

CURRENT AFFAIRS



**DECEMBER
2022**



HAPPY ACADEMY



PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of December 2022.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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Topic Wise Current Affairs

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



World Aids Day : 01 December:-

Every year on December 1st, World AIDS Day is observed to educate people and honour those who have died as a result of this deadly disease. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or AIDS is a life-threatening disease in which a person's immune system becomes weak and redundant, thereby causing it to easily get affected by various common infections which in most cases lead to death. Also termed as HIV or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, AIDS is in fact a later stage complication developed when a person suffers from HIV. The World AIDS Day theme for 2022 is "equalize".



National Pollution Control Day : 02 December :-

Every year on December 2, National Pollution Control Day is observed to remember those who died in the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy. It is also a day set aside to raise awareness about the dangers of air pollution. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is regarded as one of the worst industrial

pollution disasters in history. Many people died due to the poisonous gas Methyl Isocyanate, also known as MIC. Environmental pollution, directly and indirectly, affects the quality of life more than one can imagine. All this is mainly caused by human activities which harm the environment in more than one way.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

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International Day of Persons with Disabilities : 03 December :-

Every year on December 3rd, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed. The United Nations General Assembly established the annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3 in 1992. Today, the world population exceeds 8 billion people, and more than one billion people, or approximately 15% of the world's population, are disabled. The theme for this year is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."



Indian Navy Day : 04 December:-

On December 4, Indian Navy Day is observed to honour the Indian Navy's role and accomplishments. The day also commemorates the launch of Operation Trident against Pakistan during the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971, as well as raising public awareness about the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy is a well-balanced three-dimensional force capable of operating above, on, and beneath the ocean's surface to protect our national interests. Its goal is also to improve its situation in the Indian Ocean Zone.



World Soil Day : 05 December :-

Every year on December 5, World Soil Day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of soil to the sustenance of life on Earth. Soil quality is deteriorating, resulting in environmental problems. So, in order to maintain the well-being and sustainability of life on Earth, humanity has banded together to address soil issues. The day was chosen as December 5 to mark the birthday of Thailand's king, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who formally made this event happen. 'Soils: Where food begins' is the theme for World Soil Day 2022.



Dr Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan Diwas : 06 December :-

December 6, 2022, marks the death 66th death anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He was the first Law Minister of Independent India, as well as a social reformer, economist, thinker, and politician. Ambedkar, who was born on April 14, 1891, led from the front alongside Jawaharlal Nehru and Gandhi in the upliftment of the poor and backward classes of society. Ambedkar spearheaded the Dalit Buddhist campaign and worked tirelessly for their equal human rights and advancement.



Armed Forces Flag Day : 07 December :-

Every year on December 7, India commemorates Armed Forces Flag Day. Its goal is to raise funds for the betterment of the Armed Forces Staff by selling Indian flags, batches, stickers, and other items. On August 28, 1949, a committee was formed under the leadership of India's then-Defense Minister. The committee decided to hold a Flag Day every year on December 7. The funds raised are used to benefit serving and ex-service personnel, as well as to rehabilitate battle casualties.



International Civil Aviation Day : 07 December :-

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on December 7 each year to highlight the role of civil aviation in 21st-century transportation and the importance it plays in connecting people and enhancing social and economic development worldwide. Since 2013, the International Civil Aviation Day has been observed to raise global awareness about the contributions of the civil aviation industry and the unique role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in assisting countries in cooperating and realising a global rapid transport network. The theme for International Civil Aviation Day 2022 is, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".



International Anti-Corruption Day : 09 December:-

On December 9, the world observes International Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness of corruption and the role of the convention in combating and preventing it. On October 31, 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Assembly also declared December 9 as World Anti-Corruption Day in order to raise awareness about corruption and the Convention's role in combating and preventing it. The convention became effective in December 2005.

DECEMBER 10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Human Rights Day : 10 December :-

Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10th. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on this day in 1948. It is a landmark document that outlines the inalienable rights that every human being is entitled to. People all over the world celebrate International Human Rights Day in order to achieve human rights. This day is observed in order to improve the physical and socio-cultural well-being and welfare of vulnerable groups of people around the world. The theme of Human Rights Day 2022 is "dignity, freedom, and justice for all."



International Mountain Day : 11 December :-

Every year on December 11th, International Mountain Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of mountains in our lives and on our planet. Mountain freshwater is essential to more than half of humanity's

daily life. The 20 plant species supply 80% of the world's food, and six of them, namely maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes, and apples, originated and have been diversified in mountains. 'Women move mountains' is the theme of this year's International Mountain Day.



UNICEF Day : 11 December:-

Every year on December 11, UNICEF Day is observed to raise awareness about saving children's lives by defending and assisting them in fulfilling their wishes. On this day in 1946, the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Since World War II, the day has provided assistance for children's health, nutrition, education, and welfare. It works for the basic rights of children in over 192 countries, assisting them from infancy to adolescence in achieving their goals.



National Energy Conservation Day : 14 December :-

Every year on December 14, National Energy Conservation Day is observed. In 2001, India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) implemented the Energy Conservation Act. The Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) is a constitutional body that works under the Government of India to develop policies and strategies to reduce energy consumption. The goal of India's Energy Conservation Act is to appoint professional, qualified, and energetic managers and auditors with expertise in policy-making, financial management, and energy-related project implementation.



Vijay Diwas : 16 December :-

On December 16 Vijay Diwas, India commemorates the decisive victory over Pakistan in 1971, which resulted in the formation of Bangladesh and the liberation of East Pakistan. The Indo-Pakistan war began on December 3, 1971, and lasted 13 days. The war officially ended on December 16. The thirteen-day war ended with the total surrender of Pakistani forces and the establishment of Bangladesh. With approximately 93,000 soldiers, Pakistan's army surrendered to India. It was the "Greatest Ever Victory," and India established itself as a regional power to be reckoned with.



International Migrants Day : 18 December :-

International Migrants Day is celebrated on December 18 designated by the United States. The day recognises the importance of protecting migrants' rights and dignity all over the world. Since its inception 70 years ago, the UN-affiliated International Organization for Migration (IOM) has assisted millions of migrants. Today, the organisation works to promote humane and orderly migration management for the benefit of all, including communities of origin, transit, and destination. Integrating migrants into the primary healthcare system is the main theme of International Migrants Day 2022.



Goa's Liberation Day : 19 December :-

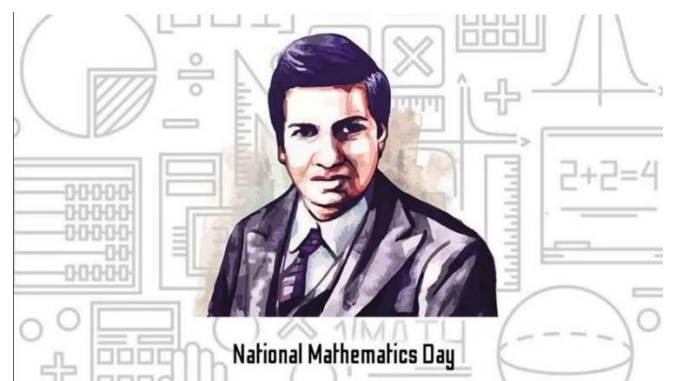
Every year on December 19, India commemorates Goa's Liberation Day. Goa remained under Portuguese rule for 14 years after India gained independence in 1947. When India gained independence, Goa's liberation boosted its confidence and sparked a series of agitations. As a result, India pursued Goa's liberation peacefully through diplomatic channels. On December 19, 1961, then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru dispatched armed forces to

which the Portuguese surrendered, and the coastal state was liberated.



International Human Solidarity Day : 20 December :-

Every year on December 20, the world observes International Human Solidarity Day. The United Nations General Assembly established International Human Solidarity Day. The goal of solidarity is to strengthen our movement and to embody our mutual concern for justice. Solidarity has the potential to reduce global inequality and social injustice. It leads to people's long-term development. The principle of solidarity is a socio-ethical and political concept that states it is fair and just for members of society to share benefits and obligations.



National Mathematics Day : 22 December :-

Every year on December 22nd, India commemorates National Mathematics Day in honour of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The celebrations were announced in 2012 by then-Prime Minister Dr.

Manmohan Singh. Srinivasa Ramanujan was born in Erode, Tamil Nadu, on December 22, 1887. He was elected a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society in 1918 for his work on Elliptic Functions and number theory. In the same year, he was elected as the first Indian Fellow of Trinity College.



Kisan Diwas : 23 December:-

Every year on December 23, India celebrates 'Kisan Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's fifth prime minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh. Since 2001, India has observed Singh's birthday as National Farmers Day. The day honours farmers and their contributions to the country. It commemorates the former prime minister's contribution to India's agricultural reforms. Singh was dubbed the "Champion of India's Peasants" for his efforts to improve farmer conditions and agricultural development throughout the country.



National Consumer Rights Day : 24 December :-

Because it was on December 24, 1986, that the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the approval of the President of India and came into force, National Consumer Day is observed every year on December 24 to spread awareness to about consumer importance, their rights, and responsibilities. The Act's goal is to protect consumers from various forms of exploitation, such as defective goods, poor service, and unfair trade practises. This day was made to protect consumer's rights and to make people aware about it.



Good Governance Day (India) : 25 December :-

Every year on December 25, Good Governance Day is observed. The purpose of the day is to inform citizens, particularly students, who are the future of the country, about the government's responsibilities and duties. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On December 23, 2014, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously) were announced as recipients of India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.

2: Agreements



Google And Karnataka Government Sign MoU To Support Start-Ups :-

Google has now partnered with the state government to support emerging local start-ups and create opportunities through digital skilling, providing yet another boost to start-ups in Karnataka. Google has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to support the state's vision of promoting innovation and fostering the growth of start-ups. The Indian start-up ecosystem is the world's third largest, with Karnataka serving as the country's start-up hub.



HDFC Bank, Flywire Collaborate To Offer Edu Digital Payments :-

Flywire, a payments software company, has partnered with India's HDFC Bank to assist Indian students in paying education fees at institutions around the world. According to a press release, the integration streamlines payments for students and families while also ensuring compliance with international translation guidelines. "One of the leading advantages of this partnership is the sheer convenience of it for payers, as it reduces time and documentation they'd normally have to provide," said Mohit Kansal, vice president of global payments at Flywire.



Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Signs Bancassurance Pacts With Chola MS General And Max Life Insurance Company :-

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, a private sector lender has entered into bancassurance partnerships with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd, a subsidiary of the Murugappa Group based in Chennai, and Max Life Insurance Company to provide general insurance products and life insurance schemes to TMB customers. TMB's 500-plus branches in Tuticorin will begin selling both companies' insurance products as part of the agreement. Krishnan S, MD & CEO of TMB, stated that customers will soon be able to access both insurance companies' products through their bank's app.



YES Bank Acquired 9.9 Per Cent Stake In JC Flower ARC :-

YES Bank has signed a share purchase agreement (SPA) with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), acquiring a 9.9% stake in the ARC for Rs 11.43 per share. According to the regulatory filing, a subsequent acquisition of an additional 10% shareholding is subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, according to YES Bank. After receiving no other challenger bids, YES Bank's board of directors approved the sale of stressed loans worth Rs 48,000 crore to JC Flowers on September 20.



BIS Signed MoU With Top Six Engineering Institutes Of India :-

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the country's top six engineering institutes to incorporate Indian standards into the curriculum. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Indian Institute of Technology Indore,

Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and National Institute of Technology Trichy for the establishment of a 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at these institutes.



RBI and Financial Services Agency Of Japan Exchange Letters Of Co-Operation :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) have exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of Central Counter Parties (CCPs) in order to improve mutual cooperation. With this exchange of letters, RBI and FSA are committed to deepen relations between the two countries and strengthen the exchange of information, according to a statement from RBI. The letters confirm the interest of both jurisdictions in enhancing cooperation in line with their respective laws and regulations.



India, Germany Sign Migration And Mobility Agreement :-

India and Germany have signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership, which will allow

citizens of both countries to study, conduct research, and work in each other's countries. "This will be a very strong signal for not just a greater flow of talent and skills between our two societies, but I think also as a basis for a more contemporary partnership," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after signing the agreement after a meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in New Delhi.



Airtel And Meta Collaborate To Accelerate India's Digital Ecosystem :-

The telecom major Airtel has announced a collaboration with Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta) to support the growth of India's digital ecosystem. To bring 2Africa Pearls to India, Airtel will collaborate with Meta and STC. According to the company, 2Africa is the world's longest subsea cable system and will provide faster internet connectivity to nearly 3 billion people worldwide. Both companies will extend the cable to Airtel's Mumbai landing station and acquire dedicated capacity to expand their submarine network portfolios.



NSIC Signs MoU With Walmart :-

Walmart Global Sourcing India Private Limited and The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. In the presence of Union Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane, the MoU was signed by Shri Gaurang Dixit, Chairman and Managing Director, NSIC, and Ms. Prameela Mallaiah, Director and Hub Leader, Walmart. National Small Industries Corporation Limited will be able to extend NSIC schemes and other services to MSMEs who participate in various Vriddhi programmes thanks to this MoU.



Spice Money Partnered With Axis Bank For Financial Inclusion In Rural India :-

Fintech player Spice Money has partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank to enable rural citizens to open instant, zero balance savings or current accounts 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, thereby financially empowering thousands of rural citizens living in the hinterlands of India, founder of the fintech firm Dilip Modi said.



RBI Signs Currency Swap Agreement With Maldives Monetary Authority :-

The Reserve Bank of India has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) that allows the MMA to withdraw funds from the RBI in multiple tranches up to a maximum of \$200 million. This agreement was signed as part of the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This will serve as a backstop line of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements. In 2020, the RBI signed a similar agreement with Sri Lanka to extend a \$400 million currency swap facility.



HDFC Bank Partners With Startup India For Parivartan SmartUp Grants :-

In collaboration with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India,' HDFC Bank has launched its sixth annual grants programme for social startups. The programme, known as Parivartan SmartUp Grants, aims to identify social impact startups and support them through monetary grants to their incubators. The grants were made available through Parivartan, the bank's umbrella name for its social initiatives. So far, the bank has distributed over Rs 30 crore to 45 incubators, which have supported over 165 start-ups.



IIT Ropar, Army Training Command Sign MoU To Set Up Centre Of Excellence :-

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and the Indian Army's Army Training Command (ARTRAC) have signed an agreement to establish a centre of excellence for studies and applied research in defence and security at the premier institute. According to an official statement, the CoE will be established with the goal of leveraging IIT Ropar's technical expertise and ARTRAC's operational expertise in advanced materials and manufacturing, deep learning algorithm design and development, multipath and wireless networks, and other areas.



G-7 Agrees \$15.5B Energy Deal With Vietnam To Cut Emissions :-

A group of nine wealthy industrialised nations agreed to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to assist the Southeast Asian country in transitioning from coal to renewable energy and reducing climate-damaging pollution. The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said in a statement that the

aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to "net zero" by 2050, a goal which expert say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.



AIIA Inks Agreements With International Institutions For Promoting Ayurveda :-

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Medical Sciences in Cuba, to promote Ayurveda across the globe, and has extended its agreement with the Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA) in Germany for another five years to advance collaborative programmes. The Memorandum of Understanding with Havana-based University of Medical Sciences was signed by Cuban Ambassador to India Alejandro Simancas Marin and AIIA Director Dr Tanuja M Nesari.



Airbnb Signs MoU With Goa Govt To Promote Inclusive Tourism :-

Airbnb has inked an agreement with the government of Goa to jointly promote the state as one of the most high potential tourist destinations around the world. This will be done through targeted domestic and international destination promotion campaigns. According to Airbnb, under this MoU, the Department of Tourism, the government of Goa, and Airbnb will collaborate to promote the state as a destination for high-quality tourism by scaling up homestays and highlighting unique destinations for hinterland tourism that travellers can discover.



Tata Steel Officially Partnered FIH Men's World Cup 2023 :-

Tata Steel Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India to become an official partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023. The 15th edition of the prestigious event, the top tournament for men alongside the Olympics, will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023. The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup will be held for the fourth time in India, following events in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Bhubaneswar.

3: Appointments



PFRDA Named Suraj Bhan As Chairman Of NPS Trust :-

Suraj Bhan has been appointed chairman of the National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust), which is in charge of managing funds under the National Pension System (NPS), by the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA). Bhan has served on the NPS Trust Board of Trustees since 2018. He joined the Indian Economic Service in 1983 and retired in January 2018 as Director General of the Labour Bureau in Chandigarh. He has extensive experience with the government and public sector undertakings in economic policy, business, industry, and finance.



