023” released by the US-based research organisations in December 2022. There is a 7.4% or approximately one in 14 chance of a new mass killing beginning in India in 2022-2023. The Project is a joint initiative of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College. A mass killing, as per the report, is 1,000 or more civilians deliberately killed by armed forces over a period of a year or less, because of their membership in a particular group. Pakistan topped the list, followed by Yemen & Myanmar among all 162 countries. India has performed worse than Sudan (9th), Somalia (10th), Syria (11th), Iraq (12th), and Zimbabwe (14th rank). According to the 2021-2022 report, India was ranked in the second position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Early Warning Project 2022-2023”
 - India ranks 8th among the countries that are at the highest risk for mass killing in 2022-23 (from 2nd in 2021-22)
 - There is a 7.4% or approximately one in 14 chance of a new mass killing beginning in India in 2022-2023
 - Pakistan topped the list, followed by Yemen & Myanmar among all 162 countries

10. The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 243, followed by railways at 114 and the petroleum sector at 89, as per the latest “Flash Report on Infrastructure Projects for October 2022” by Government of India. The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 crore and above based on the information provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) by the project implementing agencies. The IPMD comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The report showed that the Muneerabad-Mahaboobnagar rail project is the most-delayed project. It is delayed by 276 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Flash Report on Infrastructure Projects for October 2022” – released by Government of India
- Maximum No. of delayed projects – Road Transport & Highways (243) | Followed by – Railways (114) & Petroleum (89)
- Most-delayed project – Muneerabad-Mahaboobnagar Rail Project
- IPMD is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 Cr & above
- IPMD – comes under Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

11. 87.1 lakh new formal jobs were created across India in the first half of the ongoing financial year 2022-23 (H1 FY23), according to an analysis of the data put out by the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). This is a 35% increase compared to the year-ago period. In the first halves of FY21 and FY22, 24.6 lakh and 64.72 lakh formal jobs were created in the country, respectively. In this fiscal, most jobs were created in September - 16.82 lakh. EPFO data shows that a major proportion of these jobs were created in the Expert Services sector. More than 36 lakh jobs were included in the category, which consists manpower agencies, private security agencies and small contractors. It is then followed by Trading-Commercial Establishments and Engineering. Maharashtra created the maximum number of jobs, followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EPFO’s Data: 87.1 lakh new formal jobs were created across India in H1 FY23 (35% increase compared to H1 FY22)
- Maximum Jobs were created in: Sector – Expert Services sector | State – Maharashtra

12. Financing for nature-based solutions (NbS) needs to be doubled to deal with multiple global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, according to the “State of Finance for Nature Report 2022” released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) along with the Economics of Land Degradation initiative of Germany, UNCCD, and European Commission, on December 1, 2022. The current global investments in NbS are around \$154 billion (Rs 12,49.44 crore) per year, which needs to be increased to \$384 billion by 2025, according to the report. The IMF warns of the ‘darkest hour’ in 2023 for global growth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of Finance for Nature Report 2022” – released by UNEP
- Current global investments in NbS are around \$154 billion per year, which needs to be increased to \$384 billion by 2025
- [HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya](#) | [Executive Director – Inger Andersen](#) | [Founded in – 1972](#)

13. On December 7, the World Bank released the report, titled “Navigating the Storm”, India Development Report. World Bank raised its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% in FY23, citing the economy’s increased resilience to global shocks. The report stated that while India’s growth prospects will be affected by the deteriorating external environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Development Report titled “Navigating the Storm” – released by World Bank
- World Bank raised its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% in FY23
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

14. The report titled “Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector” was recently released by World Bank. The report says, as temperatures steadily rise in India due to climate change, keeping spaces cool using alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies can open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040. This also has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly and create nearly 3.7 million jobs. The report finds that shifting to a more energy efficient pathway could lead to a substantial reduction in expected CO2 levels over the next two decades. The report suggests that a sustainable roadmap for cooling has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040. By 2030, over 160-200 million people across the country could be exposed to lethal heat waves annually. Around 34 million people in India will face job losses due to heat stress related productivity decline. The current food loss due to heat during transportation is close to \$13 billion annually. India aims to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons, used as coolants in air conditioners and refrigerators by 2047. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector” report – released by World Bank
- In India, Keeping spaces cool using alternative & innovative energy efficient technologies can open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040
- A sustainable roadmap for cooling has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040
- The current food loss due to heat during transportation is close to \$13 billion annually
- India aims to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 2047
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

15. On December 6, Black soils, which feed the global population, are under threat, with most losing at least half of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks, according to the report titled “Global Status of Black Soils” released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This is the first such report, released on the occasion of World Soil Day, December 5, 2022. Black soils constitute 5.6% of global soils and contain 8.2% of the world’s SOC stocks: Approximately 56 billion tonnes of carbon. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Global Status of Black Soils” report – released by FAO
- Black soils constitute 5.6% of global soils and contain 8.2% of the world’s SOC stocks
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

16. World Bank released its 37th “Migration and Development Brief 2022”. According to the report, remittance flows to India will rise 12%, putting its inflows ahead of China, Mexico and the Philippines. India is the world’s top recipient of remittances. Migrant workers from India are set to send home a record \$100 billion in 2022. Growth in remittance flows is estimated at 0.7% in East Asia and the Pacific. In 2022, for the first time a single country, India, is on track to receive more than \$100 billion in yearly remittances. Moreover, remittances to South Asia grew an estimated 3.5% to \$163 billion in 2022. Planning for safe and regular migration as a part of adaptation strategies is required for managing displacement in the affected regions as well as the influx of people in the receiving communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 37th “Migration and Development Brief 2022” – released by World Bank
- India – world’s top recipient of remittances
- India – to receive a record \$100 billion remittance in 2022 with 12% rise (ahead of China, Mexico & Philippines)
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

17. Six Indians have made it to the Forbes’ annual list of “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” released on December 7, 2022. They are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (36), HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (53), SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (54), SAIL Chairperson Soma Mondal (67), Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72), and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar (89). The list includes 39 CEOs, 10 heads of state, and 11 billionaires. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list, followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, and US Vice President Kamala Harris at 2nd & 3rd positions, respectively. At rank 100, Iran’s Jina ‘Mahsa’ Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 Indian Women made it to the 19th “World’s 100 Most Powerful Women List 2022” by Forbes:
 - Nirmala Sitharaman (36) – Finance Minister
 - Roshni Nadar Malhotra (53) – HCLTech Chairperson
 - Madhabi Puri Buch (54) – SEBI Chairperson
 - Soma Mondal (67) – SAIL Chairperson
 - Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72) – Biocon Executive Chairperson
 - Falguni Nayar (89) – Nykaa Founder

18. On December 7, Time magazine named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky & ‘The Spirit of Ukraine’ as “Person of the Year 2022”. He inspired Ukrainians and won global accolades for his courage in resisting Russia’s devastating invasion. Tesla’s CEO Elon Musk was named Time’s “Person of the Year” in 2021. Time magazine began this tradition in 1927. Moreover, the Time magazine also announced the “Heroes of the Year 2022” are the ‘Women of Iran’ for their movement and commitment to the cause. Gregory Robinson (Former NASA Administrator) and The James Webb Telescope were recognised as “Innovators of the Year 2022”. Besides, Blackpink, K-Pop band, made history by becoming the first girl group to win TIME Magazine’s “Entertainer of the Year 2022” title. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Time Magazine's "Person of the Year 2022" – Volodymyr Zelensky (Ukrainian President) & 'The Spirit of Ukraine'
- Time Magazine's "Heroes of the Year 2022" – Women of Iran
- Time Magazine's "Innovators of the Year 2022" – Gregory Robinson (NASA) & The James Webb Telescope (NASA)
- Time Magazine's "Entertainer of the Year 2022" – Blackpink (South Korean girls' K-Pop band group)

19. Passport Index 2022 published by Arton Capital ranked the world's strongest and weakest passports. India ranked 87 in the world's strongest passport list, while UAE ranked first in the rating of passports for 2022. With a UAE passport travellers can enter to 180 countries hassle-free. UAE was followed by Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain France. While Afghanistan stood last, Pakistan stood at 94. Japan ranked 24 as it had easy access to 171 countries. Japan's passport was ranked as the world's best earlier this year in a list published by Henley & Partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Passport Index 2022" published by Arton Capital
- India – 87th | 1st – UAE, 2nd – Germany, 3rd – Sweden
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

20. Global renewable power capacity is set to double over the next 5 years, driven by energy security concerns in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, announced by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in an annual report on the Outlook for Renewables. The IEA stated that renewable power capacity worldwide is expected to grow by 2,400 gigawatts (GW), which is equal to the entire power capacity of China, by 2027. Renewables are set to account for over 90% of global electricity expansion over the next 5 years, overtaking coal, to become the largest source of global electricity by early 2025. Global solar photovoltaic capacity is set to almost triple by 2027, becoming the largest source of power capacity in the world, while wind capacity is set to almost double. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Annual Report on the Outlook for Renewables' – released by the IEA
- Global Renewable Power Capacity is set to double over the next 5 years (to grow by 2,400 GW by 2027)
- Renewables are set to become the largest source of global electricity by early 2025
- Global solar photovoltaic capacity is set to almost triple by 2027, becoming the largest source of power capacity
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