Sandhya Devanathan Appointed As Meta's New India Head :-

After several high-profile departures in its offices around the world, Facebook's parent company Meta has appointed Sandhya Devanathan as the new head of its India business. Ms. Devanathan is a global business

leader with 22 years of experience in banking, payments, and technology. She joined Meta in 2016 and helped build out the Singapore and Vietnam businesses and teams, as well as the tech giant's Southeast Asian e-commerce initiatives. Ms Devanathan will report to Dan Neary, Vice President of Meta Asia-Pacific, in her new position.



President Sh. Murmu Appoints Dr CV Ananda Bose As Governor Of West Bengal :-

West Bengal Governor Dr CV Ananda Bose has been appointed by President Droupadi Murmu. The position of Governor of West Bengal became vacant after the previous governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, was elected Vice President of India on August 11. Bose, 71, is a 1977-batch (retired) Kerala cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who most recently worked as an administrator at the National Museum in Kolkata before retiring in 2011. He was also the Secretary to the Government of India.



Former Bureaucrat Arun Goel Appointed As Election Commissioner :-

Arun Goel, a retired bureaucrat, has been appointed as an Election Commissioner ahead of Gujarat's critical assembly election. For nearly six months, the third position in the country's top election body has been vacant. Mr Goel, a Punjab cadre officer from the 1985 batch, will serve on the poll panel alongside Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey. Former Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra retired in May of this year, leaving Rajiv Kumar in charge.



SEBI Announced Sundararaman Ramamurthy The New MD & CEO Of BSE :-

Sundararaman Ramamurthy has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of the BSE by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Ramamurthy's appointment is contingent on his acceptance of the offer made to him and the fulfilment of terms and conditions, including approval from BSE shareholders, according to a filing by the stock exchange. With a speed of 6 microseconds, the BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange), established in 1875, is Asia's first and the world's fastest stock exchange.



Govt Named Deepa Malik As Ambassador Of 'Ni-Kshay Mitra' :-

Deepa Malik, India's first woman paralympic medalist, has joined a campaign to eradicate tuberculosis as the national ambassador of its 'Ni-Kshay Mitra' initiative. President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Ni-Kshay Mitra' initiative, which aims to help tuberculosis patients on three levels: nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational assistance, according to the ministry. The president of the Indian Paralympic Committee also adopted five TB patients as 'Ni-Kshay Mitras' and encouraged people to participate in this programme.

IAS Officer Preeti Sudan Appointed As A Member Of UPSC :-

According to a senior official, former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan has been appointed as a member to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Sudan, a 1983 batch (retired) IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, was superannuated as the health secretary in July 2020. Sudan also served in Women and Child Development and Defence Ministries. In her cadre state Andhra Pradesh,

she handled finance and planning, disaster management, tourism and agriculture. Sudan was also consultant with the World Bank. The UPSC is headed by a chairperson and can have a maximum of 10 members.



Prasanth Kumar Elected As New President Of AAI :-

Prasanth Kumar, GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd's chief executive officer (CEO) for South Asia, has been elected president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for 2022-23. Kumar will take over for Anupriya Acharya, who will now serve as an ex-officio member of the AAAI Board in 2022-23. Kumar has over 25 years of industry experience. Before joining GroupM, he worked for Pepsi, The Hindu, The Media Edge, and McCann Erickson. From 2020 to 2022, he served as AAAI's vice president.



Sanjay Kumar Named As Secretary Of Department Of School Education :-

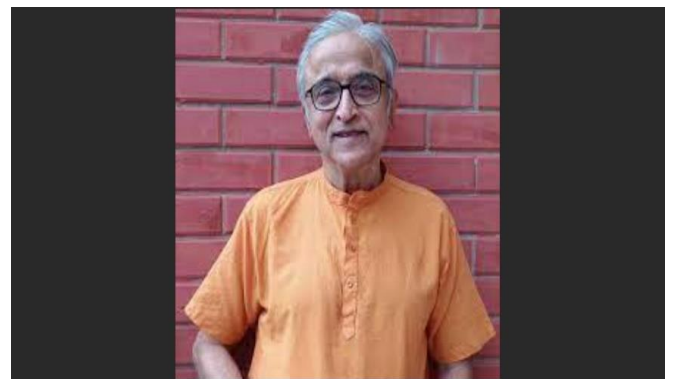
Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as the new secretary of the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy. He was previously the secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Department

of Youth Affairs. Kumar also served as the state's principal secretary for education. He is a 1990 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer. Kumar took over for Anita Karwal, who served from November 28, 2020 to November 28, 2022.



Vijender Sharma Elected As The President Of The Institute Of Cost Accountant Of India :-

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India has announced the election of Vijender Sharma as president and Rakesh Bhalla as vice president for 2022-23. The institute, which is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, is administered by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Mr. Vijender Sharma served as Vice President and Chief Management Officer. CMA Rakesh Bhalla served on the Institute's Central Council and as Chairman of the Direct Tax Committee in the previous term 2021-22.



Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar Named As Chairperson Of The National Statistical Commission :-

The Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) announced that the Government of India appointed Rajeeva Laxman

Karandikar, Professor Emeritus at CMI, as the part-time chairperson of India's National Statistical Commission (NSC) for a three-year term. Mr. Karandikar will take on this role as an additional responsibility in addition to his current position as Professor Emeritus at CMI. He began as a visiting professor at CMI in 2010, and served as Director from January 2011 to April 2021.

written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said that he had taken over from Suchindra Misra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, who was holding additional charge. Furthermore, Karad stated that the organisation has two board level vacancies and 514 group A vacancies.



Hansraj Gangaram Ahir Named As The New NCBC Chairperson :-

Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, a former Union Minister, was appointed Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). He is from the Maharashtra district of Chandrapur. According to a statement from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, he is a professional agriculturist. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir was a four-term Member of Parliament from the Maharashtra Parliamentary Constituency of Chandrapur, as well as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

Meghna Ahlawat Has Been Elected As First Female President Of TTFI :-

Meghna Ahlawat has been elected as the Table Tennis Federation of India's (TTFI) first female president, while eight-time national champion Kamlesh Mehta has been appointed as the new Secretary General and Patel Nagender Reddy has been appointed as the body's Treasurer. In a joint statement issued by Meghna Ahlawat, President and Kamlesh Mehta, Secretary General TTFI said- "We are grateful that the whole electoral college has bestowed their faith on the newly elected Executive Committee to take forward the legacy of Indian Table Tennis."



NABARD Named Shri Shaji KV As Chairman :-

The government informed Parliament that Shaji K V has taken over as Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). In a

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Appointed As The Chairman Of B20 :-

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, has been appointed Chair of B20 India, which represents the entire G20 business community. During India's G20 presidency, Chandrasekaran will steer the business agenda. Regarding the appointment, Chandrasekaran stated that India began its B20 leadership amid a number of global developments and transformations. According to his statement, a renewed strategy for businesses to strengthen global collaborations will foster inclusive and sustainable economic stability, progress, and growth.



Senior Dr. PC Rath Elected As President Of Cardiological Society Of India :-

Dr P C Rath, a senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, was elected president of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24 at the annual meeting held in Chennai, according to a press release. Dr. P C Rath is the current director of the Cardiology wing at Apollo Hospitals in Jubilee Hills. The Cardiological Society of India (CSI) will mark its 75th anniversary in December 2023 in Kolkata, and president-elect Dr P C Rath is expected to play a key role in developing the scientific programme for the platinum jubilee celebrations.



Justice Dipankar Dutta Takes Oath As Judge Of Supreme Court :-

Justice Dipankar Datta took his oath as a Supreme Court judge. During a brief ceremony, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud administered the oath of office to him. Following Justice Datta's elevation, the Supreme Court's working strength will increase to 28 from the sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice. He was the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court before being elevated to the Supreme Court. Justice Dipankar Datta, the son of former Calcutta High Court Judge Salil Kumar Datta, will serve on the Supreme Court for more than seven years before retiring on February 8, 2030.



Gati Shakti University: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Appointed As First Chancellor:-

President Smt. Draupadi Murmu has appointed Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav as the Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara. Shri Ashwini Vaishnav will be the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya's first Chancellor. Dr. Manoj Chaudhary was also appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University in Vadodara by the President. According to the Central

University Act of 2009, Dr. Manoj Chaudhary will serve as Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University for a period of five years from the date he takes office.



Legendary Athlete PT Usha nominated to Vice-chairman panel in Rajya Sabha :-

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has named legendary former athlete and MP PT Usha to the Upper House's panel of Vice Chairpersons. Mr. Dhankhar stated in the House that this is the first time a nominated member has been appointed to the Vice Chairman panel. Along with her, YSRC MP Vijai Sai Reddy has been nominated. In the absence of both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the panel members run the House. PT Usha was recently elected president of the Indian Olympic Association.

4: Awards



KVG Bank Gets Award For Atal Pension Yojana Enrolment :-

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has received a national award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant Atal Pension Yojana (APY) enrolment. P Gopi Krishna, Chairman of KVGB, who received the award from Supratim Bandopadhyay, Chairman of PFRDA, in New Delhi, stated that APY is a safety net for workers in the informal sector, allowing them to receive a pre-determined pension after 60 years. So far, the bank has opened 3,34,687 (cumulative) Atal Pension Yojana accounts (APY).



Ravi Kumar Sagar Honoured With The Prestigious Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar :-

Ravi Kumar Sagar, 22, one of the RK'S INNO group's youngest founders and CEO, was awarded the prestigious Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar. Vandhe Bharat Foundation and LeadIndia Foundation host the Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar every year to commemorate the late former President of India Dr. APJ Adul Kalam's birth anniversary. On the occasion of Dr. Kalam's birth anniversary, the award is given to deserving candidates in order to recognise various people who have done extraordinary work for society.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Wins UNESCO Award :-

Four awards have been bestowed upon the country, providing a tremendous boost to India's heritage conservation crusade. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation were presented in Bangkok to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum and Byculla Station in Mumbai, Maharashtra, as well as the Golconda Fort step-wells in Hyderabad and the Domakonda Fort in Kamareddy in Telangana. An international jury selected 13 projects from six countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal, and Thailand.



eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline of Ministry of Panchayati Raj Won Gold Award Under The National Awards For E-Governance :-

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) has won the GOLD AWARD in the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance. The award recognises Team eGovernance's

excellent and exemplary work, which was supported by Team NIC-MoPR. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, presented the prestigious National Award to Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, MoPR.



IFFI 53: Iranian Film 'Narges' Wins ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal :-

The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal was awarded to Iranian film Narges by Director Payam Eskandari at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India for a film that best reflects Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of peace, tolerance, and nonviolence. Eskandari is a young Iranian filmmaker best known for his films 'Narges,' 'The Good, the Bad, and the Corny' (2017), and 'Mohey' (2016). He's also been an actor and a writer. This year, nine films from around the world will compete for the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal.



Paralympic Medallist Avani Lekhara Receives Para Sports Person Of Year Award :-

Sarkar Talwar, a former Ranji cricketer, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award at the

Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards of the FICCI. Talwar, the Director-Sports at Manav Rachna Education Institutions, is also the recipient of the President of India's Dronacharya Lifetime Award. Avani Lekhara, who won two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, was named Para Sports Person of the Year, while Shrey Kadyan was named Special Sportsperson of the Year, in addition to Talwar.



New York Film Critics Circle Awards 2022: Filmmaker SS Rajamouli Won Best Director :-

RRR director SS Rajamouli was named Best Director by the New York Film Critics Circle. The New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC) announced the winners on its social media platforms. RRR has received a rousing reception in foreign markets, prompting Variance Film to launch a massive Oscar campaign for the film. The film, which stars Ram Charan and Jr NTR in lead roles, is vying for nominations in every major category, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and more.



India's Greenhouse-In-A-Box Startup Kheyti Won Earthshot Prize 2022 :-

Telangana startup Kheyti's Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers has won the 1 million pound Earthshot Prize. Kaushik Kappagantulu, co-founder and CEO of Kheyti, stated that he launched the concept to assist some of India's nearly 100 million small-holder farmers, who are among the poorest people on the planet and the most impacted by climate change. The innovative solution for local smallholder farmers is intended to reduce costs, increase yields, and protect livelihoods in a climate-vulnerable region.



C.N. Manjunath, Krishnappa G. And S. Shadakshari Received Nadoja Award :-

The Hampi Kannada University's Nadoja Award was given to Director Dr C N Manjunath of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru, and writers Krishnappa G and S Shadakshari. During the Nudihabba (convocation), Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot presented the Award . Dr. Manjunath's contributions to medicine and social services, Krishnappa's contributions to literature, and Shadakshari's contributions to literature and social services have all been taken into account.



Bank Of Baroda Wins EAG Laureate Award On Financial Security :-

The state-owned Bank of Baroda has been named an EAG Laureate in the International Olympiad of Financial Security, held in Sochi, Russia on October 10, 2022. The Eurasian group on combating money laundering and terrorism (EAG) is a regional FATF-type organisation with nine members, including India. Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are among the nine countries. EAG is a FATF associate member. FATF is a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that was established in 1989.



Veena Nair Won Prime Minister's Prize In Australia :-

Veena Nair, an Indian-origin teacher in Australia, has been awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Secondary Science Teaching for 2022. Veena Nair, Head of Technology and STEAM project leader at ViewBank College in Melbourne, has been recognised for her work in demonstrating to students how to apply

science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEAM) in real-world settings and how their abilities can have a positive impact on society. Nair is a leading STEAM educator with 20 years of experience teaching science-based subjects in India, the UAE, and now Australia.



Jos Buttler & Sidra Ameen Named As ICC Player Of The Month Award For November 2022 :-

Following his outstanding performance in November, England's T20 World Cup-winning captain Jos Buttler was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for the first time. Sidra Ameen of Pakistan became the country's second consecutive winner of the women's Player of the Month award, thanks to her outstanding performance in the ODI series win over Ireland. Buttler, one of the most fearsome batters in world cricket, had been named Player of the Match in the dramatic 20-run victory over New Zealand in Brisbane to kick off the month with a bang.



SpiceJet Awarded 'Safety Performer Of The Year' Award By GMR Delhi Airport :-

SpiceJet was named 'Safety Performer of the Year' at the annual GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among self-handling airlines and for its success in reducing ground safety violations, according to a press release from the airline. "Safety of our passengers and employees is the top priority for us at SpiceJet. It is an integral part of all our functions and is ingrained in our culture. We will continuously strive to adopt the highest safety standards to provide a safe and secure travel environment for our passengers," said GP Gupta, Chief Strategy Officer of SpiceJet.



National Miner NMDC Wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022 :-

National Miner NMDC has been awarded the prestigious IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022. The country's largest iron ore producer was honoured at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business

excellence. After reviewing a company's business operations, financial performance, environmental performance, research and development, CSR, and corporate governance policies, the Institution of Engineers (India) awarded NMDC the Industry Excellence Award.



Digital India Awards 2022: India's Smart Cities Mission Wins Platinum Icon :-

The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon in the Digital India Awards 2022 for their initiative "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data". The award was announced under the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category. The DataSmart Cities Initiative is an important step toward developing a robust data ecosystem that allows cities to make evidence-based decisions. It aims to use data to improve governance in India's 100 Smart Cities.

5: Banking



Airtel Payments Bank Introduced Face Authentication KYC :-

Airtel Payments Bank has become the first payments bank to offer face authentication-based savings account opening to customers. Face authentication-based e-KYC is available at 500,000 Airtel Payments Bank banking locations in India. The authentication is carried out with the help of a new app developed by the Unique

Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). As a result, to open a bank account for a customer, business correspondents at banking points will only need a smartphone.



IDFC FIRST Bank Launched India's First Sticker-Based Debit Card FIRSTAP :-

FIRSTAP is a sticker-based debit card issued by IDFC First Bank. The launch is in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a point-of-sale terminal that supports Near Field Communication (NFC). According to the company, the sticker-based debit card is one-third the size of a regular debit card, making it applicable on a wide range of devices and objects and significantly improving customer convenience.



Canara Bank Issues Electronic Bank Guarantee In Partnership With NeSL :-

Canara Bank launched an Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) in collaboration with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) on its 117th Founder's Day. Canara Bank

now provides an API-based digital workflow of bank guarantees, eliminating physical issuance, stamping, verification, and paper-based record maintenance of bank guarantees, paving the way for enhanced integration of the Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) framework into business. This platform provides several benefits, including increased transparency, improved monitoring of triggers, and secure transmission of Bank Guarantee to beneficiary.