21. Two Indian manufacturers of weapons and providers of military services retained their place in SIPRI's "2021 Top 100 Defence Companies List" released on December 5, 2022. The two companies are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at rank 42 and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) at rank 63 in the list of 100 companies. In 2020, HAL was ranked 42nd, BEL was placed at rank 66th and OFB at 60th place. The total arms sales of the world's Top 100 totalled \$592 billion in 2021. Country-wise, in the 2021 list, US companies topped with a share of 51% of the total arms sales, followed by Chinese companies with 18%, and UK firms with 6.8%. India is the world's second-biggest importer of weapons after Saudi Arabia and is also the world's third-biggest spender on defence after the US and China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2021 Top 100 Defence Companies List" – released by SIPRI
- Two Indian Companies (HAL at 42 & BEL 66) – featured in the list which was dominated by firms from US, China & UK
- India is the world's 2nd-biggest importer of weapons (after Saudi Arabia), and 3rd-biggest spender on defence



22. The World Trade Organization (WTO) released the “Goods Trade Barometer” which states that the Global Economy, hit by strong headwinds and weakening import demand, may see slowdown in trade growth in December 2022 and into 2023. The Barometer provides real-time information on the trajectory of world trade relative to recent trends. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Goods Trade Barometer” – released by World Trade Organization
- Goods Trade Barometer: Global Economy may see slowdown in trade growth in December 2022 and into 2023
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members – 164 | Founded – 1995

23. According to the International Energy Agency’s (IEA) latest report, India is set to double its new RE capacity installations over 2022-27 with the addition of 145 GW, led by solar PV to achieve the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. Solar PV accounts for 75% of this growth, followed by onshore wind with 15%, and hydropower providing almost all the rest. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) said in a report that the share of generation from renewable energy in the country’s total generation mix, which stood at 22.1% during FY22, is likely to increase to 40.9% during FY30. So far, a total of 172.72 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources has been installed in the country as of October 2022, which includes 119.09 GW of RE, 46.85 GW of large hydro, and 6.78 GW of nuclear power capacity. This has a share of 42.26% of the total installed generation capacity in the country (408.71 GW). Moreover, Production Linked Incentives (PLI) initiative closes nearly 80% of Indian manufacturers’ investment cost gap with the lowest-cost manufacturers in China. From January to September 2022, India auctioned over 8 GW of renewable capacity, 30% below the average for these months in 2019-2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to latest IEA report:
- India is set to double its new RE capacity installations over 2022-27 with the addition of 145 GW
- India is set to achieve the target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030
- Solar PV accounts for 75% of this growth, followed by onshore wind with 15% & hydropower providing all the rest
- Generation from RE in India stood at 22.1% during FY22 & is likely to increase to 40.9% during FY30
- Non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity installed (Oct 22) – 172.72 GW (119.09GW RE + 46.85GW hydro + 6.78GW nuclear)
- Total installed generation capacity in India – 408.71 GW
- Lowest-cost for manufacturing Non-fossil fuel-based energy – China
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

24. Three Indian billionaires - Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar, and Ashok Soota, as well as Malaysian-Indian businessman Brahma Vasudevan and his lawyer wife Shanthi Kandiah, were named in the 16th edition of “Forbes Asia’s Heroes of Philanthropy List” released on December 6. Adani was listed for having pledged ₹60,000 crore (\$7.7 billion) when he turned 60 in June, 2022. Shiv Nadar donated ₹11,600 crore (\$142 million) to the foundation he established in 1994. While Ashok Soota has pledged ₹600 crore (\$75 million) to the medical research trust he founded in April 2021 for the study of ageing and neurological illnesses. Soota started SKAN (Scientific Knowledge for Ageing and Neurological) ailments, with a ₹200 Crore outlay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th edition of “Forbes Asia’s Heroes of Philanthropy List” – released on December 6
- 3 Indians on the list: Gautam Adani (₹60,000 Cr), Shiv Nadar (₹11,600 Cr) & Ashok Soota (₹600 Cr)
- 3 Malaysian-Indians on the list: Brahma Vasudevan & Shanthi Kandiah



25. New York and Singapore have jointly emerged as the most expensive cities to live in, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) "Worldwide Cost of Living Report 2022". Tel Aviv, which topped the rankings last year, was ranked at third position, followed by Hong Kong and Los Angeles. And there is no city on second place. The Syrian capital Damascus and Libya's Tripoli are the world's cheapest places to live in. The cost of living in 172 of the world's major cities was an average 8.1% over the past year. Indian cities - Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru were among the bottom 10 positions, ranking at 165th, 164th and 161st, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Worldwide Cost of Living Report 2022" – released by EIU (UK)
- Most Expensive Cities to live in: 1st – New York & Singapore, 3rd – Tel Aviv, 4th – Hong Kong & Los Angeles
- Top 3 Most Expensive Indian Cities: Bengaluru (161st), Chennai (164th), Ahmedabad (165th)

26. The value of global trade is set to reach a new record in 2022, increasing by about 12% to an estimated \$32 trillion, according to the "Global Trade Update" released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in December 2022. Trade in merchandise goods soared to \$25 trillion, an increase of about 10%. Trade in services grew 15% year-over-year to nearly \$7 trillion, according to the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Global Trade Update" – released by UNCTAD
- Value of global trade is estimated at \$32 trillion in 2022, registering an increase of about 12%
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebeca Grynspan | Established in – 1964

27. According to the "India Skills Report (ISR) 2023" released by Wheebox, B.Com and MBA programmes are expected to become the most popular in 2023, with the most employable talent at 60.62% and 60.1%, respectively. Additionally, with an employability rate of 57.44% in the BE/B.Tech domain, candidates are the third most employable overall. Mumbai, Lucknow & Mangalore were the cities with the most employable talent and Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi were the most preferred cities for work by graduates. Rajasthan was reported to have the greatest percentage of employable females who were prepared for the workforce (53.56%), followed by Uttar Pradesh with 46.51% of employable women. According to the survey, the BFSI, pharmaceutical, e-commerce, and IT/ITES sectors are driving the demand for skilled labour in the skills market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India Skills Report (ISR) 2023" – released by Wheebox
- B. Com (60.62%) & MBA (60.1%) programmes are expected to become the most popular in 2023
- BE/B.Tech domain (57.44%) will be the 3rd most employable overall
- Cities with the most employable talent – Mumbai, Lucknow & Mangalore
- Most preferred cities for work by graduates – Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi
- Rajasthan (53.56%) – reported the greatest percentage of employable females | Followed by – UP (46.51%)

28. Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh revealed that India had jumped from 7th in 2010 to 3rd in 2020 in global scientific publications and scholarly output, according to a report by America's National Science Foundation (NSF). India's scholarly output increased from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1,49,213 papers in 2020. India also ranks 3rd globally in the number of PhDs produced annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to NSF (US): India – ranked 3rd in 'Global Scientific Publications and Scholarly Output in 2020'
- India also ranks 3rd globally in the number of PhDs produced annually



29. Global monthly wages in real terms fell to -0.9% in the first half (H1) of 2022, according to the “Global Wage Report 2022-23” released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This is the first time this century that real global wage growth has been negative. The crisis is reducing the purchasing power of the middle classes and hitting low-income households particularly hard. Real wages in emerging G20 countries grew by 0.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Wage Report 2022-23” – released by the ILO
- Global monthly wages in real terms fell in the H1 2022 – to (-0.9%) | grew by 0.8% in emerging G20 countries
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Gilbert F. Houngbo | Founded in – 1919

30. Gautam Adani has topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during 2022, according to the 6th “Bloomberg 50” report. The report considers those in business, politics, science and technology, finance and entertainment whose accomplishments deserve recognition. Gautam Adani, 60, is the world's third-richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$134 billion. He’s been the busiest dealmaker this year, acquiring assets such as Swiss cement giant Holcim Ltd’s India units for \$10 billion. The Bloomberg report has taken into account the USD 49 billion surge in Adani's wealth during 2022, which has helped put him ahead of billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th “Bloomberg 50” report – released on December 16, 2022
- Gautam Adani – topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during 2022
- Gautam Adani has been the busiest dealmaker in the world during 2022