RBI Imposes Rs 1.25 Crore Penalty On Zoroastrian Co-Operative Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India fined Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Mumbai, Rs 1.25 crore for failing to follow certain instructions, including one regarding bill discounting. The RBI stated in a release that the bank failed to comply with its directions on 'Discounting of Bills by UCBs - Restricted Letters of Credit (LC)' and the provisions of the Rules, as it discounted accommodation bills under LCs without establishing the genuineness of underlying transactions/documents and failed to maintain records in good order for an eight-year period.



SBI Plans To Issue Infrastructure Bonds Of Rs 10,000 Crore In 2022-23 :-

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), has raised a total of 10,000 crore through its first infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.51%. According to the lender, it is the largest single infrastructure bond issued by any bank in the country. According to an exchange filing, the funds raised through bonds will be used to improve long-term resources for funding infrastructure and the affordable housing segment. Based on the responses, the bank has decided to accept a tenor of ten years at a coupon rate of 7.51% payable annually.



Reserve Bank Of India Implements 4 Tiered Regulatory Norms For UCB :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Co-operative Bank (UCBs) classification. Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks. The four-tiered regulatory framework, based on size of deposits of the UCBs, will come into force with immediate effect. In a circular, the RBI said given the heterogeneity in the cooperative sector, a tiered regulatory framework is required.



Yes Bank, Turtlefin Launched Online Insurance Services Platform 'EasyNsure' :-

TurtleFin, an insurance technology (insurtech) company, and Yes Bank have collaborated to develop EasyNsure, a comprehensive technology platform. Turtlefin claims that its distinct API will power the platform and enable it to provide a slew of insurance solutions in a single location. EasyNsure will bring together multiple insurance partners on a single platform to provide benefits such as a seamless single point online insurance service, the ability to compare and select a suitable insurance cover based on the customer's needs, and the ability to compare costs to rationalise purchase decisions.



The government requests that banks and trade associations look into potential chances for rupee commerce with more nations :-

The government has asked trade bodies and banks to explore opportunities for trade in rupee with more countries after having facilitated rupee trade with Russia, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. The Indian banks have already

opened special vostro rupee accounts (SVRA) with banks of these three nations, operationalising the rupee trade arrangement. SBI Mauritius Ltd and People's Bank of Sri Lanka opened an SVRA with State Bank of India (SBI). In addition, Bank of Ceylon opened an account in its Indian subsidiary in Chennai recently.



IIFL Launches India's First Passive Tax-Saving Fund :-

:-

IIFL Mutual Fund has introduced the IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50), a new fund offering . It is the first passively managed tax-saving scheme (also known as an Equity-Linked Savings Scheme, or ELSS) to be launched since the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), approved the launch of such passive funds on May 23, 2022. It will attempt to replicate the returns of the Nifty 50 index. This also means that IN50's fund manager will not accept cash calls; it will not hold significant amounts of cash, as some other tax-saving schemes do.



SBI Crosses Rs 5 Lakh Crore Personal Banking Loan Advances :-

The State Bank of India (SBI) has exceeded Rs 5 lakh crore in personal banking advances. SBI added the final Rs 1 lakh crore in a year. "A series of tactical measures and digital initiatives undertaken over the past few years played a crucial role in our journey to the Rs 5-lakh-crore mark under personal banking advances (other than housing). We are committed to making banking a delightful experience for our customers," said SBI chairman Dinesh Khara. SBI's personal loans had crossed the Rs 1-lakh-crore mark in January 2015.



RBI Allows Blocking Of Funds For Multiple Auto-Debits In UPI :-

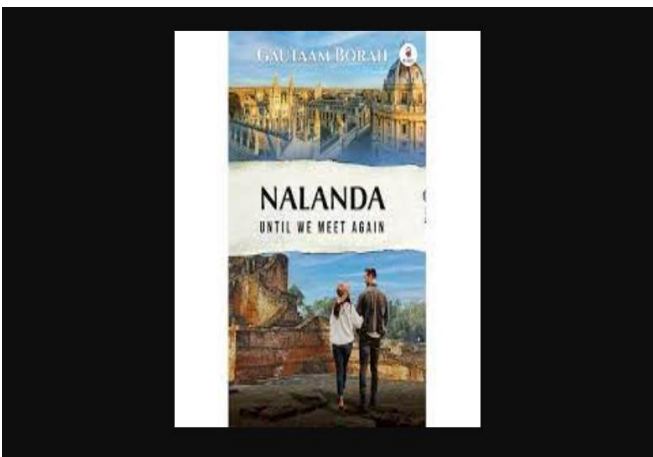
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded the capabilities of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by introducing a 'single-block-and-multiple-debits' functionality, which allows a customer to enable a payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds in his/her bank account for specific purposes, which can be debited whenever necessary. This feature is expected to have a wide range of applications, including e-commerce transactions, secondary market investment, and the purchase of government securities through the RBI's Retail Direct scheme.



IDFC FIRST Bank Launched ZERO Fee Banking Savings Accounts :-

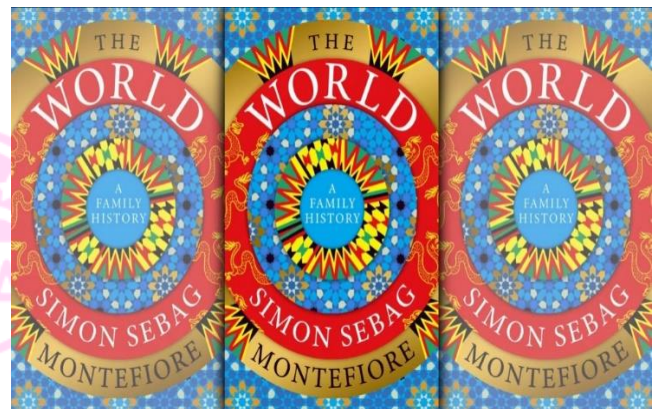
IDFC FIRST Bank announced ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on 25 commonly used banking services. The banking services include savings accounts such as cash deposit and withdrawal at branches, third party cash transactions, demand drafts, IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, cheque book, SMS alerts, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions, international ATM usage and so on. The bank said that customers maintaining as low as ₹10,000 Average Monthly Balance, as well as the ₹25,000 AMB savings account variant will enjoy these benefits.

6: Books and Author



Gautaam Borah's new book 'Nalanada – Until we meet again' launched by Ruskin Bond :-

Gautaam Borah, a senior management professional and the widely acclaimed author of 'Monetising Innovation,' releases his new book 'Nalanada - Until We Meet Again.' Ruskin Bond, a legendary writer, launched the book. Ruskin Bond praised the book and encouraged people to read it during the launch. He said "Nalanada can become a movie and touches upon the aspect of life where one come across elements like search, adventure, love, crime, loss, happiness, time, intuition, the unknown, etc."



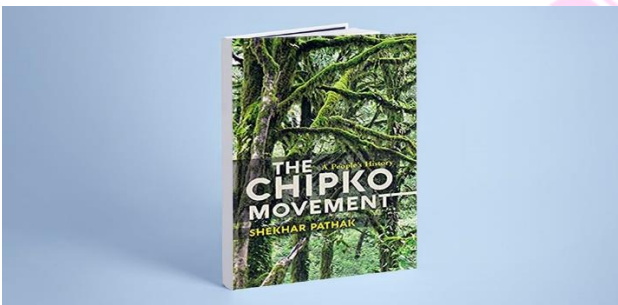
A book titled 'The World: A Family History' authored by british historian Simon Sebag :-

Simon Sebag Montefiore, a British historian, has published a new book titled 'The World: A Family History.' In 'The World: A Family History,' Montefiore explains how humanity evolved through the stories of various and famous families. Montefiore takes readers on an epic journey through the families that have shaped the world, including the Caesars, Medicis, Incas, Ottomans, Mughals, Bonapartes, Habsburgs, Zulus, Rothschilds, Rockefellers, Krupps, and Churchills, in the two-part book, which will be published by Hachette India.



Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta Reveals New Book On Savitribai Phule :-

On the 132nd anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's death, Harper Collins and Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta announced a new book about friends 'Savitri and Fatima,' who worked tirelessly in the 19th century for the education of women and lower castes. The author stated that we are all familiar with the story of how young Malala was shot by the Taliban. Savitri and Fatima were stoned as they went door to door asking parents to send their girls and those from lower castes to school in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1848, they founded the first non-British, non-missionary school for girls with Jyotirao Phule.



Shekhar Pathak's "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" has won the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize :-

Shekhar Pathak's "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" has won the Rs 15 lakh Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022. The jury said: "This is the definitive history of the Chipko movement by a scholar who has practically lived it. It is fitting that a book that tells the story of a movement through the eyes of

the local communities, especially women, should be as readable as this one is. Translated from the Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry, Shekhar Pathak's book is a salutary reminder of the transformative power of collective action."



Book on Super 30 Founder Anand Kumar to be launched in Korean :-

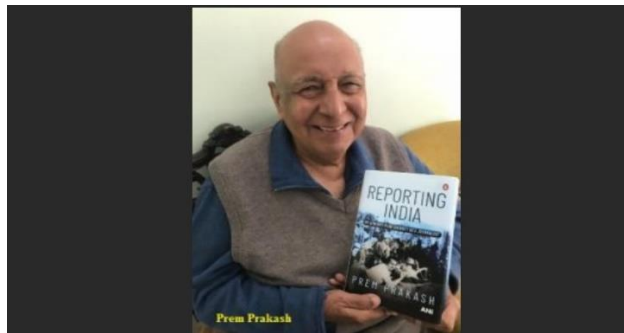
The bestselling book Super 30 by Canadian doctor Biju Mathew will now be available in Korean as well, thanks to an agreement signed with the Super 30 founder with a well-known South Korean publisher, 'The Plan G CO. LTD.' This will be the sixth language in which Super 30 will be published. The book is already available in five languages: Hindi, English, Marathi, Gujrati, and Tamil. Kyung A LEE, CEO of the publishing house, stated that the book would be a great inspiration for students and educational programmes to emulate Super 30.



A Biography Of English Poet John Donne Wins UK Nonfiction Book Prize :-

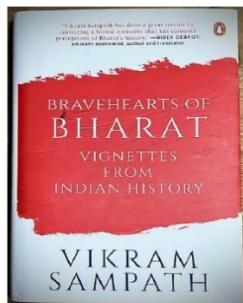
A biography of english poet John Donne won Britain's leading nonfiction book award. At a ceremony in London,

British writer Katherine Rundell's biography "Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne" was named the winner of the 50,000 pound (\$59,000) Baillie Gifford Prize. The winner was chosen unanimously by the six judges from among the 362 books submitted for the award. The Baillie Gifford Prize honours English-language books in current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography, and the arts from any country.



Hindi version of veteran journalist Prem Prakash's book 'Reporting India' launched :-

In Lucknow, the Hindi version of veteran journalist Prem Prakash's book "Reporting India" was released. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak launched the Hindi version of the award-winning book by the ANI chairman. The book on Prem Prakash's seventy-year journey as a journalist is the story of the evolution of India and is the juxtaposition of an eyewitness account with an assessment of what the country was at different phases of time.



A book 'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History' authored by Vikram Sampath:-

Vikram Sampath's book titled 'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History,' an anthology of 15 stories about men and women and their indomitable spirit of freedom and courage, was launched in Delhi. Penguin publication is the publisher of the book. Fifteen Brave Indian Men and Women Who Never Fell to Invaders' Challenges. But it is lost and forgotten in the annals of time. This is the story of these courageous individuals who fought for their rights, faith, and freedom.



Indian High Commission Releases Volume II Of Jataka Tales Audio Book In Colombo :-

The second volume of the Jataka Tales audio book in Sinhala was released at Colombo's Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka. The release ceremony was held to commemorate Sanghamitra Theri's arrival in Sri Lanka. The audio book, which includes 50 Jataka tales chosen for their 'good advice' theme, represents more than two millennia of cultural ties between the two countries. The project is a collaboration between Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and the University of Colombo's Centre of Contemporary Indian Studies.



Author Mansi Gulati released her Book 'Miracles of Face Yoga' :-

Mansi Gulati, the founder of Manasvani, has released her book 'Miracles of Face Yoga,' which was launched by Droupadi Murmu, the President of India. Mansi Gulati, an international yogi, bestselling author, and thought

leader, dedicated her life to learning everything she could about yoga practises and philosophy. She has used a variety of resources to improve her knowledge and skills throughout her learning experience. Mansi has over 25 years of yoga experience and numerous international and national certifications to her name.

7: Defence



Indian Air Force Conducted Joint HADR Exercise Samanvay 2022 :-

The Indian Air Force held the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' at Air Force Station Agra from November 28 to November 30, 2022. Various national and regional stakeholders involved in disaster management, including the Civil Administration, the Armed Forces, NDMA, NIDM, NDRF, DRDO, BRO, IMD, NRS, and INCOIS, have promoted a synergistic approach to HADR through Samanvay 2022. Along with various stakeholders from the country, representatives from the ASEAN countries also took part in the exercise.



INS Mormugao: Second Ship Of Project 15B Delivered To Indian Navy :-

The second ship of the Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers, Y 12705 (Mormugao), being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was handed over to the Indian Navy, according to a press release from the Ministry of Defence. In January 2011, the contract for four Project 15B ships was signed. This project is a continuation of the Kolkata class destroyers, which were commissioned as part of Project 15A in the previous decade. The project's lead ship, the INS Visakhapatnam, was commissioned into service with the Indian Navy on November 21.



India – Malaysia Joint Military Exercise “Harimau Shakti -2022” :-

On November 28, 2022, the India-Malaysia joint military exercise "Harimau Shakti 2022" began in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia. The annual training exercise between the Indian and Malaysian armies will end on December 12th, 2022. The military drill will take place in Malaysia. Joint operations would include both training and operations in the Harimau Shakti 2022 exercise. The exercise features combat-experienced troops from the Indian Army's Garhwal Rifles Regiment and the Malaysian Army's Royal Malay Regiment.



India, Australia Training Exercise “Austra Hind 22” :-

According to the Defence Ministry, a bilateral training exercise between the armies of India and Australia began on November 28 in Rajasthan. "Bilateral training exercise—Austra Hind 22— between contingents of the

Indian Army and the Australian Army, is scheduled to take place at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) from 28 November to 11 December 2022. This is the first exercise in the series of Austra Hind with participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies," the Ministry said in a statement.



Indian Army Is Training Dogs And Kites To Identify Foreign Drones :-

Faced with the threat of drones from across the Himalayas, the Indian Army has trained kites and dogs to prey on enemy drones as a team. Though multiple automated drone-kill options are being tried out, the kite-dog combination has the capability to tackle the menace of drones coming from across the border into Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Several cases have been reported where drones coming from Pakistani side have dropped consignments of drugs, guns and money in J&K and Punjab.



Four US Soldiers Promoted High Up On Nanda Devi During Military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' :-

During the 18th edition of India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' in Uttarakhand, four US Army officers from the 11th Airborne Division were promoted high up on Nanda Devi, India's second-highest Himalayan peak. "In full view of Nanda Devi, the second-tallest mountain in the tallest mountain range in the world, Capt. Cerruti, Lt. Russell, Lt. Brown and Lt. Hack became the first four US Army officers to be promoted in the Himalayas during Yudh Abhyas Exercise," the US Army, Pacific said in a tweet.



12th Edition Of Agni Warrior Exercise Between Indian And Singapore Concludes :-

The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore and Indian armies, recently concluded at Devlali Field Firing Ranges in Maharashtra. The Artillery arm of both armies participated in Exercise Agni Warrior, which showcased joint firepower planning, execution, and use of New Generation Equipment. As part of the joint planning process, both sides participated in a joint computer war-game. As part of the joint training phase, both sides used niche technology and Artillery Observation Simulators.



Exercise Sudarshan Prahar Conducted By Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps :-

The Indian Army recently conducted the Sudarshan Prahar exercise in the Rajasthan deserts, demonstrating its force multipliers. The exercise was held at Sudarshan Chakra Corps' Shahbaaz Division. "The exercise focussed on the synergised application of combat power through the integration of force multipliers and practising new battle techniques in an integrated all arms environment showcasing a high level of professionalism and offensive spirit," said a communique from the Army.