31. World Bank released the report titled, “Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia”. South Asia is home to 9 of the world’s 10 cities with the worst air pollution, which causes an estimated 2 million premature deaths across the region each year and incurs significant economic costs. The report gives a detailed overview of current pollution levels, government policies and a roadmap to achieve air pollution goals. According to the report, in South Asia, nearly 60% of the population lives in areas where concentrations of PM2.5 exceed an annual mean of 35 µg/m³. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia” – released by World Bank
- South Asia is home to 9 of the world’s 10 cities with the worst air pollution
- Air pollution causes an estimated 2 million premature deaths each year across South Asia
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

32. India, along with China, is the world’s largest coal producer, consumer and importer. Its own coal production will surpass 1 billion tonnes by 2025, as per the “Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). In 2021, coal production in India reached 800 million tonnes for the first time. Also, India’s coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an annual growth rate of 6%. Global coal consumption would climb by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion metric tonnes annually for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025” – released by the IEA
- India, along with China, is the world’s largest coal producer, consumer & importer
- India’s coal production will surpass 1 billion tonnes by 2025 | In 2021, it reached 800 million tonnes for the first time
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30



33. On December 20, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the “Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India”. India secured the 110th global rank among tier 4 countries with a score of 60.19. While Norway topped the index with a score of 90.74 among tier-1 countries i.e. high income countries. In India, Puducherry achieved the highest SPI score of 65.99 under the Tier 1. The report has been prepared by Institute for Competitiveness, headed by Dr Amit Kapoor and the Social Progress Imperative, headed by Michael Green. SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels. SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. The report was released by Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development of India, and Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman of EAC-PM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India” – released by EAC-PM
- The report has been prepared by = Institute for Competitiveness + Social Progress Imperative
- Chairman of EAC-PM – Dr. Bibek Debroy
- India – secured the 110th global rank among tier 4 countries with a score of 60.19
- Norway – topped the index among tier-1 countries with a score of 90.74
- Puducherry – achieved the highest SPI score of 65.99 under the Tier 1

34. India, with overall score of 58.9, ranked 68th in the “Global Food Security Index 2022” report, released in December 2022. The 11th Global Food Security Index shows a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, threatening food security. There four pillars of GFSI - Affordability, Availability, Quality & Safety, and Sustainability & Adaption. The index is topped by Finland (83.7), followed by Ireland (81.7) & Norway (80.5). In 2022 the GFSI was dragged down by falls in two of its strongest pillars - Affordability and Food Quality & Safety. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Food Security Index 2022” report – released by The Economist
- India (58.9) – ranked 68th | 1st – Finland (83.7), 2nd – Ireland (81.7), 3rd – Norway (80.5)

35. India climbed 8 spots in the global ranking on median mobile download speeds, from 113th in October 2022 to 105th in November 2022, according to latest data released by internet testing firm Ookla. India showed an improvement in median mobile download speeds, recording 18.26 Mbps in November, up from 16.5 Mbps in October. India’s global ranking on overall median fixed broadband speeds decreased by a spot to the 80th position in November from 79th in October. Qatar reported the fastest median mobile download speed of 176.18 Mbps in November 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (18.26 Mbps) – ranked 105th in the Global ranking on median mobile download speeds by Ookla (in Nov 2022)
- Top – Qatar (176.18 Mbps)
- India’s global ranking on overall median fixed broadband speeds (in Nov 2022) – 80th

36. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has been ranked No. 1 in India and 121st worldwide for being the most sustainable university, in the “UI Green Metric World University Rankings 2022” released by the Universitas Indonesia (UI). In 2022, 1050 universities from 85 countries participated. MAHE’s total score for this year was 8,050 with six criteria: Setting and Infrastructure, Education and Research, Energy and Climate Change, Waste, Water, and Transportation. MAHE is followed by Karnataka’s Mangalore University & Tamil Nadu’s S. R. M. University. Globally, the list was topped by Wageningen University & Research of the Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “UI Green Metric World University Rankings 2022” – released by the Universitas Indonesia
- MAHE – ranked No. 1 in India and 121st worldwide | In India: 2nd – Mangalore University, 3rd – S. R. M. University
- Wageningen University & Research of the Netherlands – ranked No. 1 in the world

37. Meghalaya topped across India with average monthly income per agricultural household (Rs 29,348), as per the 77th round of the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the Rural Areas of India. Meghalaya is followed by Punjab (Rs 26,701) and Haryana (Rs 22,841). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 77th round of Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the Rural Areas of India:
 - 1st – Meghalaya (Rs 29,348), 2nd – Punjab (Rs 26,701), 3rd – Haryana (Rs 22,841)

38. On December 20, the World Bank released a report titled “2022 in Nine Charts”. The world is in its ‘steepest slowdown’ since 1970 and 685 million people could be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2022. As per the report, 7% of the world’s population (almost 574 million) will be in extreme poverty in 2030, shorter than the global goal of 3% set by the World Bank earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2022 in Nine Charts” – released by World Bank
- 685 million people could be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2022 *{dynamic data}*
- 7% of the world’s population (almost 574 million) will be in extreme poverty in 2030 *{dynamic data}*
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

39. On December 22, the ‘Annual Census of Dolphins’ began in Odisha’s Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary. Over 100 wildlife experts conducted the headcount in a three-day exercise. The exercise was conducted using the ‘Transact Survey Method’, followed worldwide. The Odisha coast has emerged as an ideal habitat for dolphins with an impressive rise of 33% in their population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Annual Census of Dolphins’ began in Odisha’s Bhitarkanika National Park & Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary
- The exercise was conducted using the ‘Transact Survey Method’
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

40. In December 2022, “World Malaria Report 2022” was released by the World Health Organization (WHO). There were an estimated 6,19,000 deaths due to malaria in 2021, which is 6,000 or 1% fewer than that of in 2020. There were an estimated 247 million cases of malaria in 2021, compared to 245 million in 2020. COVID-related disruptions led to an additional 63,000 malaria deaths and 13 million cases. In 2021, India accounted for about 79% of all malaria cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Malaria Report 2022” – released by the WHO
- There were an estimated 247 million cases & 6,19,000 deaths due to malaria in 2021
- India accounted for about 79% of all malaria cases in 2021
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948



41. Uttar Pradesh (75) has the largest number of Centrally Protected Monuments which have been encroached upon, closely followed by Tamil Nadu (74), the Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy told in the Rajya Sabha on December 24. Karnataka is at third position with 48 such monuments. Uttar Pradesh also has the largest number of Centrally Protected monuments in the country at 743, while Tamil Nadu has 412. A total of 356 such heritage structures are intruded into, across India. India has a total of 3,695 Centrally Protected Monuments or Sites, under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The ASI regulates construction around the protected monuments through the “Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Act, 2010”. The Act prohibits the construction in 100 metres around a protected monument. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP (75) – has the largest number of Centrally Protected Monuments which have been encroached upon
- 2nd – Tamil Nadu (74), 3rd – Karnataka (48)
- UP – also has the largest number of Centrally Protected Monuments in India (out of 3,695 across India)
- The construction is prohibited in 100 metres around such protected monuments

42. In December 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the report titled, “Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)”. This 5th edition of the report is based on 2020 data from 87 countries. The report showed that over 50% of life-threatening bacterial infections are becoming resistant to treatment. The high levels of resistance to treatment were reported in bacteria. Within the context of national testing coverage, the report, for the first time, analyses antimicrobial resistance (AMR) rates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of “Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)” report – released by the WHO
- Over 50% of life-threatening bacterial infections are becoming resistant to treatment
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

43. Northern India has emerged as the most favoured spiritual travel destination followed by Southern, Western and Eastern regions in the country, as per the “OYO Cultural Travel 2022 Roundup Report” released by global hospitality chain, OYO. Regarded as the spiritual capital of India, Varanasi, emerged as the top religious destination across India. This was followed by Tirupati, Puri, Amritsar and Haridwar, as per the report. In the West zone, Shirdi received the maximum traction from travellers. Goa was the most favoured destinations in East India. An estimated 24% Indians took at least one vacation every month in the year 2022 alone, greater than the global average of 11%, revealed a ‘Travel Style Network Survey’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cultural Travel 2022 Roundup Report” – released by OYO
- Region-wise: Northern India emerged as the most favoured spiritual travel destination
- City-wise: Varanasi emerged as the top religious destination across India
- ‘Travel Style Network Survey’: 24% Indians took at least one vacation every month in 2022 (global average - 11%)

44. 20 Indian companies, up 8 from last year, are among the 500 most-valuable companies in the world, as per the “2022 Hurun Global 500” List released by Hurun Research in December 2022. With a valuation of \$202 billion, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) was the most valuable Indian company on the list. Globally, it was the 34th biggest company. Apple, worth \$2.4 trillion, was the most valuable company globally, followed by Microsoft with a value of \$1.8 trillion. While Alphabet was ranked at third place with a value of \$1.3 trillion. Tata Consultancy Services, valued at \$139 billion, was the second most valuable Indian company on the list, followed by HDFC Bank with the valuation of \$202 billion. RIL and TCS were the only Indian companies to feature in the top 100. Saudi Aramco was the world’s most valuable listed state-controlled company, with a total value of \$2.03 trillion. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 20 Indian companies – featured in the “2022 Hurun Global 500” List
- In India: 1st – RIL (34th globally), 2nd – TCS, 3rd – HDFC Bank
- Globally: 1st – Apple (\$2.4 trillion), 2nd – Microsoft (\$1.8 trillion), 3rd – Alphabet (\$1.3 trillion)
- Saudi Aramco – the world’s most valuable listed ‘state-controlled company’ (with \$2.03 trillion)

45. In December 2022, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) kickstarted the ground survey of Pey Jal Survekshan. Pey Jal Survekshan was launched by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, on 09th September, 2022, under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0. The Survey will serve as a monitoring tool and an accelerator for the AMRUT Mission while also fostering healthy competition among cities. Water utility services, used water utility services, water bodies, Non-Revenue Water (NRW) estimation, best practices and innovation are the key focus areas. The outcome of the Survekshan will reflect the status of water security in the ULBs and will help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)- 6. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – kickstarted the ground survey of ‘Pey Jal Survekshan’
- Pey Jal Survekshan – launched by Hardeep Singh Puri in Sep, 2022 under ‘AMRUT 2.0’
- AMRUT – Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

46. The two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu, with \$7.1 million (Rs 59 Cr approx.), was named the world’s 12th highest-paid female athlete in 2022 by Forbes in its “List of World’s Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2022”. The list was led by Japanese tennis sensation and four-time Major winner Naomi Osaka for the third year in a row, who accumulated a total wealth of \$51.1 million. 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams, an American inactive professional tennis player, stood second with \$41.3 million, followed by China’s 19-year-old freestyle skier Eileen Gu at third spot on the list with \$20.1 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “List of World’s Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2022” – released by Forbes (in Dec’22)
- P. V. Sindhu – named the world’s 12th highest-paid female athlete in 2022 by Forbes
- Globally: 1st – Naomi Osaka (Japan), 2nd – Serena Williams (US), 3rd – Eileen Gu (China)

47. On December 20, Jammu & Kashmir generated the greatest number of jobs among all the states and Union territories under the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the current fiscal year. The credit-linked subsidy scheme facilitates employment generation opportunities by assisting in setting up of new self-employment projects and microenterprises in the non-farm sector. Under the central sector scheme notified in 2008, 62,808 jobs were created by 7,851 assisted projects in Jammu & Kashmir till November 30, 2022, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. However, in terms of the amount of subsidy disbursed under the scheme, Uttar Pradesh got the highest amount disbursed, followed by Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka. The scheme by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), functioning as the nodal agency at the national level. The Centre spent Rs 1900 Cr and Rs 3,000 Cr in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively, under the scheme. It has budgeted Rs 2,500 Cr for the current financial year (FY23). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- J & K – generated the greatest number of jobs among all the states & UTS under ‘PMEGP’ in FY23
- J & K was followed by – Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu
- Uttar Pradesh – received the highest amount of subsidy disbursed under the ‘PMEGP’ in FY23
- UP was followed by – J & K and Karnataka
- PMEGP scheme belongs to Ministry of MSME & it is implemented by KVIC | PMEGP Budget for FY23 – Rs 2500 Cr

48. According to Taste Atlas Awards, India ranks 5th on the list of “Best Cuisines in the World for 2022”. The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes and beverages. Italy topped the list, followed by Greece & Spain. According to Taste Atlas, India has received 4.54 points. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Best Cuisines in the World for 2022” – by Taste Atlas Awards
- India – ranked 5th | 1st – Italy, 2nd – Greece, 3rd – Spain

49. In December 2022, the “World Economic League Table (WELT) 2023” was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). In the WELT 2022, India was ranked at 5th place. By 2035, India is forecast to become the world’s 3rd \$10 trillion dollar economy. The USA has topped the WELT 2022 followed by China & Japan. India had an estimated PPP-adjusted GDP per capita of \$8,293 in 2022, classifying it as a lower middle-income country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Economic League Table (WELT) 2023” – released by CEBR (UK)
- WELT 2022: 1st – USA, 2nd – China, 3rd – Japan, 4th – Germany, 5th – India
- As per WELT 2023: India is forecast to become the world’s 3rd \$10 trillion dollar economy by 2035

50. The “State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa” was released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2022. The report included data from all 23 countries in the UNFPA East and Southern Africa (ESA) region. In East and Southern Africa (ESA), universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions could save 1.2 million lives per year by 2035, according to the new report. A strong midwifery workforce is essential to the success of UNFPA strategies for improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health (SRMNAH). SRMNAH is an essential component of UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of the 23 ESA countries, 20 countries reported, there are 1,46,000 midwives, giving a density of 2.5 midwives per 10,000 population. The global average of midwives is 4.4 per 10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa” – released by WHO + UNFPA
- Universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions could save 1.2 million lives per year by 2035 in ESA region
- Average of midwives in 20 reporting countries – 2.5 midwives per 10,000 population (global average - 4.4 per 10,000)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem



51. On December 29, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) released its annual report titled “Road Accidents in India - 2021”. India witnessed as many as 4,12,432 road accidents in 2021 in which 1,53,972 people were killed, while 3,84,448 individuals were injured. Road accidents increased by 12.6% y-o-y in 2021. There was a rise of 16.9% y-o-y in fatalities and 10.39% y-o-y in injuries due to road accidents during 2021. Over-speeding killed 1,07,236 individuals in 2021, the highest among all causes of road accidents. According to the World Health Organization, at least 1 out of 10 people killed on roads across the world is from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Road Accidents in India - 2021” – released by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- India witnessed as many as 4,12,432 road accidents, 1,53,972 fatalities & 3,84,448 injuries in 2021
- Y-o-Y rise in 2021: Road accidents – by 12.6%, Fatalities – by 16.9%, Injuries – by 10.39%
- According to the WHO: at least 1 out of 10 people killed on roads across the world is from India

52. The State Information Commission of Tamil Nadu has been the worst performing as far as responsiveness under the RTI Act is concerned, furnishing only 14% of the information sought, as per the report “Performance of Information Commissions (ICs) in India for 2021-22” by the Satark Nagrik Sangathan. Maharashtra was second-worst performing state. The SIC of Bihar significantly improved its performance and furnished 67% of the information sought. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh returned around 40% of the appeals or complaints received by them. There are total 29 Information Commissions (ICs) in India, including 28 State Information Commissions (SICs) and a Central Information Commission (CIC).

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Performance of Information Commissions (ICs) in India for 2021-22” – released by Satark Nagrik Sangathan
- SIC of Tamil Nadu (14%) – the worst performing state in terms of RTI responsiveness | Best – SIC of Bihar (67%)
- There are total 29 Information Commissions (ICs) in India (28 SICs + 1 CIC)



Amount & Agreements

1. The governments of India and South Korea signed a loan agreement from EDCF to establish an Intelligent Transport System on the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project. It is an Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan worth Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 Cr). The bilateral relationship between the two countries was upgraded to 'Special Strategic Partnership' in the year 2015. Republic of Korea was designated as India's Official Development Assistance (ODA) partner for development cooperation in October, 2016. This is the first project funded by EDCF loan by the Government of Republic of Korea. The Economic Development Co-operation Fund (EDCF) was established in 1987. The EDCF supports partner countries in providing of loans for their economic development. The EDCF's loans are administered by the Export-Import Bank of Korea under the supervision of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + South Korea = a loan agreement to establish an Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project
- It is the first project funded by EDCF loan by the Government of Republic of Korea
- The loan is worth – Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 Cr)
- Republic of Korea – designated as India's ODA partner for development cooperation in October 2016
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won](#) | [President – Yoon Suk-yeol](#)

2. Germany unveiled a proposal to provide €1 billion (₹8440 Cr) for energy transition projects across the country under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development. The two sides agreed on the funding for more than 20 development projects over the next year. The funding, including 10% grants and 90% in the form of lines of credit, will support India's efforts in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable urban development in smart cities and sustainable use of natural resources. The lines of credit will be provided by KfW Development Bank. Germany will also support the expansion of ecological agriculture and sustainable management of forests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Germany – proposed to provide €1 billion for energy transition projects in India for green & sustainable development
- The lines of credit will be provided by – KfW Development Bank
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

3. On December 8, Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to build new lines and improve the connectivity of Chennai Metro Rail with the city's existing bus and feeder services. The project will construct 10.1 km of the elevated section between Sholinganallur and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu-2. Multimodal interchanges and facilities will be established along metro rail corridors to improve commuter experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to expand rail network of Chennai metro
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Members – 68](#) | [Established in – 1966](#)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

4. On December 6, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$3 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to support preparatory activities for designing a project to improve municipal infrastructure in priority areas of Agartala city. Climate change mitigation and adaptation components will be incorporated into the project design during PRF implementation to ensure alignment with India's climate commitments. The proposed project aligns with the findings of the ADB's North East Economic Corridor (NEEC) study that recognizes Agartala's vital role as a key growth and border center in generating prosperity and economic growth in the northeastern region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = signed a \$3 million PRF facility to improve municipal infrastructure in Agartala city
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