7th Edition Of US-India Naval Exercise 'Sangam' Begins In Goa :-

The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise involving Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs, began on December 1st in Goa. Exercise Sangam was first held in 1994 and is a significant military and diplomatic initiative between the two countries, reflecting their trust and friendship. The exercise will last three weeks and will allow personnel to practise and hone their skills in Maritime Interdiction Operations, Direct Action Missions, Combat Free Fall Jumps, Special Heliborne Operations, and other evolutions.



Indian Navy Participated In The First International Fleet Review Of The Bangladesh Navy :-

The Indian Navy delegation, led by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, and three Indian Navy warships, recently participated in Bangladesh's first International Fleet Review (IFR) at Cox's Bazar. The three ships representing the Indian Navy are the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kochi, the Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette INS Kavaratti, and the Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumedha, all of which were designed and built in India.



India, China Troops Clash Along LAC In Tawang Region, Arunachal Pradesh :-

Three months after the last round of troop withdrawal in eastern Ladakh signalled the restoration of peace, soldiers from India and China clashed again, this time in Arunachal Pradesh, resulting in "minor injuries" to border guarding men on both sides. According to army sources, Chinese People's Liberation Army troops "contacted" the Line of Actual Control in the Tawang sector on December 9. "This was contested by Indian troops in a firm and resolute manner. This face-off led to minor injuries to few personnel from both sides," they said.



India Successfully Carries Out Trials Of Nuclear-Capable "Agni-5 Missile" :-

India has successfully conducted night trials of the Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile, which can reach targets up to 5,000 kilometres away. The test was carried out to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile which is now lighter than before. According to the sources, the trial demonstrated the ability to increase the range of the Agni-5 missile if necessary. Last October, India successfully launched the surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.



India Received Rafale's 36th And Last Aircraft From France :-

India has received all 36 Rafale aircraft from France, with the last aircraft landing in the country recently. According to the Indian Air Force, the aircraft arrived after a quick en-route mid-air refuelling from a UAE Air Force tanker aircraft, after taking off from France. India and France had signed the inter-government agreement in 2016, under which Paris agreed to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around 60,000 crore rupees to India. The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived on 29th July, 2020.



Fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' Delivered To Indian Navy :-

According to officials, the Indian Navy has received the fifth scorpene-class submarine Vagir ahead of its planned commissioning next month. The induction of the Project-75 submarine is expected to strengthen the Indian Navy's combat capability. India has been focusing on strengthening its maritime capability with a focus on the Indian Ocean, amid concerns about China's growing forays into the region, which is considered the Indian

Navy's backyard. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.



Indian Forces Acquiring 'Pralay' Ballistic Missile For Striking Targets At 150-500 Km :-

In the midst of the ongoing conflict with China, India's armed forces are set to acquire the 'Pralay' ballistic missile, which can hit targets from 150 to 500 kilometres away. The proposal is also significant because it comes at a time when Indian forces are developing a rocket force, which has been discussed at the highest levels of the Defense Ministry. Admiral R Hari Kumar recently stated that the late Gen Bipin Rawat was working on the creation of a rocket force to counter border enemies.



Major General Mohit Seth Takes Over As GoC Kilo Force :-

Major General Mohit Seth recently assumed command of Counter Insurgency Force Kilo as General Officer Commanding (GOC). Major General Sanjiv Singh Slaria transfers to the Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur after relinquishing command. During the tenure of Major General Sanjiv Singh Slaria, the Kilo

Force took notable steps toward peace and stability in North Kashmir. In December 1991, the General Officer was commissioned into the 3 MADRAS Regiment. An alumnus of National Defence Academy, the General Officer has attended the prestigious NDC at New Delhi.



Indian Navy Launches INS Arnala: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft :-

At L&T's shipbuilding facility in Chennai's Kattupalli, the Indian Navy launched 'Arnala,' the first of eight indigenously built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC). The 'Arnala,' built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), made its first contact with the water of the Bay of Bengal during a launch ceremony presided over by Rasika Chaube, the defence ministry's financial adviser (defence services). In keeping with Naval maritime tradition, Chaube launched the ship to the chanting of an Atharva Veda invocation.

8: Economy



Blackstone Launches Its Asian Data Center Business From India :-

According to sources, global investment firm Blackstone-sponsored Nexus Select Trust filed a draught paper with market regulator SEBI to launch India's first public issue of retail REIT to raise approximately USD 500 million. According to sources, Nexus Select Trust has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and plans to enter the capital market in the first half of the 2023 calendar year with India's first retail REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) public issue.



Govt Unveils Framework To Curb Fake Reviews On Ecommerce Platforms :-

To protect customers from fake online product reviews, the Union government issued a comprehensive set of guidelines on November 25 that would be voluntary in nature. The guidelines titled "Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 Online Consumer Reviews - Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication", will be applicable to every online platform which publishes consumer reviews. The guidelines prescribe specific responsibilities for the review author and the review administrator.



AYUSH Grows From US\$ 3 Billion To US\$ 18 Billion

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Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ayush, announced that the Ayush market has grown to 18 billion US dollars from a meagre 3 billion US dollars. He was speaking at the 6th Confederation of Indian Industry's Ayush Conclave 2022 in New Delhi. The Minister emphasised the importance of Ayush in realising the dream of a "New India" by providing holistic healthcare and medical care to its citizens. He added that the country is currently experiencing a highly receptive environment in which the value of Ayush systems in healthcare is widely recognised.



India's Current Account Deficit Pegged At 3-3.2% Of GDP In FY23 :-

According to Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran, India's current account deficit for FY23 is expected to be 3-3.2 percent of GDP due to rising domestic economic activity and an increase in oil import bills. In 2021-22, India's current account balance

recorded a deficit of 1.2% of GDP, compared to a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21. According to Nageswaran, India's annual import cover remains adequate, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) does not consider India's external sector to be vulnerable.



Vistara To Merge With Air India By 2024 :-

Vistara Airlines recently announced that it will merge with Tata-owned Air India by March 2024. Singapore Airlines, which owns a minority stake in Vistara through its joint venture with Tata, will own approximately 25% of the enlarged Air India, into which it will invest more than ₹ 2,000 crore. Tata currently owns 51% of Vistara, with Singapore Airlines owning the remaining 49% in the joint venture formed in 2013. This is a significant step in the Tatas' efforts to rebuild Air India, a company founded by the family-run group but later nationalised.



FSSAI Approved Yak As A 'Food Animal' :-

The Himalayan Yak has been approved as a 'food animal' by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). The move is expected to help slow the

population decline of the high-altitude bovine animal by incorporating it into the conventional milk and meat industries, according to an official at the National Research Centre (NRC) on Yak in Dirang, West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh. Food animals are those that are raised for food production or human consumption. The NRC-Yak had submitted a proposal to the FSSAI in 2021 to consider the yak as a food animal.



Rs. 1,45,867 Crore Gross GST Revenue Collected For November 2022 :-

According to data shared by the Ministry of Finance, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in November 2022 increased by 11% year on year to Rs1,45,867 crore. In November 2022, the gross GST revenue collected is Rs 1,45,867 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,681 crore, State GST is Rs 32,651 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 77,103 crore (including Rs 38,635 crore collected on import of goods), and cess is Rs 10,433 crore (including Rs 817 crore collected on import of goods).



NSE Launches New Nifty Bharat Bond Index :-

The National Stock Exchange's subsidiary NSE Indices has announced the addition of a new index to the Nifty

Bharat Bond Index series. The Bharat Bond Index series is structured around a target maturity date, with each index measuring the performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds issued by government-owned entities maturing in a specific year. NSE Indices launched the first two indices in the Bharat Bond Index in December 2019, with maturities in April 2023 and April 2030.



NPCI Extends UPI Volume Cap Deadline By 2 Years Till Dec 2024 :-

The deadline for existing Third Party App Providers who exceed the proposed volume cap has been extended by two years until December 31, 2024, according to a statement from the National Payments Corporation of India. The decision was made after considering the current usage and future potential of UPI, as well as other relevant factors. At the moment, players such as Google Pay and PhonePe dominate the UPI market. To avoid such concentration in the UPI market, the NPCI issued a directive in 2020 to cap the share of transactions.



Reserve Bank Of India Issues Framework For Indian Banks' Foreign Biz :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a framework to allow overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions to engage in activities that are not expressly prohibited in the Indian domestic market. The framework also specifies that these instructions are applicable to International Financial Services Centres in India, such as Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). These activities are subject to compliance with all applicable laws/regulations, as well as the conditions stipulated by the RBI and the host regulator.



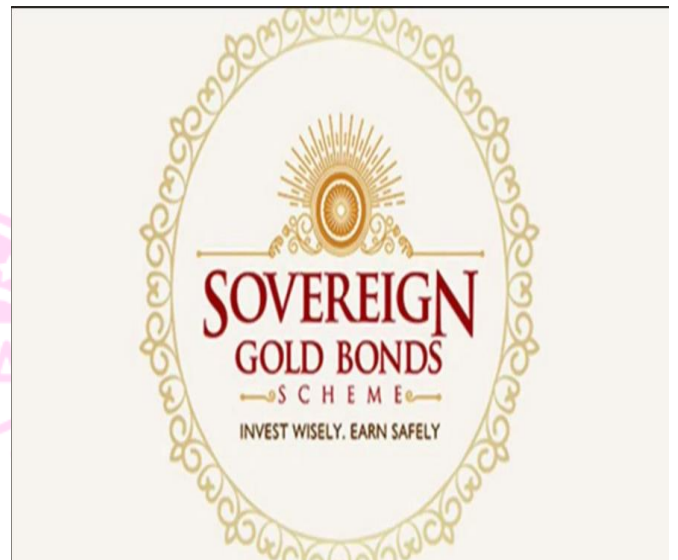
India's Coal Production Increased By 11.66 % In November :-

In November of this year, India's total coal production increased by 11.66% to 75.87 Million Ton (MT) from 67.94 MT in November of last year. According to the Coal Ministry, 24 mines out of the top 37 mines in coal production have produced more than 100 per cent and production of five mines stood between 80 and 100 percent. During the period, Coal based power generation has also registered a growth of 16.28 per cent. It further stated that the power utilities dispatch has increased by 3.55 per cent to 62.34 MT during last month.



SBI Wrote Off Rs 1.65 Lakh Crore Loans In Last Four Fiscal Years :-

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, wrote off loans worth Rs 1.65 lakh crore in the last four fiscal years, followed by Punjab National Bank (PNB), which wrote off Rs59,807 crore, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament. Banks typically write off loans that have no chance of recovery. Banks must set aside funds to cover potential loan losses. This has an impact on bank profitability. In the last four fiscal years, PNB wrote off Rs 59,807 crore in loans, followed by IDBI Bank, which wrote off Rs 33,135 crore.



RBI To Issue Two Tranches Of Sovereign Gold Bonds In December And March :-

The Reserve Bank will issue two tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds, with public subscriptions opening in December and March. The 2022-23-Series III Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) were open for subscription from December 19 to December 23, and the 2022-23-Series IV will be open for subscription from March 06 to 10, 2023, according to a statement from the Finance Ministry. The tenor of the SGB will be eight years, with an option for premature redemption after the fifth year to be exercised on the date interest is payable, according to the Ministry.



India's Overall Trade Deficit Down At \$11.11 Bn In November :-

According to Commerce Ministry data, India's overall trade deficit for goods and services fell to \$11.11 billion in November, lower than last year. In November 2021, the overall trade deficit was \$13.19 billion. In a given period, the trade deficit is the amount by which a country's import costs exceed its export value. Exports (merchandise and services combined) increased 10.97% year on year to \$58.22 billion, while imports increased 5.60% to \$69.33 billion. In the April-November period, India's total exports increased 17.72 percent year on year to \$499.67 billion.



Jyotiraditya Scindia Launched Country's First Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FERRESTA" :-

Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched KALYANI FERRESTA, India's first green steel brand, in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel was created by the Kalyani Group, a Pune-based steel company, using renewable energy resources, leaving no carbon footprints in the environment. The launch, according to Mr. Scindia, represents a paradigm shift in the steel industry. The Minister expressed confidence that, from now on, many

countries will be inspired by India to move toward green steel manufacturing and industry decarbonization.



HDFC Securities Launched Investor Education Platform 'Roots' :-

HDFC Securities, a leading Indian stock brokerage firm, has launched Roots, a dedicated platform that provides comprehensive investor education and market analysis. The site provides a variety of useful information, such as articles, bite-sized tips, expert podcasts, video tutorials and explainers, and a live social media feed on Indian financial markets. The platform's main selling point is that it generates content that current and prospective investors and traders search for on Google.



Note In Circulation Rise 8% Annually To Rs 32 Lakh Crore: FM :-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the value of notes in circulation has increased by 7.98% year on year to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. In a reply to the Lok Sabha, she stated that currency demand is influenced by several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and interest rate levels. She

emphasised that the government's mission is to move away from a cash economy in order to reduce the generation and circulation of black money and to promote the digital economy.



IPL Surpasses \$10 Billion Valuation And Becomes Decacorn :-

According to a report by consulting firm D and P Advisory, the value of the Indian Premier League (IPL) ecosystem will reach a staggering \$10.9 billion in 2022, making the cash-rich league a decacorn. When a company's value exceeds \$10 billion, it is referred to as a decacorn. According to the report titled 'Beyond 22 Yards,' the growth in the IPL ecosystem's value is primarily driven by the BCCI's landmark \$6.2 billion media rights deal inked in June and the auction of two new teams - Gujarat Titans and Lucknow SuperGiants - for a combined value of \$1.6 billion in October last year.

9: International



Jaguar Land Rover Chief Executive Officer Thierry Bolloré Resigns :-

Thierry Bolloré, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jaguar Land Rover, has resigned from the company for personal reasons, according to Tata Motors. Jaguar is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors. Bolloré stepped down for personal reasons. In September 2020, he was named CEO of Jaguar. He thanked the entire team for their hard work and dedication, and wished the organisation all the best in the future. Adrian Mardell has been named interim CEO. Adrian has worked for Jaguar Land Rover for 32 years and has served on the Executive Board for three years.



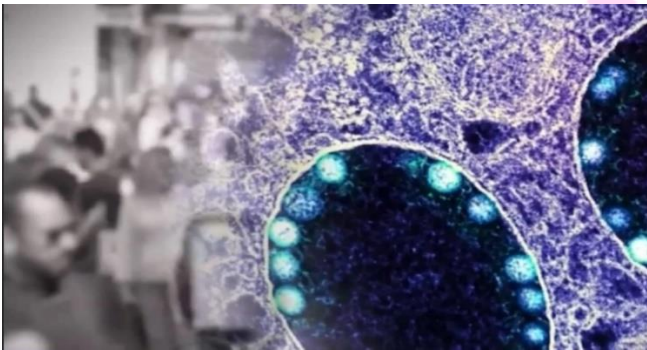
IPC Suspends Russian, Belarusian Committees With Immediate Effect :-

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) voted to suspend Russia and Belarus' National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) with immediate effect. Athletes from both countries were previously barred from competing in the March 2022 Winter Paralympics in Beijing due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for which Belarus served as a staging area. Russia's suspension was approved by the IPC's extraordinary General Assembly in Berlin by a vote of 64 to 39, with 16 abstentions. Belarus' NPC was suspended by a vote of 54-45, with 18 abstentions.



Anwar Ibrahim Sworn In As Malaysia's New Prime-Minister :-

King Sultan Abdullah has appointed veteran opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as Malaysia's Prime Minister. Ibrahim, a veteran leader in Malaysian politics, began his political career as a student activist and founded the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia in 1971. Early in his political career, he began leading protests against rural poverty and other socioeconomic issues in the country. Ibrahim's political clout drew the attention of then-prime minister Mahathir Mohammad, who persuaded him to join the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party.



Monkeypox Disease Name Changed To Mpox By WHO :-

According to the World Health Organization, "mpox" is now the preferred name for monkeypox. "Both names will be used concurrently for one year while 'monkeypox' is phased out," according to the organisation. According to the organisation, monkeypox was named in 1970,

more than a decade after the virus that causes the disease was discovered in captive monkeys. However, monkeypox did not originate in monkeys – its origin is unknown – and the virus can be found in a variety of other animals. The name was created before the WHO published best practises for disease naming in 2015.



Australia's Great Barrier Reef To Be Listed As 'Endangered':-

The United Nations has issued a report recommending that the Great Barrier Reef be designated as endangered. The report followed a 10-day mission to the world-famous reef off the coast of Australia in March. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef ecosystem and a UNESCO World Heritage site located off the coast of Queensland, Australia. Officials from the United Nations Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature warned that the world's largest coral reef is in danger unless "ambitious, rapid, and sustained" climate action is taken.