5. On December 9, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed an agreement to extend up to \$200 million currency swap facility to Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This agreement will enable the MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of \$200 million from the RBI. The SAARC Currency Swap Framework came into operation on November 15, 2012. In 2020, the RBI had signed a similar pact for extending up to \$400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI + Maldives = agreement to extend up to \$200 million currency swap facility under SAARC Currency Swap Framework
- The SAARC Currency Swap Framework came into operation on – November 15, 2012
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

6. On December 9, the ADB approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support India's wide-ranging reforms that aim to strengthen and modernize the country's logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, and lower costs. The loan will finance the first sub-program of the strengthening multimodal and integrated logistics ecosystem program, which supports the government's efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city level. The program also supports the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's initiatives to issue standards for warehousing, which would encourage operational efficiency and private sector investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to strengthen Logistics Sector
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

7. On December 13, Under 'Phase-II of FAME-India Scheme', Rs 1000 Cr is allocated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries for the development of charging infrastructure. The Ministry has sanctioned 2,877 electric vehicle charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs. Further, 1576 charging stations across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under phase-II of FAME India Scheme has also been sanctioned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Heavy Industries – allocated Rs 1000 Cr under the 'Phase-II of FAME-India Scheme'
- Ministry has sanctioned 2,877 electric vehicle charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal



8. On December 13, Ministry of Education (MoE) allocated a total financial outlay of Rs. 1037.90 Cr for the implementation of New India Literacy Programme (NILP) during five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27. Out of the total financial outlay of NILP, Rs. 700 Cr is Central share and Rs. 337.90 Cr is State share. The ministry has also opted to use the phrase “Education for All” in place of “Adult Education”. The programme has five objectives: (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Vocational Skills Development, (iv) Basic Education, and (v) Continuing Education. The teaching and learning resources are accessible on the NCERT-developed DIKSHA portal. In order to make it easier for girls to attend school, under the Samagra Shiksha scheme a number of interventions have been made, including the opening of schools in the neighbourhood, the construction of separate restrooms for girls etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – allocated total financial outlay of Rs 1037.90 Cr for NILP during 2022-23 to 2026-27
- Rs 1037.90 Cr outlay = Rs 700 Cr (Central share) + Rs 337.90 Cr (State share)
- The ministry has also opted to use the phrase – “Education for All” in place of “Adult Education”
- Teaching and learning resources are accessible on DIKSHA portal which is developed by NCERT
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

9. On December 18, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a deal known as an Extended Fund Facility Arrangement that will provide a \$3 billion support package for Egypt to cover a period of 46 months. The agreement is expected to draw in an additional \$14 billion in financing for the country. The Egyptian pound has lost 36% of its value against the dollar since March. Egypt is the world’s largest wheat importer, most of which came from Russia and Ukraine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMF – approved a \$3 billion support package for Egypt
- Egypt – the world’s largest wheat importer (most of which came from Russia & Ukraine)
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)
- [HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | MD & Chairperson – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190](#)

10. On December 23, Japan’s MUFG Bank has executed a Rs 450 Crore sustainable trade finance facility for Tata Power. This credit facility was extended for two solar projects under TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL). It is the first sustainable trade finance facility offered by MUFG in India and TPKL will utilise the funds towards generating renewable energy capacity. TPKL’s two solar power projects include a 100 MW project in Parthur, Maharashtra and a 120 MW project in Mesanka, Gujarat. Tata Power plans to be carbon net zero before 2045. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MUFG Bank (Japan) – executed a Rs 450 Cr sustainable trade finance facility for Tata Power
- The credit facility was extended for TPKL’s 2 solar projects each in Maharashtra & Gujarat
- [HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna](#)

11. On December 23, World Bank’s investment arm, International Finance Corporation (IFC) has proposed to make a \$400 million (around ₹3,400 Cr) loan to mortgage lender HDFC Ltd, with an aim to drive India’s green housing growth. The capital will help HDFC boost its green affordable housing portfolio, with 75% (around \$300 million) of the proceeds earmarked for this sector. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IFC (World Bank) – proposed \$400 million loan to HDFC Ltd for India’s green housing growth
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- HQs of IFC – Washington, D.C., U.S. | MD – Makhtar Diop | IFC India’s Head – Wendy Werner
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry

12. On December 28, the Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125 million loan to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in 3 cities of Tamil Nadu - Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi. This is the third & last tranche of \$500 million Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) for the “Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program” which was approved by ADB in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI + ADB = \$125 million loan deal (3rd tranche) to improve urban services in Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi (TN)
- “Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program” (\$500 million) – approved by ADB in 2018
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

1. On December 3, Chhattisgarh Assembly unanimously passed two amendment bills related to reservation in government jobs and admission in educational institutions in proportion to population of different categories, taking the total quota in the state to 76%. The “Chhattisgarh Public Service (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Reservation) Amendment Bill” and “Chhattisgarh Educational Institutions (Reservation in admission) Amendment Bill”, were passed. As per the bills, Scheduled Tribes will get quota of 32%, Other Backward Classes 27%, Scheduled Caste 13%, while 4% has been provisioned for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in public employment and admissions in educational institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – passed two amendment bills related to reservation in Govt jobs & admission in Educational Institutions
- Total reservation quota in Chhattisgarh – 76% (32% for ST, 27% for OBC, 13% for SC & 4% for EWS)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

2. In December 2022, the Rajya Sabha passed the “Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022”. The Bill, which had undergone the scrutiny of a parliamentary panel, seeks to conserve and protect wildlife through better management of protected areas and rationalise schedules, which list out species under the ‘Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972’. The Bill was introduced by Environment and Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav. India was a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that required certain legislative actions. The maximum fine has been increased to Rs 1,00,000 for ‘General Violations’ under this bill. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed the “Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022”
- Maximum fine for ‘General Violations’ is increased to Rs 1,00,000

3. On December 14, Kerala Assembly passed the “University Laws (Amendments) Bill” to remove the Governor as the ex-officio Chancellor of 14 universities in the state. The CPI(M) government introduced this bill in the Assembly in the wake of recurring issues with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on administration and appointments at these universities. The Bill envisages appointing academicians of high repute as the chancellor of universities. The chancellor would be appointed by the Cabinet for a term of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – passed “University Laws (Amendments) Bill” to remove Governor as the ex-officio Chancellor of 14 universities
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

4. In December 2022, the Parliament passed the “Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022” that enables the Union government to set up a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and specify the minimum amount of non-fossil sources to be used by designated energy consumers. It will also enable the government to establish Carbon Markets in India. The Bill, which amends the “Energy Conservation Act, 2001”, was passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. India’s goal is to cut emission intensity by 45% and achieve 50% of the installed capacity of electricity generation from non-fossil fuel sources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed the “Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022”
- The Bill amends the “Energy Conservation Act, 2001”
- The Bill enables government to establish Carbon Markets in India & set up a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme



5. On December 21, the Rajya Sabha passed the “Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill, 2022”, two days after the Lok Sabha passed it. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the Bill would fulfil all the expectations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which India is a signatory to, for cooperation and repression of piracy in high seas. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or High Seas is an area that is adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea. It can extend to a maximum of 200 nautical miles from the baseline (India’s coastline). Between 2014 and 2022, there were 19 piracy cases in which 155 Indian crew members were involved and the numbers show why the country needs this Bill so badly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed the “Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill, 2022”
- High Seas (EEZ) is an area beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline (India’s coastline)
- Between 2014 and 2022, there were 19 piracy cases in which 155 Indian crew members were involved

6. On December 23, Union minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal introduced the “Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022” in Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to decriminalise minor offences to promote ease of business. A unique feature of the proposal is an increase of 10% of the minimum amount of fine and penalty levied, after the expiry of every three years, once the bill becomes a law. The Bill will seek to amend acts such as the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867, the Boilers Act 1923, the Public Debt Act 1944, and the Indian Forest Act 1927. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Minister of Commerce & Industry – introduced the “Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022” in Lok Sabha
- The bill proposes an increase of 10% of the minimum amount of fine & penalty levied once the bill becomes a law
- [Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash](#)

7. On December 23, Uttarakhand governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmit Singh approved Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act. According to the amended bill, conversion by force, greed or fraud will be a crime in the State. Those found guilty will get imprisoned for up to 10 years. In the new law, a fine of ₹50,000 has been made compulsory. Anyone found guilty of conversion will have to pay up to ₹5 lakh to the victim. This law was made in Uttarakhand in 2018. There was a provision of punishment of one to five years for conversion by force or inducement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gurmit Singh (Uttarakhand Governor) – approved ‘Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act’
- The amended bill will treat conversion by force, greed or fraud as a crime in the State
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)



Acquisitions & Mergers

1. On December 5, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed deal of Bharat Biotech International Ltd for acquiring shares of Eastman Exports Global Clothing Pvt Ltd through a share purchase agreement. The deal has been approved under the green channel route. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the proposed deal of Bharat Biotech International – to acquire shares of Eastman Exports Global Clothing
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Sangeeta Verma | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella
- HQs of Eastman Exports Global Clothing – Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & MD – N. Chandran

2. On December 5, Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate raised its stake in New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) to 37.4% through an open offer, making it the biggest shareholder of one of the country's most popular news networks, NDTV. The ports-to-energy conglomerate's takeover of NDTV has raised fears among some journalists that one of the country's last bastions of free media is under threat. Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy are the founders of NDTV. Soon after Adani's acquisition of NDTV's founder entity, Ravish Kumar, a senior executive editor of NDTV, resigned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Group – became the biggest shareholder of NDTV by raising its stake to 37.4% through an open offer
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

3. On December 8, Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) Limited acquired debt-laden Monnet Power for Rs 410 crore through insolvency route. The transaction for the Odisha-based 1,050 MW power asset was completed on December 7. The new asset will provide power to JSP's steel plant in Angul, which is in expansion mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jindal Steel & Power – acquired debt-laden Monnet Power (Angul, Odisha) for Rs410 Cr
- HQs of Jindal Steel & Power – New Delhi | Chairman – Naveen Jindal | MD – Bimlendra Jha

4. On December 12, Jaypee Group signed an agreement to sell the group's cement business to Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd at an enterprise value of Rs 5,666 Cr. This is the second asset sale deal clinched by debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates with the Dalmia Group. The company had sold controlling stake in cement units with total capacity of 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to the Dalmia Group in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dalmia Bharat – to acquire Jaypee Group's cement assets for Rs 5,666 Cr

5. On December 19, Wipro Consumer Care announced its entry into the packaged food and spice segment by acquiring Nirapara, one of the largest-selling traditional food brands in Kerala. Launched in 1976, Nirapara is known for its blended spices. The deal size was not disclosed by the company. Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, a part of Wipro Enterprises, is among the fastest growing FMCG businesses in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro Consumer Care – acquired Nirapara, one of the largest-selling traditional food brands in Kerala
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji



6. On December 23, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) signed an agreement to acquire 100% equity stake in METRO Cash & Carry India Pvt Ltd. (METRO India) for ₹2,850 Cr. METRO India started operations in India in 2003 as the first company to introduce cash-and-carry business format in the country and currently operates 31 large format stores across 21 cities. The transaction is subject to certain regulatory and other customary closing conditions and is expected to complete by March 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RRVL – signed an agreement to acquire 100% equity stake in METRO India
- METRO India – first company to introduce cash-and-carry business format in the country
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. On December 3, Telangana Government signed an agreement with the US-based Coinbase Inc. to jointly build a strong Web 3.0 community in the State. Coinbase will be supporting Web 3.0 entrepreneurs of Telangana through capacity-building sessions, mentorship programs, and promoting initiatives conducted with the help of Telangana's innovation ecosystem partners. It will also provide knowledge support and act as a technical advisor for Web 3.0 related initiatives implemented by the government. Coinbase Inc. will also work with the State Government to help it develop the Web 3.0 Regulatory Sandbox, which will help organisations working in various Web 3.0 technologies to address issues to regulation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + Coinbase Inc. (US) = agreement to jointly build a strong Web 3.0 community
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

2. On December 5, Bharti Airtel announced to partner with Meta to jointly invest in global connectivity infrastructure that would extend a subsea cable, the "2Africa Pearls", to India. 2Africa Pearls has become one of the world's longest subsea cable systems and aims to provide faster internet connectivity to almost 3 billion people. It would connect Africa, Europe, and Asia. The landing of 2Africa will improve the connectivity of fixed-line broadband internet in India. Airtel will partner Meta and Saudi Telecommunication Company to extend '2Africa Pearls' to India. Bharti Airtel owns 3 cable landing stations, two in Chennai and one in Mumbai. Moreover, in February, Bharti Airtel boarded the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium to scale up its high-speed network capacity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Meta + Saudi Telecommunication Company = partnership to extend '2Africa Pearls' to India
- Bharti Airtel owns 3 cable landing stations, two in Chennai and one in Mumbai
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

3. On December 2, Amara Raja Batteries signed an MoU with Telangana government to setup a research and manufacturing facilities for lithium-ion battery. The facility will be set up at Mahbubnagar district, Telangana. Moreover, the company had announced incorporation of a subsidiary called Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amara Raja Batteries + Telangana = an MoU to setup a research & manufacturing facilities for lithium-ion battery
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

4. On December 6, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock signed a mobility partnership pact in New Delhi, which aims to facilitate Mobility and Employment opportunities for fostering the exchange of skills and talents. The agreement also includes the Academic Evaluation Center in New Delhi, 18 months extended residence permits to students, 3,000 job seeker visas annually, liberalised short stay multiple entry visas and streamlined readmission procedures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Germany = signed an agreement on 'Comprehensive Migration & Mobility Partnership' in New Delhi
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier



5. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Ltd), A Maharatna CPSE, signed an MoU with Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) as per the DPE Performance Evaluation System for FY 2022-23 for CPSEs. Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC signed the MoU with Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- REC Ltd + PFC Ltd = an MoU as per the DPE Performance Evaluation System for FY 2022-23 for CPSEs
- REC Ltd – recently became the 12th company to receive the status of a ‘Maharatna’ central public sector enterprise
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangan | Founded in – 1969
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

6. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) bagged a deal from Rail Delivery Group to design, develop, implement, and operate the UK’s Rail Data Marketplace. The contract between TCS and RDG (Rail Data Marketplace) is for a term of six years including an extension term opportunity. The platform will have the ability to track environmental parameters, which will allow it to support the UK’s rail decarbonisation agenda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TCS – bagged a deal from Rail Delivery Group to design, develop, implement, & operate the UK’s Rail Data Marketplace
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

7. On December 8, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU with Small & Medium Enterprises General Authority of Saudi Arabia (aka Monsha’at) for exploring and collaborating on matters of common interest in development and boosting of MSMEs and related ecosystems in their respective countries. SIDBI shall also offer its expertise and experience for the newly launched SME Bank in Saudi Arabia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + Monsha’at (Saudi Arabia) = an MoU for MSME co-operation
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | PM – Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud | King – Salman bin Abdulaziz

8. On December 6, Walmart and Flipkart signed an MoU with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to jointly accelerate capacity building for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India. The MoU was signed to mark the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs having completed their training under the ‘Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program’ (Walmart Vriddhi), of which, Swasti is a program partner. Tens of thousands of MSMEs have registered for the program from metros and Tier II and III cities across India, and over 20,000 MSMEs have completed the program. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walmart + Flipkart + NSIC = an MoU to jointly accelerate capacity building for MSMEs across India
- The capacity building is done under ‘Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program’ (Program Partner - Swasti)
- HQs of Walmart – Arkansas, US | CEO – Doug McMillon
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

9. The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) signed an MoU to launch the project titled “History of Indian Science and Technology”. They have decided to work together to trace the history of India’s contribution in the field of Science & Technology using evidence from ancient scriptures, with the objective of establishing India as the “Vishwa Guru” (Global Leader) in several scientific domains. The project, which will cost ₹1.5 Crore, will see the production of 6 volumes, two each dedicated to the ancient, medieval and modern periods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICHR + ISRO = an MoU to launch the project titled “History of Indian Science and Technology”
- HQs of ICHR – New Delhi | Chairman – Raghuvendra Tanwar
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

10. On December 12, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state. NIIFL will support TNIDB in identifying potential private sector investment opportunities, including for asset recycling and developing greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects in sectors such as renewable energy, roads, waste management, water, tourism and other related sectors. NIIFL’s Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisory (SIPA) team provides high-level strategic advice to Central and State Government entities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIIFL + TNIDB (Tamil Nadu) = an MoU to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state
- NIIFL’s Strategic Initiatives & Policy Advisory Team – provides high-level strategic advice to Central & State Govt entities
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

11. On December 15, California-based Airbnb signed an MoU with the Department of Tourism of Goa to promote inclusive tourism in the state. This partnership is aimed at encouraging travel to unique destinations that are lesser-known and enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism in the state. The state also officially launched ‘Rediscover Goa’ to scale homestay capacity across the state, and provide support to Goan homestay Hosts in delivering quality tourism experiences to guests, both domestic and international. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airbnb (US) + Goa = an MoU to promote inclusive tourism in the state
- Goa – officially launched ‘Rediscover Goa’ campaign
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