Korea's Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022 :-

Mina Sue Choi of South Korea was crowned Miss Earth 2022 at the Cove Manila, Okada Hotel in Paraaque City.

Only three of the 86 Eco-warriors were awarded the pageant's three element titles. Andrea Aguilera of Columbia is Miss Fire 2022, Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine is Miss Water 2022, and Sheridan Mortlock of Australia is Miss Air 2022. This was the 22nd edition of Carousel Production's annual international competition to promote environmental protection. It also sought ambassadors to spearhead environmental projects.



Russia offers assistance to India in overcoming a West-imposed oil price cap :-

Russia has offered India help in overcoming oil price cap being imposed by western nations amid the war in Ukraine. "In order not to depend on the ban on insurance services and tanker chartering in the European Union and Britain, the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexander Novak has offered India cooperation on leasing and building large-capacity ships," the Russian embassy in New Delhi said. Alexander Novak held a meeting with Indian ambassador to Moscow Pavan Kapoor on 9 December, it said.



3 Indian-Origin Women Scientists Among Australia's "Superstars Of STEM" :-

Three Indian-origin women, Neelima Kadiyala, Dr Ana Baburamani, and Dr Indrani Mukherjee, are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians chosen as Australia's STEM Superstars. Every year, Science and Technology Australia (STA), the country's peak body in the sector that represents over 105,000 scientists and technologists, assists 60 Australian experts in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in becoming highly visible media and public role models.



Time Magazine's 2022 Person Of The Year: Volodymyr Zelensky And "Spirit Of Ukraine" :-

Time magazine named President Volodymyr Zelensky, as well as "the spirit of Ukraine," its 2022 person of the year for the country's resistance to Russia's invasion. Time editor in chief Edward Felsenthal called Zelensky's decision to remain in Kyiv and rally his country amid the ongoing war "fateful," adding that this year's decision was "the most clear-cut in memory." Since Russia's February 24 invasion, Zelensky has delivered daily speeches that have been watched by citizens and governments all over the world, not just Ukrainians.



WHO Names Sir Jeremy Farrar As Its New Chief Scientist :-

Jeremy Farrar has been appointed as the World Health Organization's new Chief Scientist. He succeeds Soumya Swaminathan, who was appointed by the UN health agency just before the pandemic began. Farrar currently serves as the Director of the Wellcome Trust and will join WHO in the second quarter of 2023. The appointment comes as top scientists and administrations in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union face intense scrutiny for their Covid-19 messaging and handling.



Russia Replaces Iraq As Top Oil Supplier To India In November :-

Russia has surpassed Iraq as India's top oil supplier for the first time, as refiners purchased oil from Moscow last month, fearing that a price cap imposed on December 5 would disrupt supplies and clog payment channels, according to trade sources. According to the data, India's oil imports from Russia increased for the fifth consecutive month in November, totaling 908,000

barrels per day (bpd), up 4% from October. According to the data, Russian oil accounted for approximately 23% of India's total oil imports of approximately 4 million bpd in November.



New Zealand Govt Passes World's First Tobacco Law To Ban Smoking :-

New Zealand is thought to be the first country in the world to implement an annual rising smoking age, preventing tobacco from being sold to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009. It will be accompanied by a slew of other measures aimed at making smoking less affordable and accessible, such as drastically lowering the legal amount of nicotine in tobacco products and requiring them to be sold only in specialty tobacco stores rather than corner stores and supermarkets. The laws were recently passed in their final reading and will go into effect in 2023.



Global Trade Surges To \$32 Trillion Record In 2022 Says UN :-

According to a UN report, the value of global trade is set to set a new record this year, increasing by about 12% to

an estimated \$32 trillion, before slowing down in 2023. "The substantial trade growth during the last year was largely due to increases in the value of the trade of energy products," said the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in its report. The UN body expects the inflation-adjusted value of global trade will diminish next year because of the combined impact of geopolitical frictions, lower economic growth.



Japan, Britain And Italy To Jointly Build Sixth Generation Fighter Jets :-

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), has announced a collaboration between the UK, Italy, and Japan in an ambitious project to develop the fighter jet of the future. It will be known as the "Tempest." Tempest is envisioned as a sixth-generation stealth fighter with a network of capabilities, set to fly by 2035. "The UK will work with Italy and Japan to adapt and respond to the security threats of the future, through an unprecedented international aerospace coalition announced by the PM" stated a release from Sunak's office in London.



Iran Removed From UN Commission On The Status Of Women :-

Iran was expelled from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in an unprecedented move in which India abstained. At the UN Economic and Social Council, the US proposal to remove Iran from the panel received 29 votes, with eight votes against and 16 abstentions in the 54-member elected body. The vote came after intense lobbying by the United States in response to widespread protests in Iran sparked by outrage over the edict requiring women to wear hijabs.



Tokyo Makes Solar Panels Mandatory For New Homes Built After 2025 :-

The Japanese capital's local assembly has passed a new regulation requiring all new houses built in Tokyo by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 to include solar panels to reduce household carbon emissions. Japan currently ranks fifth among the world's largest carbon emitters. According to a report, this new regulation for new built homes requires about 50 major builders to equip homes of up to 2,000 square metres (21,500 square feet) with renewable energy power sources, primarily solar panels.



Cindy Hook Named As CEO Of 2032 Olympic Organising Committee :-

Cindy Hook, an American executive, has been named the inaugural CEO of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane. The appointment was announced by the organising committee after six months of interviews with 50 candidates. Hook had previously worked for the international professional services network in the United States and Australia, moving to Sydney in 2009 to lead the auditing practise for six years before becoming CEO of the Australian operation in 2015.



Sargam Koushal Wins Mrs World 2022 Title :-

Sargam Koushal of India was named Mrs World 2022, defeating contestants from 63 countries. Mrs World, the first beauty pageant for married women, debuted in 1984. After 21 years, Koushal returned the title to India. Mrs Polynesia was named first runner-up, and Mrs Canada was named second runner-up. Mrs. World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the United States presented the crown to Mumbai-based Koushal at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. India had only won the Mrs World title once before, in 2001.



India Announced Candidature For UNSC Membership For 2028-29 Term :-

S Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), has announced India's candidature for non-permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term. "I am glad to inform you. We have declared our candidature for our next tenure at Security Council for 2028-29. And we look forward to being back", says EAM Jaishankar. During a media stakeout at the UN, Minister Jaishankar noted that India's current membership in the Security Council expires in December.



Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar Became Prime Minister Of Ireland :-

Indian-origin Former Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Fine Gael party leader Leo Varadkar has been elected as Ireland's new Prime Minister. Previously, 87 members of the House voted in favour of his nomination as Prime Minister, while 62 voted against it. Varadkar announced a cabinet reshuffle after being appointed as Ireland's new prime minister by President Michael D. Higgins. Varadkar has been elected as Ireland's prime minister for

the second time. In June 2017, he became the first Irish Prime Minister.



EU Adopts Global Minimum 15% Tax On Big Business :-

In accordance with Pillar 2 of the global tax agreement framed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) last year, EU members have agreed to implement a minimum tax rate of 15% on large businesses. According to the OECD's plan, governments will be prepared to levy additional taxes if companies are found to be paying excessively low taxes. This is to ensure that large corporations with global operations do not benefit from relocating to tax havens in order to save money on taxes.



INSV Tarini To Participate In 50th Edition Of Cape Town To Rio Race 2023 :-

INSV Tarini has embarked on an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa, to compete in the 50th edition of the Cape to Rio Race 2023. This ocean sailing race will begin on January 2, 2023 in Cape Town and conclude in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The race is considered to be one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean races. An Indian Navy crew of five officers, including two women officers, is leading the expedition. INSV Tarini would cover nearly 17000 nautical miles during the expedition while transiting from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back.



Sri Lanka And Russia In Talks To Use The Rupee In Foreign Trade :-

For international trade, Sri Lanka has agreed to use the Indian rupee (INR). It comes just days after the Indian government stated that it is looking into ways to bring countries that are particularly low on dollars into the Indian rupee trade settlement mechanism. Severe economic crisis and dollar crunch have been weighing on Sri Lanka for almost a year. Sri Lankan banks have reportedly opened special rupee trading account called – Special Vostro rupee accounts, or SVRA – for trading in INR. Russia is also expected to be one the first countries to use the Indian rupee trade settlement mechanism.

10: Miscellaneous



International Gita Mahotsav Organized At Haryana

:-

With the Saras and Crafts fair on the banks of Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra, the seventh edition of International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)-2022 started on a grand scale. The fair began on November 19 and will conclude on December 6. The festival's cultural events will be held from November 29 to December 4. The CM stated that the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, attended the mahotsav on November 29 and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for many projects in the state.



Maximum Tenure Of CEO And MD Of Public Sector Banks Increased To 10 Years :-

The government has decided to extend the tenure of the Managing Director and other full-time directors of public sector banks. The appointment can now be made for up to 5 years and then extended for the same number of years. The current rules call for appointments to last

three years or until the employee reaches the age of 60, whichever comes first. Though no reason has been given for the extended tenure, it is believed to have been done to ensure consistency and continuity in the operation of Public Sector Banks.



Suryakumar Yadav Named As Brand Ambassador Of UrbanGabru :-

Suryakumar Yadav, the star India cricketer, has been named as the brand ambassador for men's grooming brand UrbanGabru. Suryakumar has joined the brand to promote UrbanGabru's grooming line. Welcoming Suryakumar Yadav to UrbanGabru family, Hemant Raulo, Founder UrbanGabru said, "We are thrilled to have Suryakumar Yadav as our brand ambassador for the grooming range. We are confident that this partnership will strengthen consumers' love for our brand and become a household name for men's grooming and personal care."



Egypt's President Invited As Chief Guest For Republic Day 2023 :-

According to an official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs, India has invited Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi to be the chief guest on Republic Day 2023. The Egyptian president would be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations for the first time. Egypt will also be one of nine guest countries at the G20 summit in 2023, during India's presidency. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, India has declined to invite any foreign dignitary as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in 2021 and 2022.



Uttarakhand Government Appoints Prasoon Joshi As Its Brand Ambassador :-

The state of Uttarakhand has appointed Prasoon Joshi, CEO and CCO of McCann Worldgroup India, as its brand ambassador. According to media reports, the state administration has authorised the director general of culture to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard with Joshi. Joshi is a native of Uttarakhand, he was bestowed with the Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman. In addition, he serves as the chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification. He was also a key architect of the 2014 National Election campaign.



First Science Documentary Made In Sanskrit 'Yaanam' Screened At The 53rd IFFI :-

'Yaanam,' a non-feature film, was shown at the 53rd International Film Festival in Goa. It is based on former space chairman Padma Bhushan Dr. K. Radhakrishnan's autobiographical book "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission." The film 'Yaanam' depicts India's dream project Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan). It is the first science documentary in the history of world cinema to be made in Sanskrit. It demonstrates the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) capability and expertise.



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu pledges to adopt OPS in the first Cabinet meeting and promises an open and honest government :-

Soon after taking oath as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, former Congress state chief Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Sunday said: "We have given 10 guarantees and we will implement them. We will give a

transparent and honest government. We will implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in the first cabinet meeting," news agency ANI reported. Mukesh Agnihotri, leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, also took oath, as the Deputy Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, at a ceremony held in Shimla on 11 December.



Twitter's "Surplus" Kitchen Appliances And Office Supplies Will Be Auctioned Off by Elon Musk :-

Soon, followers of Twitter could be able to purchase knickknacks and office supplies at the San Francisco location of the social media business. Elon Musk will soon organise a year-end auction to get rid of some of the extra stuff it has in its San Francisco office, according to a story in Fortune. The social network behemoth is selling off its "surplus corporate office assets" in an online auction, according to a notice on the Heritage Global Partners website.



Vice-President visits Abohar, condoles death of his uncle :-

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar visited the grieving family for an hour. On Sunday, he travelled to Abohar to pay his respects to his uncle Raj Singh Bhadoo. He lost his uncle on December 2. To express his condolences for the passing of his uncle Raj Singh Bhadoo, who is also the spouse of BJP leader Vijay Laxmi Bhadoo, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar travelled to Abohar on 11 December.



The Silchar Railway station renovation received a 250 crore rupee budget from the Ministry of Railways :-

Silchar Railway station is located in Cachar district in Southern Assam. Silchar Railway station is one of the oldest station in India. It has been built by the Assam Bengal Railway, a company in British India. The Detailed project report will be approved in 2023 and the first phase of redevelopment work will be completed in 2024. The Ministry of Railway has also allocated Rs 280 crore and Rs 200 crore for the redevelopment of the Guwahati and Rangia rail stations respectively.



IDFC Mutual Fund To Be Renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund :-

The proposed acquisition of IDFC Asset Management Company by a Bandhan-led consortium has been approved by market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the deal last month, and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved it in August. IDFC AMC is proposed to be renamed Bandhan Asset Management Company Limited upon completion of the transition, and IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) is proposed to be renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund, with BFHL becoming the Mutual Fund's Sponsor.



Indian Tech Brand Noise Appoints Virat Kohli As New Brand Ambassador :-

Noise has announced Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador for its smartwatches. The partnership was cited as the main reason for Kohli's focus on fitness and his influence in ushering in the era of 'super athletes.' Commenting on the announcement, Gaurav Khatri, Co-

Founder of Noise said, "We are thrilled to welcome the Indian cricketering legend Virat Kohli as a Noisemaker. "The collaboration demonstrates the brand's and Virat Kohli's shared attribute of 'listening to the noise within", the company shared in a press release.



PETA India's 2022: Sonakshi Sinha Named As 'Person Of The Year' Title :-

Sonakshi Sinha has been named the 'Person of the Year 2022' by PETA India. The animal rights non-profit organisation conferred the title upon her in order to celebrate the actress's actions which helped "spare the lives of animals killed for fashion, and her strong advocacy for dogs and cats in need". The title came to her after her campaign against leather for PETA India which amplified the message that "more than 1.4 billion cows, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, and other animals are killed in horrific ways each year to be turned into leather accessories that no one needs".

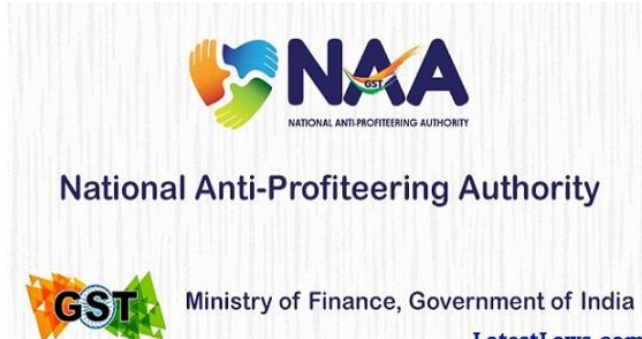
11: National



Senior journalist Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV following Adani acquisition :-

Ravish Kumar, a senior journalist at NDTV, has resigned. Ravish Kumar, a Ramon Magsaysay award winner, used to host a number of programmes for the channel, including Hum Log, Ravish ki Report, Des Ki Baat, and Prime Time. He has also twice received the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award. The resignation of the senior journalist comes after the news channel

was acquired by the Adani Group, which owns 29.18% of the company. NDTV promoters initially opposed the move, claiming that they had not been consulted.



Govt Of India To Abolish National Anti-Profiteering Authority :-

“All Goods & Services Tax (GST) anti-profiteering complaints would be dealt with by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) from December 1 as the extended tenure of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) ends this month,” an said an official statement. “A notification in this regard is expected to be issued by the Finance Ministry later this month,” the official added. The NAA was set up in November 2017 under Section 171A of the GST law to check unfair profiteering activities by registered suppliers.



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launched India's First Centre Of Excellence For Green Port & Shipping :-

With an aim to develop a regulatory framework and alternative technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality and circular

economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal announced India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) a major initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways towards providing greener solutions. The announcement was made by the Union Minister at the recently concluded "INMARCO 2022" in Mumbai.



India To Become 8th Largest Advertising Market In 2023 :-

According to GroupM's global end-of-year forecast, India will surpass Brazil to become the eighth-largest advertising market in 2023. GroupM ranked India as the ninth-largest advertising market in the world in its report 'This Year, Next Year 2022.' According to the report, India's total advertising revenue in 2022 will have increased by 15.8% to \$14.9 billion, owing to growth in pure-play digital advertising. It is expected to grow by 16.8% by 2023. Comparably, Brazil's advertising market is projected to have grown by 9% in 2022 to \$15.4 billion.



Indian TV artist Dev Joshi to accompany Yusaku Maezawa for a trip around Moon :-

Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire, has announced the names of eight crew members who will accompany him on a trip around the Moon in 2023. The dearMoon mission was first announced in 2018. The eight people chosen for the journey were American DJ and producer Steve Aoki, American YouTuber Tim Dodd, Czech artist Yemi AD, Irish photographer Rhiannon Adam, British photographer Karim Iliya, American filmmaker Brendan Hall and Indian actor Dev Joshi, and South Korean K-pop musician TOP.



Anurag Thakur Inaugurated India's 1st Drone Training Conference :-

Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, has inaugurated India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform at the Chennai manufacturing facility of Garuda Aerospace, a drone-based startup in India, with the goal of empowering and mobilising farmers across the country through the use of agri-drones. The Minister also launched Garuda Aerospace's 'Operation 777' drone yatra, which will educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for various agricultural uses across 777 districts in India.



TRAI Decides No Charges For SMS And Cell Broadcast Alerts During Disasters :-

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has decided that no charges will be levied for SMS and Cell Broadcast - Alerts or messages sent during the disaster, prior to disaster notification, or after the disaster has expired. TRAI made the decision after considering the importance of alerts and messages sent in accordance with directions issued under the Disaster Management Act. This was stated by the Authority while issuing Telecom Tariff Order 2022 on Tariff for SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts disseminated via Common Alerting Protocol platform during disaster or non-disaster situations.



KCR Launches Bharat Rashtra Samithi Party After ECI Approval :-

TRS supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao unfurled the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) flag to mark the party's formal entry into national politics. Previously, the Election Commission approved the name change of Telangana Rashtra Samithi to BRS. Former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy,

actor Prakash Raj, and several BRS leaders attended. In order to expand its electoral footprint beyond Telangana, the TRS announced in October that it would change its name to BRS.



Govt Of India Invest Rs 5000 Crore In The SWAMIH Fund To Complete Housing Projects :-

The government has invested an additional Rs 5,000 crore in the SWAMIH Invest Fund-I to assist the stressed real estate investment platform in reaching its final close of Rs 15,530 crore, according to its manager SBI Capital Ventures. The fund is managed by SBICAP Ventures, a State Bank Group company, and is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Along with the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the State Bank of India is an anchor investor in the fund (LIC). Mortgage lender HDFC and major nationalised banks are also among its key investors.



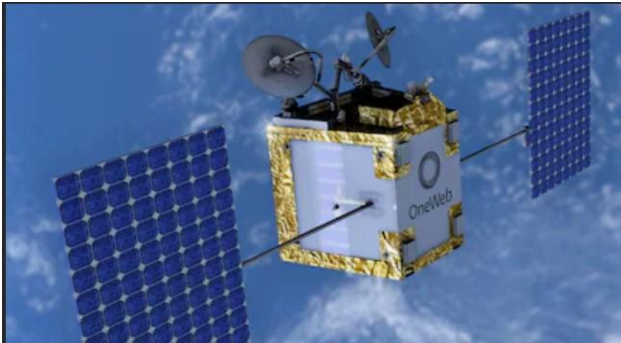
PM Modi Flagged Off 6th Vande Bharat Train On Nagpur-Bilaspur Route :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's sixth Vande Bharat Express, which runs between Bilaspur (Chattisgarh) and Nagpur (Maharashtra). PM Modi flagged off the train out of Nagpur railway station, accompanied by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. The Vande Bharat Express has travel classes similar to the Shatabdi Train but with better facilities. It can reach a top speed of 160 kmph. It aims to provide passengers with an entirely new travel experience.



20 New Nuclear Power Plants To Be Commissioned In Country By 2031 :-

According to the government, India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by 2031, adding nearly 15,000 MW of power generation capacity. The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is scheduled to be completed in 2023 at Kakrapar in Gujarat, which already has three operational nuclear power plants. The 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam is expected to be operational in 2024, followed by two 1,000 MW units at Kudankulam in 2025, according to a written response by Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh.



India To Be First Country To Auction SatCom Spectrum :-

According to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman PD Vaghela, India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication, and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector. Speaking at a Broadband India Forum summit on SatCom, PD Vaghela said Trai will soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various ministries — Information and Broadcasting, Space and Telecom — seamless to enhance ease of doing business in the sector.



EV Yatra Mobile Application Launched :-

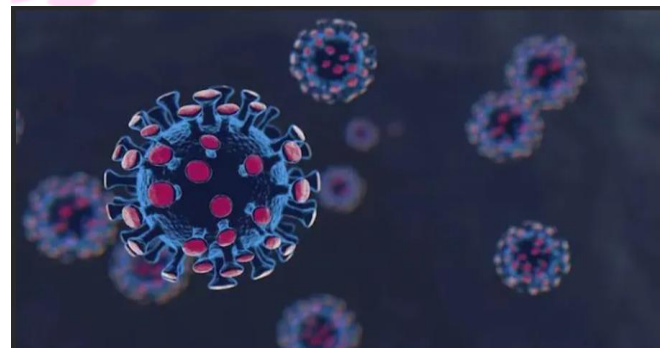
President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'EV Yatra' web portal and mobile phone application to promote the use of electric vehicles in the country. To make EV usage more convenient, India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency developed the EV Yatra mobile app. The app allows users to locate the nearest EV charging station and reserve a charging slot. The app is now available for download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. EV

users use this mobile application to find public EV charging stations when they need them.



Nitin Gadkari Launches First-Ever 'Surety Bond Insurance' For Infrastructure Projects :-

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, launched one of India's first Surety Bond Insurance products from Bajaj Allianz. According to Gadkari, India is well on its way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy, and insurance will play a critical role in this growth. The availability of both liquidity and capacity will be increased by this new Surety Bond instrument. Surety Bond Insurance is a risk transfer tool that protects the Principal from losses that may occur if the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligations.



BF.7 New Covid Variant Of Omicron Driving Surge In China, 4 Cases Found In India :-

So far, at least four cases of the Omicron sub-variant BF.7, the Covid strain driving China's current outbreak, have been identified in India. So far, the BF.7 variant has been detected in two cases in Gujarat and two cases in Odisha. It has already been detected in several other

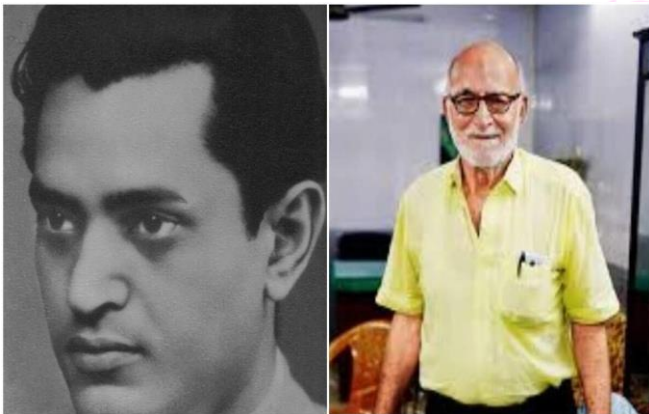
countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and several European countries. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted, "COVID is not over yet. I have directed all concerned to be alert and strengthen surveillance. We are prepared to manage any situation."



Viacom18 Gets Olympic Games Paris 2024 Broadcast Rights Across India & Subcontinent :-

Viacom18 Media has secured exclusive media rights in the Indian subcontinent to broadcast the Olympic Games Paris 2024. It has also secured non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, South Korea, in 2024. Viacom18 has signed an agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to provide multi-platform coverage of the games as well as free-to-air television coverage in the region. Sony reportedly paid \$10 million for the Tokyo Olympics 2020. A competitive bidding process was used to award the media rights.

12: Obituaries



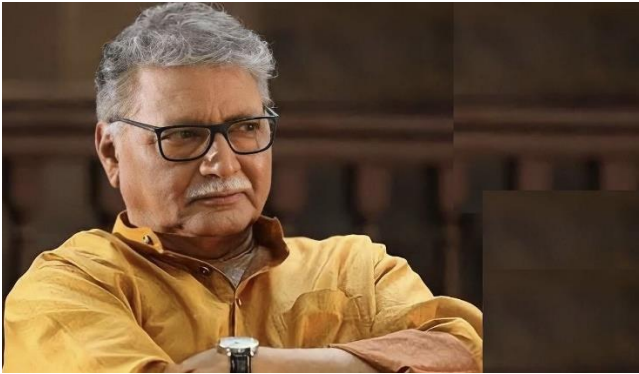
Indian Basketball Legend Abbas Moontasir Passes Away At 80 :-

Ghulam Abbas Moontasir, the former India basketball captain, died in Mumbai after a long illness. He was 80. Moontasir was also the first basketball player to be awarded the Arjuna Award. Moontasir made his international debut against Australia in 1960. He went on to captain the national team from 1969 to 1975, during which time India finished sixth in the 1970 Asian Games after topping their group. In the same year, Abbas Moontasir was named to the Asian All-Star Team.



Veteran Punjabi actress Daljeet Kaur dies at 69 in Ludhiana :-

According to a family member, Daljeet Kaur, a popular performer known for playing memorable roles in many superhit Punjabi films, died in Punjab's Ludhiana. She was 69 years old at the time. She graduated from Delhi's Lady Shri Ram College and began her film career in 1976 with the film 'Daaz.' Kaur had a number of successful films under her belt, including Mamla Garbar Hai, Putt Jattan De, Patola, Ki Banu Duniya Da, and Saida Jogan. She took a break from acting following the tragic death of her husband, Harminder Singh Deol, in a car accident.



Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale passes away :-

Vikram Gokhale, a veteran film and television actor, has died. On November 26, he passed away in Pune. He was 77 years old at the time. Vikram Gokhale, best known for his roles in films such as Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam and Bhool Bhulaiyaa, was previously hospitalised. On the professional front, Vikram Gokhale was known for his roles in films such as Amitabh Bachchan's Parwana, Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Agneepath, and Khuda Gawah. The prolific actor, who has made a name for himself in Indian cinema, won the National Award for Best Actor in 2010 for his performance in the Marathi film Anumati.



Vikram Kirloskar, Toyota Kirloskar Vice Chairman, passes away at 64 :-

Vikram Kirloskar, a well-known industrialist and the vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motors, died of a heart attack. He was 64. Vikram, a mechanical engineering graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was instrumental in bringing Toyota Motor Corp to India in 1997. Toyota-Kirloskar has a manufacturing

plant in Bidadi, Ramanagar district, near Bengaluru, which is one of the country's largest automotive plants. He is the fourth generation of the Kirloskar Group, which was founded in 1888.



Former President of China Jiang Zemin Passes Away :-

Jiang Zemin, China's former leader who came to power following the Tiananmen Square protests, died in Shanghai at the age of 96. Jiang presided over a period when China opened up on a grand scale and experienced rapid growth. According to a Chinese Communist Party statement, he died from leukaemia and multiple organ failure. Under his leadership, China built a formidable economy, the Communists tightened their grip on power, and China ascended to the top table of world powers. He oversaw Hong Kong's peaceful handover in 1997 and China's admission to the World Trade Organization in 2001.



Veteran Film Producer K Muralidharan Passes Away:-

K Muralidharan, a South Indian film producer, has died. According to reports, he died of a heart attack in his hometown of Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu. Muralidharan was also the former President of the Tamil Producers Council. He co-founded the production company Lakshmi Movie Makers with his partners, late V Swaminathan and G Venugopal, and they bankrolled several major hits such as Anbe Sivam, Pudhupettai, and Bagavathi. Lakshmi Movie Makers has produced commercially successful films starring some of Tamil cinema's biggest stars.



Veteran Malayalam actor Kochu Preman passes away at 68 :-

Kochu Preman, a well-known Malayalam film-theatre actor, died after a brief illness at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. He was 68. Preman was known for his distinct style of dialogue delivery and facial expressions during his decades-long acting career. Preman began his acting career as a successful stage actor before breaking into mollywood with the 1979 film 'Ezhu Nirangal.' Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, state Assembly Leader V D Satheesan, ministers, and MLAs all expressed their condolences on the veteran actor's death.



'City Of Joy' Author Dominique Lapierre Passes Away :-

Dominique Lapierre, the French author who wrote the iconic book City of Joy about Kolkata, has died. He was 91. Born in July 30, 1931, Lapierre began his career as a reporter for Paris-Match. He went on to write several books, six of which he co-wrote with US journalist Larry Collins. Is Paris Burning?, a well-known book about the liberation of Paris during World War II, is one of those six. The novel The City of Joy was released in 1985. It depicted the crippling poverty of Kolkata, then known as Calcutta, with compassion.



Marathi Actress, Lavani Singer Sulochana Chavan Passes Away At 91 :-

Sulochana Kadam-Chavan, a well-known Lavani singer and actress, died of old age complications. She was 91 years old. Chavan, an exponent of Lavani singing, a Marathi style of folk music and dance, was awarded the Padmashri this year, as well as the Maharashtra Government's Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2012) and

the Lata Mangeskar Award (2010). Chavan sang Lavani for solo or group albums, playback for Marathi and Hindi films and theatre, and received numerous honours and awards throughout her film and music career.



Former Union Minister And Noted Economist Yoginder Alagh Passes Away :-

Yoginder K Alagh, a noted economist and former Union minister, died in Ahmedabad after a long illness, according to his family. Alagh, 83, was an emeritus professor at Ahmedabad's Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR). In the year 1939, Y K Alagh was born in Chakwal, in present-day Pakistan. Alagh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in 1996 and served in the Upper House until 2000. During 1996-98, he was the Union Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology, and Power.



Veteran US sports journalist Grant Wahl dies in Qatar during FIFA World Cup :-

Grant Wahl, an American journalist who helped grow the popularity of soccer in the United States and covered some of the sport's biggest stories, died while covering an Argentina-Netherlands World Cup match. He was 48. Wahl, who worked for Sports Illustrated for more than two decades before starting his own website, was a major voice in informing the American public about football during the period of increased interest following the United States' hosting of the 1994 World Cup. He also cast a critical eye on the international sport's governing bodies.



Lance Naik Bhairon Singh Rathore Passes Away :-

A BSF veteran of the 1971 India-Pakistan war Bhairon Singh Rathore, whose bravery at Rajasthan's Longewala post was portrayed in the Bollywood film 'Border' by actor Suniel Shetty, died in Jodhpur at the age of 81. Rathore was stationed at the Longewala post in Jaisalmer's Thar desert, commanding a small BSF unit of six to seven personnel and a 120-man company of the Army's 23 Punjab regiment. On December 5, 1971, it was the bravery of these men that decimated an attacking Pakistani brigade and tank regiment at this location.

13: Ranks & Reports



NITI Aayog Releases Report ‘Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India’ :-

NITI Aayog published a study report titled ‘Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India’. The report investigates the significance of carbon capture, utilisation, and storage as an emission reduction strategy for achieving deep decarbonization from difficult-to-abate sectors. The report outlines broad-level policy interventions required across various sectors in order for it to be implemented. According to the report, approximately 750 million tonnes of carbon capture per year by 2050 can generate approximately 8-10 million job opportunities.

Knight Frank, a property consultancy based in London, has ranked Mumbai 22nd in a global index that measures the annual price appreciation of premium residential properties. According to Knight Frank's "Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022," Mumbai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi all three Indian cities saw an increase in average annual prices in the third quarter of 2022. The prime global cities index is a valuation-based index that tracks the movement of prime residential prices in local currency in 45+ cities around the world.



India’s 100 Richest 2022: Gautam Adani Tops Forbes Rich List :-

The global economy may be slowing, but India's wealthiest have become even wealthier this year. The Forbes India India Rich List 2022 is finally here, and according to it, the combined wealth of India's 100 wealthiest has increased by \$25 billion to a whopping \$800 billion. The top ten wealthiest Indians are worth a total of \$385 billion. According to Forbes India, the gain was largely due to a record-breaking feat by infrastructure tycoon Gautam Adani, who changed the pecking order at the top for the first time since 2008.



Mumbai Ranks 22nd In Global Prime Cities Index By Knight Frank :-



State of Global Water Resources Report 2021 Released By WMO :-

The World Meteorological Organization has released its first State of Global Water Resources report, which assesses the effects of climate, environmental, and societal change on Earth's water resources. The purpose of this annual stocktake is to aid in the monitoring and management of global freshwater resources in an era of increasing demand and limited supply. It reveals hotspots for changes in freshwater storage and emphasises the cryosphere's (snow and ice) critical role and vulnerability.