12. Hyderabad-based Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) partnered with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) for the commercial development of India’s first fish vaccine. The vaccine will be developed to protect freshwater fish against common bacterial diseases. CIFE, an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute, will provide technology for two inactivated bacterial vaccines, one for Columnaris Disease, and other for Edwardsiellosis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Immunologicals Ltd + CIFE (Mumbai) = partnership for the commercial development of India’s first fish vaccine
- HQs of Indian Immunologicals Ltd – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Meenesh C. Shah

13. On December 13, The Embassy of India and Nepal government’s Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration signed a Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking three projects in Nepal, one each in education, healthcare and drinking water sectors. The three projects include the construction of the Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School building in the Udayapur district, the construction of Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing meditation centre in the Souluhumbu district and the construction of Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang water supply project in Dhading district shall be implemented at a cost of NRs. 101.79 million. India has taken up more than 532 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal and completed 476 projects in various sectors. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India + Nepal = an MoU for undertaking 3 projects in Nepal
- The three projects are:
 - Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School building in Udayapur district
 - Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing meditation centre in Soulu khumbu district
 - Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang water supply project in Dhading district
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

14. On December 10, in a bid to promote Ayurveda across continents, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed an MoU with the University of Medical Sciences, Cuba, and extended the agreement with Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany, for 5 more years to take forward collaborative programmes. The AIIA and REAA had entered into a MoU in September, 2017 with a validity of five years. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo held in Goa. With these collaborations, AIIA has 15 international partners and 35 national partners under its collaborative activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIIA + University of Medical Sciences (Cuba) = an MoU to promote Ayurveda across continents
- AIIA + Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (Germany) = an MoU extended for collaborative programmes
- HQs of AIIA – New Delhi | Director – Tanuja Manoj Nesari

15. On December 12, Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) has formed a joint venture company with Kyrgyzindustry to construct rail road and other infrastructure projects in Kyrgyz Republic. Kyrgyzindustry is an Open Joint Stock Company. The joint venture namely “Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL” is a Closed Joint Stock Company (CJSC) in which RVNL will hold 50% stake. RVNL is a Category-I MiniRatna CPSE under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. RVNL can enter into and carry on business relating to creation and augmentation of capacity of rail infrastructure on fast track. As on 30 September 2022, the Government of India holds 78.20% stake in the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RVNL + Kyrgyzindustry = formed a joint venture to construct rail road & other infrastructure projects in Kyrgyzstan
- The JV will be called – “Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL” which is a Closed Joint Stock Company (RVNL will hold 50% stake in the JV)
- HQs of RVNL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Pradeep Gaur | Incorporated in – 2003
- Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov

16. In December 2022, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs and Employment, Tuula Haatainen, during a visit to India, signed a “joint declaration of intent on Migration and Mobility”. Finland aims to attract workers in the technology and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors as well as nurses from India. India has recently signed similar agreements with Germany in December and the United Kingdom (U.K.) last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Finland = signed a “joint declaration of intent on Migration and Mobility”
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

17. On December 13, Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) signed an MoU to strengthen and densify the weather forecasting network in the state. The aim is to densify the existing network and develop a real-time weather information system in the state, which is vulnerable to natural calamities caused by extreme weather conditions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand + IMD = an MoU to strengthen and densify the weather forecasting network in the state
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875

18. On December 14, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an MoU with e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket to support micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters in India showcasing their products on the Indian Business Portal (IBP). FIEO member exporters will be able to choose premium economy & express options under the Shiprocket panel. Shiprocket will also offer logistics-related services as a value add to Indian Business Portal (IBP) store holders and FIEO members which will include domestic shipping, warehousing management services, fulfillment services, and marketing tools under one single Shiprocket umbrella. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FIEO + Shiprocket = an MoU to support MSME exporters in India showcasing their products on IBP
- Shiprocket (backed by Zomato) – is India's 106th unicorn
- HQs of FIEO – New Delhi | Director General and CEO – Ajay Sahai

19. In December 2022, IIT Ropar and the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) of the Indian Army signed an MoU for setting up a “Centre of Excellence for Studies and Applied Research in Defence and Security” at the premier institute. The CoE will be set up with an aim to leverage IIT Ropar's technical expertise and ARTRAC's operational expertise in advanced materials and manufacturing, design and development of deep learning algorithms. The CoE will focus on emerging areas of research and technology, including Information Warfare or Security, wireless communication; and many other fields in the larger domain of Defence and Security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Ropar + ARTRAC (Indian Army) = an MoU to set up “Centre of Excellence for Studies and Applied Research in Defence and Security” at IIT Ropar
- Director of IIT Ropar – Rajeev Ahuja

20. On December 15, Microsoft partnered with global communications company Viasat to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025. Viasat is the first satellite partner to work with Microsoft's Airband Initiative, and together they will deepen Airband's work. According to the International Telecommunication Union at the UN, around one-third of the world's population (2.7 billion people) have still never used the internet. By working together, the companies will combine their expertise and assets to help enable telehealth, distance learning and education, precision agriculture, clean power and other services to reach new areas through the transformational provision of power and connectivity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + Viasat = partnered to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025
- Viasat – the first satellite partner to work with Microsoft's Airband Initiative
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975



21. On December 13, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Space signed an MoU to develop the 'Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS)' using geospatial technologies and related databases for enhancing evidence-based decision-making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is developing Krishi-DSS, a decision support system, on the lines of Gati Shakti, using RISAT-1A and VEDAS of Department of Space. This will enhance the evidence-based decision-making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector by way of integration with MOSDAC and BHUVAN (Geo-platform) of ISRO and systems of ICAR. The quality of production will increase and export opportunities will also increase. Agriculture Department is also working on AgriStack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare + Dept of Space = an MoU to develop the 'Krishi-Decision Support System'
- 'RISAT-1A' and 'VEDAS' of Department of Space are being used for the development of 'Krishi-DSS'
- [Union Minister for State \(MoS\) in the Department of Space – Dr. Jitendra Singh](#)
- [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar](#)

22. On December 15, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) inked a loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy for financing ₹4,444.71 Cr for 1,000 MW solar power project. The IREDA-funded project will connect to 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II. This partnership will encourage green investment and generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities. SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II (Tranche III) Scheme for the development of a grid-connected solar PV power project through a competitive bidding process. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IREDA + SJVN Green Energy = a loan agreement for financing ₹4,444.71 Cr for 1,000 MW solar power project
- [HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das](#)

23. On December 19, Russia signed an MoU with the Indian Chambers of International Business (ICIB) and Ministry of MSME to enter Indian e-trade platforms. The MoU aims to develop bilateral trade between India and Russia, as well as to assist local entrepreneurs and enterprises to find and promote investment projects on the territories of two countries. Integration of convenient payment and transportation systems for Russian businesses is currently underway. Sberbank and the Reserve Bank of India are developing an alternative to the SWIFT payment system for smooth bilateral trade. At the moment, payments are made under the "Ruble-Rupee" scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia + ICIB + MoMSME = an MoU to develop bilateral trade between India & Russia
- They will also assist local entrepreneurs and enterprises to find and promote investment projects
- Sberbank + RBI = developing an alternative to the SWIFT payment system for smooth bilateral trade

24. On December 15, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil) and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) signed an MoU for branding and traceability of Indian-grown Kasturi Cotton during the two-day Textile Conclave coinciding with the event Kashi Tamil Samagam at Deen Dayal Hast Kala Sankul, Badalapur, Varanasi, UP. Despite a very strong presence in the world market for cotton, India has been unable to brand its cotton varieties so far unlike USA - PIMA Cotton and Egypt - GIZA Cotton. Kasturi brand owned by the Ministry of Textiles will be solely managed by Texprocil on behalf of the Trade and Industry. A unique brand identity for 'KASTURI' Indian Cotton will be created by highlighting its specifications-based benefits, thereby enhancing export opportunities while complete traceability details will be provided to the 'end user' through Block Chain based software platform. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Texprocil + Cotton Corporation of India (Mumbai) = an MoU for branding and traceability of Indian-grown Kasturi Cotton
- 'Textile Conclave' & 'Kashi Tamil Samagam' – held in Varanasi, UP | Brand name of Indian cotton – "KASTURI"
- Kasturi brand – owned by the Ministry of Textiles & managed by Texprocil on behalf of the Trade & Industry
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

25. On December 16, Steelmaker ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India signed an MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide digital skill training to more than 1,600 young people across the country. The initiative aims to motivate young people from four states and equip them with vocational skills that will support their ability to secure and undertake employment in roles such as IT helpdesk attendant, and data entry operator. The Four states are: Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. This public-private partnership sits within the framework of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, with AM/NS India providing financial sponsorship for eligible candidates to be trained. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India + NSDC = an MoU to provide digital skill training to more than 1,600 young people
- Target states – Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat & Maharashtra
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik (works under MoSDE)