Nagpur Metro Successfully Created A Guinness World Record :-

Nagpur Metro in Maharashtra has been inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for building the world's longest double-decker viaduct metro, measuring 3.14 kilometres on Wardha Road. At an event at Metro Bhawan in Nagpur, Maharashtra, Maha Metro MD Brijesh Dixit received a certificate for the achievement from Guinness World Records judge and adjudicator Rishi Nath. The double-decker viaduct has already been

certified by the Asia Book of Records and the India Book of Records as the longest structure in Asia and India, respectively.



World Bank Upgrades India's GDP Growth Forecast For 2022-23 To 6.9 Percent :-

The World Bank increased its GDP growth forecast for India in the current fiscal year (FY23) to 6.9 percent from 6.5 percent, citing the economy's relative resilience to external headwinds and "a strong out-turn" in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. This revision to its FY23 GDP forecast comes two months after the Bank cut India's FY23 GDP forecast to 6.5% from 7.5% in an October update, following a series of growth downgrades by rating agencies, investment banks, and other multilateral institutions.



Adani Green Becomes World's Largest Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Developer :-

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), the Adani Group's renewables arm, announced the commissioning of its third wind-solar hybrid power plant with a combined operational generation capacity of 450 MW in Jaisalmer,

Rajasthan, making it the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer. According to a regulatory filing, the plant has Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) for 25 years at Rs 2.67/kwh. This new hybrid power plant was built using cutting-edge technology.



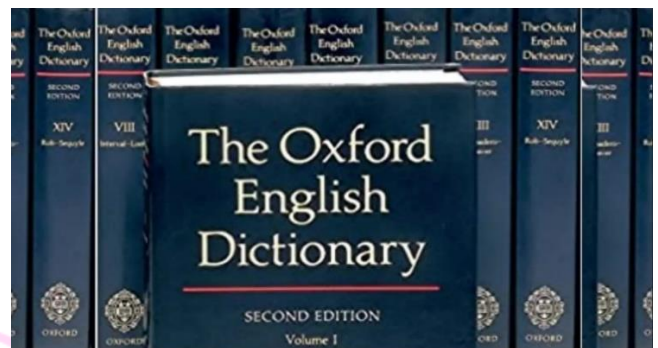
SIPRI: HAL And BEL In The Top 100 Defence Companies List :-

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and global supply chain disruptions, the 100 largest armament companies in the world sold \$592 billion in weapons and military services in 2021, a 1.9% increase in real terms over 2020. This is the seventh year in a row that global arms sales have increased. The Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released a list of the top 100 arms-producing companies, which includes two Indian defence PSUs, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) and Bharat Electronics (BEL) .



RBI Monetary Policy 2022: RBI Repo Rate Hike By 35 Bps To 6.25% :-

The Reserve Bank of India recently increased the repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25 percent. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to raise interest rates in order to bring elevated inflation back to its target of 4%, according to governor Shaktikanta Das. Das stated that the MPC had maintained its current fiscal year inflation forecast of 6.7%. The MPC has kept its inflation forecast for the first quarter of the next fiscal year at 5%, while the price gauge is expected to be 5.4% in the second quarter, according to Das.



Oxford Dictionary Chooses 'Goblin Mode' As Word Of Year 2022 :-

In a year when COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were gradually relaxed, "goblin mode" appeared to be an apt representation of people's sentiments, who rejected the curated aesthetics of perfection on display across social media. The first Oxford word of the year chosen by public vote is a "slang term" that refers to "unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy behaviour, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations." "#IStandWith" received 8,639 votes, while "Metaverse" received 14,484 votes.



IPL Remains The Google India Most Searched Query In 2022 :-

Google has published its "Year in Search 2022" report, which highlights the topics that sparked the most interest and were the most frequently searched on the website this year. According to the list, which is published annually for various countries, India's search trends have changed noticeably since last year. The Indian Premier League (IPL), the most searched sporting event in the country, topped all 2022 trending search results in India. IPL was followed by CoWIN, a government website portal that issues digital vaccine certificates.



India Ranked 87th In The World's Strongest Passport List 2022 :-

India was ranked 87th in the world's strongest passport list, while the UAE was ranked first in the passport rating for 2022. Arton Capital's Passport Index 2022 ranked the world's strongest and weakest passports. The Passport Index is based on the 139 United Nations members, and six territories were considered for the list. The data is based on official information provided by governments, is updated in real-time with crowdsourced intelligence, and is supplemented with proprietary research from highly credible sources.



BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List: 4 Indian Women's In The List :-

The BBC has released a list of the world's 100 most powerful women. There are four Indians on the BBC's list of the 100 most influential women: actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale. The annual list recognises women's achievements worldwide, from grassroots volunteers to global leaders, and is used by the BBC to focus on women's experiences around the world through a dedicated series of interviews, documentaries, and features.



Nirmala Sitharaman, Falguni Nayar In 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' List :-

Six Indians have made Forbes' annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon CEO Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar. Sitharaman, who is

ranked 36th, has made the list four times in a row. Other Indians on the list include Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chair of HCL Technologies, Madhabi Puri Buch, chair of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and Soma Mondal, chair of the Steel Authority of India.



ADB Keeps India's GDP Growth Unchanged At 7% :-

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has maintained its forecast for India's economic growth for the current fiscal year at 7%, while forecasting a slower pace for developing Asia. The ADB's 7% growth forecast for fiscal 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) remains unchanged from its September forecast. According to a report released by the Manila-based ADB, Asia will grow by 4.2 percent this year before accelerating to 4.6 percent in 2023. These projections compare to previously estimated growth rates of 4.3% and 4.9%, respectively.



UN Ranks 'Namami Gange' Project Among World's Top 10 Initiatives :-

The United Nations (UN) has named the National Mission for Clean Ganga initiative, also known as the Namami Gange initiative, as one of the Top 10 World Restoration

Flagships programmes aimed at revitalising the natural world. G. Asok Kumar, the Namami Gange project's Director General, accepted the award during a ceremony at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) in Montreal, Canada. According to an official statement, the recognised initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be eligible for UN support, funding, or technical expertise.



2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) Report :-

The British weekly The Economist published the 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) report. The 11th Global Food Security Index shows that the global food environment has deteriorated for the third year in a row, threatening food security. According to this report, South Africa has surpassed Tunisia to become Africa's most food-secure country. India is ranked 68th, with an overall score of 58.9. China is ranked 25th, with a score of 74.2. India was ranked 71st out of 113 countries in the GFSI 2021, with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFSI Index 2021.



India Ranked 3rd Globally In The Publication Of Scientific Papers :-

After a review of the ministry's operations, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh announced that India has risen to third place in the global ranking of scientific publications. According to the National Science Foundation's Science & Engineering Indicators 2022 report, India's position in global scientific publications has improved from seventh in 2010 to third in 2020, according to Singh. In addition, he stated that India's scholarly output has increased from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1,49,213 papers in 2020.



World Bank Hints That Global Economy On A Steep Slowdown :-

According to the World Bank's latest report, the global economy is in a steep slowdown after about a year of uncertainty in 2022. Education losses, global inflation, disruptions in supply chains, and other global challenges, it said, remind us that the COVID-19 pandemic's effects are still being felt. The world's three largest economies—the United States, China, and the eurozone—have all experienced significant slowing. Under these conditions, even a minor hit to the global economy over the next year could tip it into recession, according to the report.



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Gross Direct Tax Collections For FY 2022-23 Register Growth Of 25.90% :-

In the fiscal year 2022-23, the gross collection of direct taxes increased by 25.90 percent to 13,63,649 crore rupees. The Gross collection in the corresponding period stood at 10,83,150 crore rupees. According to the Finance Ministry data, the Net Direct tax collection for FY 2022-23 stood at 11,35,754 crore rupees, registering a growth of 19.81 percent. Meanwhile, Advance Tax collections for FY 2022-23 totaled 5,21,302 crore rupees, representing a 12.83 percent increase.



UNESCO Heritage Sites Tentative List: Sun Temple & Vadnagar Town Rock Cut Sculpture Added :-

The tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites now includes Gujarat's Vadnagar town, the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura. "With this, India now has 52 sites on UNESCO Tentative List. The list indicates rich cultural and natural wealth of India and shows huge diversity of our heritage. With PM Narendra Modi's dynamic vision and leadership, India is committed to add more sites on the

World Heritage List,” Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy tweeted.



Guru Nanak Dev University Becomes Only University In India To Get A Grade By NAAC :-

The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, has received an A grade after scoring 3.85 points in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading, making it the only university in India to do so. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has congratulated the university on the accomplishment, saying it is the result of persistent efforts made by everyone. He expressed hope that all the universities in the state will replicate Guru Nanak Dev University to bring laurels for the state.

14: Schemes & Committees



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Launched Har Ghar Gangajal Project :-

Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, has launched the Har Ghar Gangajal project in Rajgir. It is a one-of-a-kind and ambitious initiative to provide Ganga water on tap in the state's parched areas. During the monsoon season, the scheme will aid in the harvesting of excess Ganga water. The water will be stored in reservoirs in Rajgir and Gaya before being routed to three treatment and purification plants, from which it will be distributed to the general public. Har Ghar Gangajal is a component of Bihar's Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali scheme.



Union Minister R.K Singh Inaugurated 'Doctor Apke Dwar' Mobile Health Clinics :-

Union Minister RK Singh launched the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd's (REC) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to procure, operate, and maintain ten Mobile Health Clinics (MHC) in Bihar's Bhojpur district. The ten MHCs, three of which are exclusively for women, will provide door-to-door primary health care to the underprivileged population in all 14 blocks of Bihar's Bhojpur district. Patients will also be given free generic medications. Every MHC organises over 20 camps per month and sees 50-70 patients per day.



Arunachal government launched 7th edition of 'Seva Apke Dwar 2.0' campaign. :-

The campaign was launched at Gossang village in Upper Siang District. The main aim of the camp was to ensure that the benefits of government schemes and services reach the doorsteps of people living in the state. 'Seva Apke Dwar 2.0' is the second edition of the Sarkar Apke Dwar (SAD) programme. Seva Apke Dwar 2.0 is different from SAD programme as it is based on actual need of villagers. Sarkar Apke Dwar was passed in the 2018-19 budget of the state. It aimed at delivering all government services to citizens- e-ILP, Scheduled Tribe certificates, Residence certificates, Aadhar enrolment, income certificate, driving licences, renewal of arms licenses, and other government schemes.



Uttar Pradesh Government Launches 'One District One Sport' Scheme :-

To promote sports and sportspeople in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched One District One Sport (ODOS), modelled after the government's

highly successful One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. The scheme serves the government's two interconnected goals of promoting sports culture and keeping the state's younger generation healthy, as well as providing a platform for athletes to develop their talents and skills in order to compete in prestigious national and international championships and win medals.



Google Launches Anti-Misinformation Campaign In India :-

According to a top executive at Google's Jigsaw subsidiary, the company is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence. The initiative will make use of "prebunking" videos, which will be distributed on the company's YouTube platform and other social media sites to counter false claims before they become widespread. Misinformation spreads quickly in India, as it does in other countries, primarily through social media, causing political and religious tensions.



Maharashtra To Establish Separate Divyang Department :-

With a fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has announced the establishment of a separate Divyang department for the welfare of differently-abled people. "The government has created 2,063 posts for the new department which will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled by taking into consideration views of the stakeholders," he said. According to the Chief Minister, Maharashtra is the first state to have such a department. On November 29, the state cabinet approved the establishment of the Divyang department.



1000 Khelo India Centers To Be Opened Across Country By August 15:-

Anurag Thakur, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, announced that 1,000 Khelo India centres will open across the country by August 15th of next year. He went on to say that 733 of the 1,000 centres have already been approved. The Minister was responding to a discussion in Lok Sabha about the need to promote sports in the country and the steps that the government had taken in that regard. According to Mr Thakur, the emphasis is on improving sports infrastructure. He assured that there has been no discrimination against para-athletes by the government.



Meghalaya Government Launches 'Asia's First Drone Delivery Hub For Easy Access To Healthcare' :-

According to an official release, the Meghalaya government, in collaboration with startup TechEagle, has unveiled Asia's first drone delivery hub and network, with the goal of providing universal access to healthcare for the people of the state. The project's goal is to use a dedicated drone delivery network to quickly and safely deliver vital supplies such as drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines, blood, and blood components to different regions of the state. Jengjal Sub Divisional Hospital, which will serve as the hub, launched the first official drone flight.



Govt Extends Rooftop Solar Scheme Till March 2026 :-

Because the 'Rooftop Solar Programme' has been extended until March 31, 2026, the government has asked consumers not to pay any additional fees for solar installations. The programme has been extended until March 31, 2026, and thus subsidies will be available until

the program's target is met, according to a statement from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Consumers interested in installing rooftop solar panels can apply and follow the process through the National Portal. On July 30, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the rooftop solar portal.



Prime Minister Launched Projects Worth Rs 75,000 Cr In Maharashtra :-

In Nagpur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently unveiled infrastructure projects worth Rs 75,000 crore. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari stated that he is "proud to be associated with the establishment of Maharashtra State Road Development Authority (MSRDC)," which was tasked with the expressway's construction. On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis announced that a plan for laying the expressway from Nagpur to Goa via Marathwada and modernising Nagpur Airport is ready.



Punjab Cabinet Approves Recruitment Of 8,400 Candidates In Punjab Police In Four Years :-

The Punjab Cabinet, led by Bhagwant Mann, recently approved the hiring of 8,400 new Punjab Police officers over the next four years. According to a statement issued by the state government, these include 1,200 Sub Inspector and 7,200 constable positions. A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office elaborated, saying that the Cabinet has approved the recruitment of 1800 Constables and 300 Sub Inspectors every year for the next four years to address the shortage of employees due to their superannuation in the coming years.



Forest Department Launched Project 'Vanikaran' In Kerala :-

In collaboration with the Noolpuzha grama panchayat, the Forest Department has launched the 'Vanikaran' (afforestation) project to eradicate invasive plants, particularly Senna spectabilis, and restore natural forests. The project was being carried out on 30 hectares of forestland within the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary's Sulthan Bathery forest range, where exotic invasive plants such as Senna spectabilis, Eupatorium, Mikania micrantha, and Lantana camara were posing a serious threat to local tree species.



Govt Allocates Rs 1037.90 Crore To New India Literacy Programme For Next 5 Years :-

The central government has allocated a total financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore for the five-year New India Literacy Programme (NILP), according to MoS for Education Annpurna Devi in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. According to the minister, the government has announced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme NILP for five years, from 2022-23 to 2026-27. This year, the Ministry of Education (MoE) approved the NILP to include all aspects of adult education in accordance with the new National Education Policy for the next five years.

Tamil Nadu Govt Launches 'Friends Of Library' Programme :-

At Dindigul, the Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Friends of Library' scheme, under which books will be personally delivered to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries. Volunteers will be used for this purpose, said School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi, who launched the scheme in Dindigul. Accordingly, differently abled persons, senior citizens, children and hospital in-patients among others who cannot come to a library will benefit from the initiative.

15: Science & Technology



India Launched Its First Privately Developed Rocket, The Vikram-S :-

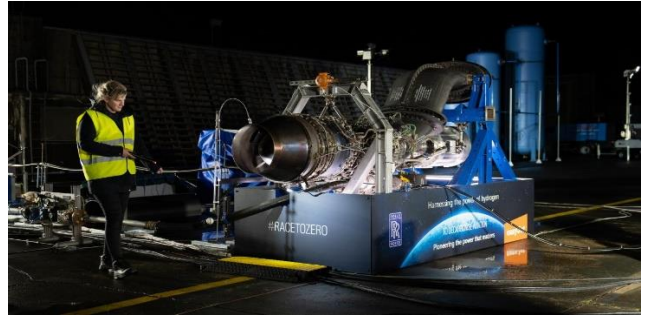
Vikram-S, India's first privately developed rocket, successfully lifted off from the Sriharikota spaceport, marking the private sector's entry into the country's space industry. Skyroot Aerospace, a four-year-old Hyderabad-based startup, developed the rocket, which was launched with assistance from ISRO and IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre). The rocket carried three payloads built by Andhra Pradesh-based N Space Tech India, Chennai-based startup Space Kids and Armenian BazoomQ Space Research Lab.