26. On December 16, Tata Motors announced that Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) signed a definitive agreement with its fully owned subsidiary TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. As a part of the agreement, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd will supply, operate and maintain 921 units of low-floor electric buses in Bengaluru for a period of 12 years. It is the first definitive agreement that TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Limited has signed under the larger CESL (Convergence Energy Service Limited) tender. Tata Motors claims to have supplied more than 730 electric buses across multiple cities in India till now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BMTTC + TML Smart City Mobility Solutions – signed an agreement for operating 921 electric buses in Bengaluru
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

27. ReNew Power signed a renewable energy agreement with Microsoft India to produce & supply 150 MW of clean energy from a recently commissioned solar site near Bikaner. This venture will help contribute towards Microsoft's ambition of shifting to 100% supply of renewable energy by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – signed a renewable energy agreement to supply 150 MW of clean energy to Microsoft India
- Microsoft – aims 100% supply of renewable energy by 2025
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

28. On December 19, Google announced a partnership with DigiLocker to bring local storage of government issued IDs on Android devices. The partnership is part of Google's artificial intelligence (AI) offerings that include on-device processing of text and images to identify important documents, and organise them in a locally stored 'Files' folder. Digilocker app developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) is authorised to act as the equivalent of an official document, and soon DigiLocker would be available on Android devices by default, as a pre-installed service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + DigiLocker = partnership to bring local storage of government issued IDs on Android devices
- Digilocker app is developed by – Meity
- Director of DigiLocker & UMANG – Debabrata Nayak
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

29. On December 20, Online home services platform, Urban Company, signed an agreement with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide training and digital certification to thousands of freshers. The professionals will be trained by Urban Company for various facilities including Salon, Spa & Massage, Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters, Appliance Repair, and Cleaning & Pest Control. This is in addition to its 2019 deal with NSDC to train 30,000 professionals under the Skill India mission which was launched in 2015. Through the 'Skills for All' vision, NSDC aims to train thousands of unskilled workers into blue-collar skilled microentrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Urban Company + NSDC = an agreement to provide training and digital certification to thousands of freshers
- Through 'Skills for All' vision, NSDC aims to train unskilled workers into blue-collar skilled microentrepreneurs
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik (works under MoSDE)

30. On December 20, Switzerland-based E2S Power, a developer of thermal energy storage solutions, and India Power Corporation Ltd (IPCL), a power utility firm, signed an agreement for a 250 kWh pilot Thermal Energy Storage Unit to be operated in India. This collaboration will help in transforming thermal power assets into clean energy storage facilities. Through this JV the company expects to cater an estimated demand of 10 GW of Long Duration Energy Storage System (LDESS) within next 8-10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- E2S Power (Switzerland) + IPCL = an agreement for a 250 kWh pilot Thermal Energy Storage Unit to be operated in India
- Aim: To cater an estimated demand of 10 GW of Long Duration Energy Storage System (LDESS) within next 8-10 years
- HQs of IPCL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman – Amit Kiran Deb

31. On December 18, Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with Austin University to set up Austin Smart City of Knowledge in the state for US\$ 42 billion. UP minister Suresh Khanna said that the project would create up to 16 lakh jobs in UP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP + Austin University (US) = an MoU to set up 'Austin Smart City of Knowledge' in the state for \$42 billion
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



32. On December 19, PTC India entered into an agreement with Bhutan's electricity utility firm, Druk Green Power Corporation Limited, to supply 600 MW power to Bhutan during the winter season. This PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) will help address such energy requirements. This agreement is a step forward towards PTC's endeavour to strengthen the regional power markets for energy security and sustainability in South Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PTC India + Druk Green Power Corporation (Bhutan) = a PPA to supply 600 MW power to Bhutan during winter season
- HQs of PTC India – New Delhi | CMD – Rajib Kumar Mishra (addi. charge)
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering | Monarch – Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

33. On December 22, Cognizant signed an MoU with Garuda Aerospace to power its drones with advanced digital capabilities and bring innovative solutions for enterprises aiming to achieve greater agility, productivity, and overall outcomes. In warehouse management, the drones can be used for inventory audit, tracking of products, video surveillance, and even help move lightweight objects. These drone-based solutions will also enable businesses achieve their sustainability goals by helping drive efficient use of resources. The collaboration will provide Cognizant associates across its service lines, including, analytics, IoT, among others, the opportunity to work on such purpose-driven drone projects and real-life use cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cognizant + Garuda Aerospace = an MoU to power its drones with advanced digital capabilities
- HQs of Cognizant – New Jersey, US | CEO – Brian Humphries
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, TN | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash

34. On December 23, Packaged drinking water brand Bisleri announced its partnership with Gujrat Titans as its official hydration partner, for a 3-year association, starting with the 2023 cricketing season. The collaboration of Bisleri with Gujarat Titans is a strategic approach towards being a part of our consumers' health and fitness mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bisleri – partnered with Gujrat Titans as its official hydration partner for a 3-year association
- HQs of Bisleri International – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Angelo George

35. On December 21, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) have signed an MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable finance. India recently launched 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle for the Environment) as an India-led global movement to protect and preserve the environment. This was closely followed by the commencement of India's G20 Presidency, with the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future". CEEW research estimates that India's net zero by 2070 target would require USD 10 trillion in investments. The IFSCA is a statutory authority established under the "International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019" (IFSCA Act) with a mandate to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC). GIFT-IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA + CEEW = an MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable finance
- India – recently launched 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle for the Environment) to protect & preserve the environment
- IFSCA – a statutory authority established under 'IFSCA Act, 2019' | GIFT-IFSC – is the maiden IFSC in India
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | CEO – Arunabha Ghosh



36. On December 22, Tata Projects Limited signed an MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR IIP) to jointly work towards clean energy solutions. Tata Project will use clean energy solutions such as room temperature bio-diesel produced from CSIR-IIP for some of its ongoing sites. Further, the partnership will actively explore the utilisation of by-product green diesel from the existing DILSAAF (Drop-In Liquid Sustainable Aviation Fuel and Automotive fuel) pilot plant at CSIR-IIP's campus in Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Projects + CSIR-IIP = an MoU to jointly work towards Clean Energy Solutions
- HQs of Tata Projects – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Banmali Agrawala | MD – Vinayak Pai
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Nallathamby Kalaiselvi | Established in – 1942

37. In December 27, Ministry of Power signed an MoU with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, for implementation of 'Early Warning System' for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations. Ministry of Power and DRDO will jointly work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, glaciers, glacial lakes and other geo-hazards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power + DRDO = an MoU to implement 'Early Warning System' for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

38. On December 27, Piyush Goyal launched a host of new initiatives, including the 'right to repair portal' and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in Delhi. The Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi has signed an MoU and launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions. On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers. Initially, mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipment will be covered. There will be a ramp up in the disposal of pending cases and elimination of the backlog. Notably, under the Consumer Protection law, a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of its filing and within 150 days wherever expert evidence is required to be taken. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal launched some new initiatives:
 - "Right to repair" portal & an NTH mobile app
 - New premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in Delhi
- Consumer Affairs Department + IIT BHU= an MoU to launch a capacity building programme of consumer commissions

39. On December 28, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an MoU with the Central TB Division (CTD) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), and the states of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to undertake intensified TB elimination project. The MoU is in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to end Tuberculosis in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). With this pathbreaking foray, IndianOil has emerged as the first corporate to implement a large-scale Active Case Finding campaign (ACF) in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. IndianOil is also introducing a cost-effective, diagnostic machine, "Truenat", which will improve access and availability of TB diagnostic services in remote tribal areas. TB is considered the world's top infectious killer and infects about 10 million people yearly, killing almost 1.5 million and India has about one-fourth of the global TB cases annually. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IOCL + Central TB Division + UP + Chhattisgarh = an MoU to undertake intensified TB elimination project
- Narendra Modi's vision to end Tuberculosis in India by 2025 | SDG's target for the same – by 2030
- IOCL – introduced a cost-effective, diagnostic machine, “Truenat” for TB diagnostic services in remote tribal areas
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

40. On December 29, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, S. Jaishankar, and his Cyprus counterpart Ioannis Kasoulides signed an MoU on Defence and Military Cooperation, in Nicosia, Cyprus. This agreement was signed during Jaishankar's first visit to Cyprus in December. The two sides also signed the Letter of Intent on the Migration and Mobility Partnership. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Cyprus = an MoU on Defence and Military Cooperation
- Cyprus – Nicosia – Euro | President – Nicos Anastasiades

41. On December 27, Max Healthcare and Anuva signed an MoU to conduct genomic-based research on various communicable and non-communicable diseases in India. The objective of the research will be to identify insights for precision medicine application across diseases including breast cancer, lung cancer, diabetes, cardiac disease, kidney disease, drug-resistant tuberculosis, and others. The institutions will also explore the possibility of conducting joint training, fellowships, exchange visits, knowledge and technology transfer for cross-learning and capacity building in the fields of biomedical science and arenas of public health. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Healthcare + Anuva = an MoU to conduct genomic-based research on communicable & non-communicable diseases in India





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