Agnikul Cosmos Sets Up India's First Private Launchpad :-

AgniKul Cosmos, a private space-tech start-up based in Chennai, has established India's first-ever launchpad at Sriharikota. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has assisted private player AgniKul Cosmos in establishing the launchpad. A technology demonstration mission has been planned by the company. It was inaugurated at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota by S. Somnath, Chairman of ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space. This launch pad will be used for AgniKul's first launch, a controlled and guided vertical launch using a patented engine.

Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC), for assisting Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in developing the world's first Intranasal vaccine for COVID.



"World's 1st Hydrogen-Run" Aircraft Engine Tested By EasyJet, Rolls-Royce :-

EasyJet Airline and Rolls-Royce the aircraft engine maker announced the successful testing of a hydrogen-powered aircraft engine, which the British companies described as a world first in aviation. Green hydrogen is widely regarded as being more environmentally friendly than jet fuel. The companies said in a joint statement that they had "set a new aviation milestone with the world's first run of a modern aero engine on hydrogen", in a land test this month. Green hydrogen was created for the tests using tidal and wind energy from Scotland's Orkney Islands.



World's First Intranasal Vaccine INCOVACC Gets Approved By CDSCO :-

The world's first intra-nasal COVID vaccine, 'INCOVACC,' developed by India, has been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for limited use in emergency situations in people aged 18 and up. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh made the announcement. The Minister praised the Department of



DigiYatra Facilities Starts At The Delhi, Varanasi And Bangalore Airport :-

In India, the government has launched a new service called DigiYatra. Services from DigiYatra are currently available in the national capital, Bangalore, and Varanasi.

This service aims to make airport entry and departure procedures as simple as possible for passengers. It will allow passengers to transfer between airport terminals without using a ticket or boarding pass. DigiYatra is based on airport-available facial recognition technology. This technology allows for contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports.



Hyderabad-Based Startup Gets India's First Real-Time Gold ATM :-

Unlike traditional ATMs, which dispense cash, the Goldsikka ATM dispenses gold coins. People can buy gold coins by inserting their debit or credit cards into the Goldsikka, India's first gold ATM. The ATM has a storage capacity of 5kg of gold. There are eight gold quantity options ranging from 0.5 grammes to 100 grammes. M/s OpenCube Technologies Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based startup company, assisted Goldsikka Pvt Ltd in the launch of its first Gold ATM. This is the world's and India's first real-time gold ATM.



IIT Madras Researchers Develop 'Sindhuja-I' Ocean Wave Energy Converter :-

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have created a 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' that can generate electricity from sea waves. The device's trials were completed successfully in the second week of November 2022. The device was deployed approximately 6 kilometres off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, at a depth of 20 metres. In the next three years, this device aims to generate 1MW of power from ocean waves. The Device is aimed at remote offshore locations that require consistent power and communication.



ISRO And Social Alpha Sign MoU To Establish SpaceTech Innovation Platform :-

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed an agreement to launch the SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN) with Social Alpha, a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups. SpIN is India's first dedicated platform for space entrepreneurship innovation, curation, and venture development. According to the space agency, the collaboration is a one-of-a-kind public-private partnership for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry.



ISRO Will Develop Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal 'Geo-Ladakh' For Ladakh :-

According to Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh has approached the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to develop the Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal 'Geo-Ladakh' for the UT-Ladakh. According to Singh, the project also aims to train UT-Ladakh officials in geospatial techniques and applications. He also stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the IIRS (ISRO) and the UT-Ladakh Administration.



Japan's Ispac Launches World's First Commercial Moon Lander :-

After several delays, a Japanese space startup launched a spacecraft to the Moon, a step toward a first for the country and a private company. After two postponements due to SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket inspections, ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission took off without incident from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The company hopes that this is the first of many government

and commercial payload deliveries. Before landing in the Atlas Crater, the ispace craft plans to launch a small NASA satellite into lunar orbit to search for water deposits.



UAE Successfully Launches First Ever Arab-Built Lunar Spacecraft :-

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket recently launched the first Arab-built lunar spacecraft into orbit. It was launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The Rashid Rover was built by Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is being delivered by the Japanese lunar exploration company ispace's HAKUTO-R lander. The Rashid rover will provide 'novel and highly valued data, images, and insights,' as well as 'collect scientific data on matters relating to the origin of the solar system, our planet and life.'



NASA Launches International Mission 'SWOT' To Survey Earth's Water :-

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States has launched the latest Earth

science satellite, which will track nearly all of the water on Earth's surface. The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft was launched from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on a SpaceX rocket with a three-year primary mission. The satellite, according to NASA, will measure the height of water in freshwater bodies and the ocean on more than 90% of the Earth's surface.



Vainu Bappu 40-Inch Telescope Highlighted At 50-Year Celebration :-

Several stellar discoveries made by the 40-inch telescope at the Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu, were highlighted during the observatory's 50th anniversary celebration on December 15-16. Professor Vainu Bappu's telescope has made important discoveries in astronomy, including the presence of rings around the planet Uranus, a new satellite of Uranus, and the

presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede, a satellite of Jupiter. The telescope, with a mirror diameter of 40 inches (102 cm), was built in 1972.



India's Manned Space Flight Gaganyaan To Be Launched In The Fourth Quarter Of 2024 :-

India's first human space mission, Gaganyaan, is scheduled to launch in 2024. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister Jitendra Singh stated that the unmanned 'G1 mission' will launch in the fourth quarter of 2023, the second unmanned 'G2 mission' will launch in the second quarter of 2024, and the final human space flight 'H1 mission' will launch in the fourth quarter of 2024. According to the minister, individuals for astronaut designation on human space flight missions have been chosen and are undergoing mission-specific training in Bengaluru.

16: Sports



Paddler Sharath Kamal Becomes First Indian Player Elected To ITTF :-

Achanta Sharath Kamal, a star Indian paddler, has become the country's first player to be elected to the International Table Tennis Federation's Athletes' Commission (ITTF). Eight athletes (four male and as many female) were elected from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania and will serve in the Athletes' Commission for four years from 2022 to 2026. The ace paddler from India got 187 votes, the second-

highest number, behind Elizabeta Samara of Romania, who received 212 votes.



Switzerland Won First Billie Jean King Cup Title By Defeating Australia :-

Switzerland won their first Billie Jean King Cup after Belinda Bencic defeated Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in straight sets in the second match of the finals, giving them a 2-0 lead. Jil Teichmann had earlier defeated Storm Sanders 6-3 4-6 6-3 to put Switzerland ahead, before Olympic champion Bencic defeated Tomljanovic 6-2 6-1 to win the best-of-three match. The teams also met in the semi-finals of last year's tournament in Prague, where Teichmann defeated Sanders and Bencic defeated Tomljanovic before Switzerland finished second to Russia.



Vijay Hazare Trophy Final: Saurashtra Beat Maharashtra By 5 Wickets :-

Saurashtra won the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad by defeating Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final. Maharashtra batted first and

scored 248 runs in 50 overs for the loss of 9 wickets. With opener Sheldon Jackson's unbeaten century, Saurashtra reached the target with 21 balls to spare, losing five wickets. Saurashtra has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the second time. Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad hit another century for Maharashtra. Saurashtra's standout bowler was Chirag Jani, who took three wickets.



Cristiano Ronaldo's Cryptic Post After World Cup Loss: "Beautiful While It Lasted" :-

A day after Portugal's shocking loss to Morocco in the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals, Cristiano Ronaldo sent a mysterious message on Instagram on December 11. Ronaldo, who sat out the pivotal game, entered as a second-half replacement but was ineffective because Youssef En-goal Nesyri's in the first half was sufficient to advance Morocco to the semifinals. Ronaldo declared on Instagram that the shocking loss to Morocco had put an end to Portugal's hopes of winning the World Cup.



3rd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament For Blind :-

On December 5, the third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind was launched at Gurugram's Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium. Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and India are among the nations taking part. The tournament will feature 150 players in total. Until December 17, a total of 24 matches will be played in 9 cities across the country. The tournament is being held to commemorate World Disability Day around the world. Yuvraj Singh, a former Indian batsman, is the tournament's brand ambassador.



World No. 3 Sukant Kadam Strikes Gold At Peru Para Badminton International :-

Sukant Kadam, world No. 3, smashed his way to gold at the recently concluded Peru Para-Badminton International, defeating Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang. India received 14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze). Sukant's dominance was evident from the start of the finals. He defeated Chee Hiong Ang in straight sets, winning 21-14 and 21-15. The game last 32 minutes. Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur won the SH6 and SL3 singles titles in the women's category.



Shooter Rudranksh Patil Clinches ISSF President's Cup In Egypt :-

Rudranksh Patil of India has won the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup in Cairo, Egypt. In the 10-metre rifle play-off, he defeated Italy's Danilo Sollazzo 16-8. Rudranksh Patil, 18, earned India's first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics by winning gold in the men's 10-metre air rifle at the ISSF Rifle-Pistol World Championships 2022, which were also held in Cairo in October this year. This competition drew athletes from 42 countries representing 43 ISSF Member Federations from all continents.



Indian batter Ishan Kishan hits fastest ODI double hundred off 126 balls :-

Ishan Kishan of India hit the fastest double century in one-day international history with a sublime 210 against Bangladesh. Kishan needed only 126 balls to reach 200, breaking New Zealand's Amelia Kerr's record for both men's and women's cricket. Kerr set the record against

Ireland in 2018 with 134 balls. In his 131-ball knock, Ishan Kishan hit 24 fours and 10 sixes while sharing a second-wicket partnership of 290 with Virat Kohli, the seventh-highest in men's ODI history.



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver At Weightlifting World Championship In Colombia :-

Mirabai Chanu, an Olympic silver medalist, won silver at the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia. She defeated China's Olympic champion, Hou Zihua. Mirabai Chanu lifted a total of 200kg (87kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) for her world championships medal despite suffering from wrist pain. Mirabai's second World Championships medal, having previously won gold in 2017 with a lift of 194 kg. Meanwhile, Jiang Huihua of China won the gold medal with a combined weight of 206 kg.



Aditya Mittal Becomes India's 77th Chess Grandmaster :-

Aditya Mittal, 16, became India's 77th Grandmaster during a chess tournament in Spain. During the sixth round of the Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain, the Mumbai player, who had three GM norms, surpassed 2,500 ELO points. To accomplish the feat, he drew the game against Spain's No. 1 Francisco Vallejo Pons. To become a GM, a player must first obtain three GM norms and then surpass the live rating of 2,500 ELO points. Mittal received his first GM norm at the Serbia Masters 2021.



FIFA World Cup 2022: Argentina beats France :-

Argentina won the FIFA World Cup for the third time on penalties, defeating defending champion France. Argentina won the shootout 4-2, thanks to a decisive penalty from substitute Gonzalo Montiel. Kingsley Coman and Aurelien Tchouameni missed their penalties for France. Messi scored two goals and then another in a shootout as Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 draw to claim a third World Cup title despite Kylian Mbappé scoring the first hat trick in a final in 56 years.



Eden Hazard Announced His Retirement From International Football :-

Belgium's star Eden Hazard, 31, recently announced his retirement from international football. In 126 international appearances, he scored 33 goals. Hazard currently plays in La Liga for Real Madrid. Hazard signed a five-year contract with Real Madrid after joining the club from Chelsea. After joining Chelsea from Lille in 2012, he scored 110 goals in 352 games, including two in the Europa League final in 2019. Hazard won the Premier League, the Europa League twice, the FA Cup, and the League Cup in seven seasons at Chelsea.



Divya TS Won Gold In Women's Air Pistol National Shooting Championship 2022 :-

Divya TS of Karnataka won her first women's 10m air pistol national title, defeating Uttar Pradesh's Sanskriti Bana in a close gold medal match at the 65th National Shooting Championship. In the gold medal match, Divya defeated Sanskriti 16-14, and Haryana's Rhythm Sangwan took bronze. Manu Bhaker, an Olympian, won the junior women's air pistol gold medal with a similarly close 17-13 victory over Telangana's Esha Singh. Rhythm finished in third place yet again, but she did win gold in the Youth category with a 16-12 victory over Sanskriti.



McLaughlin-Levrone & Mondo Duplantis Won World Athlete Of The Year 2022 Awards :-

The 'World Athlete of the Year' awards went to American hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis. McLaughlin-Levrone broke the world women's 400m hurdles record twice this year, while Duplantis set three new world records. McLaughlin also won Olympic gold in Tokyo last year in a world record time. Duplantis, who was born in the United States, won the award for the second time in three years, with three world records in 2022, as well as the men's world indoor title in March and the world outdoor gold in July.



England's Joe Root Joins Elite List With 10000+ Test Runs And 50+ Wickets:-

Former England captain Joe Root has joined an exclusive club after reaching a significant milestone in Test cricket. He took Faheem Ashraf's wicket during the first session of day four of the second Test between England and Pakistan, giving him his 50th Test wicket. The 31-year-old

became only the third player in Test cricket history to have scored 10,000 runs and taken 50 wickets with his final wicket. Before Root, the only other players to achieve this feat were Jacques Kallis and Steve Waugh.



FINA World Swimming Championships 2022: Chahat Arora Sets National Record In 100m Breaststroke :-

In Swimming, Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a new national record in the women's 50m breaststroke at the FINA World Swimming Championships 2022 in Melbourne, Australia. Chahat Arora won heat 2 in 32.91 seconds at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre's 25-metre short course pool, breaking her own previous record of 32.94 seconds set in September at the National Aquatic Championships 2022. Chahat Arora failed to make the semi-finals after finishing 31st out of 45 competitors. The top 16 qualified for the semi-finals.



Mbappe beats Messi To Win Golden Boot In World Cup :-

Kylian Mbappe will go down in history as the winner of the FIFA World Cup 2022 golden boot. Mbappe scored a hat-trick in the final to beat out club teammate Lionel Messi for the coveted golden boot. However, his hat-trick was insufficient for the French team to defend their title, as they were defeated 2-4 on penalties by Argentina. Mbappe's first goal of the tournament came in France's opening game, a 4-1 victory over Australia. He then scored both goals in a 2-1 win over Denmark but was held scoreless in a 1-0 loss to Tunisia.



India hockey team win's Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022:-

The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022 in Valencia, Spain, defeating Spain 1-0 in the final. Indian went undefeated throughout the tournament and was also promoted to the FIH Hockey Women's Pro League for 2023-24. The Women's FIH Nations Cup was held for the first time this season, with the winner earning a spot in next year's Women's Pro League. Hockey India has set aside Rs 2 lakh for each player and Rs 1 lakh for each member of the Indian Women's Hockey Team's support staff.



Rehan Ahmed Becomes England's Youngest Cricketer To Debut In Test Cricket :-

Rehan Ahmed, 18, became England's youngest Test cricketer when he made his debut in the third Test against Pakistan. Rehan has also broken Brian Close's record of making his Test debut at the age of 18 years 149 days, having done so at the age of 18 years 126 days. Rehan has a high score of 122 and picked nine wickets in three first class matches. Ahmed was one of two changes made by the England team as the visitors are looking at a historic 3-0 series sweep over Pakistan and a ninth Test win in 10 games since Ben Stokes became captain and Brendon McCullum head coach.



Jaipur Pink Panthers won 9th Pro Kabaddi League title :-

Jaipur Pink Panthers defeated Puneri Paltan 33-29 in the final to win the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 title. With six points each, V Ajith, Sunil Kumar, and Arjun Deshwal emerged as the best players for the Jaipur side. The Pune team, however, did not give up and tackled Deshwal in the 38th minute to stay in the game at 25-29. Following that, Badal Singh tackled V Ajith and Aditya Shinde conducted a raid. In the final seconds of the game, the Panthers played their cards perfectly, clinching their second Pro Kabaddi League title.



Rafael Nadal And Iga Swiatek Crowned ITF World Champions 2022 :-

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced Rafael Nadal as the ITF world champion for the fifth time in his career, while top-ranked Iga Swiatek won the women's award after a stellar 2022 season. Nadal is the fifth ITF world champion, following Pete Sampras (6) and 2021 winner Novak Djokovic (7). Swiatek won the French and US Opens, as well as titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart, Rome, and San Diego, during a 37-match winning streak. She won 67 matches in total, topping the list of finals and trophies won.



England's Rehan Ahmed Becomes Youngest To Claim five-wicket haul On Test Debut :-

Debutant Rehan Ahmed bowled his heart out, during the third Test between Pakistan and England, becoming the youngest bowler in Test history to claim a five-fer. In Pakistan's second innings, Ahmed got his five-fer by dismissing Agha Salman. Rehan Ahmed (18y and 128d)

became the youngest debutant in men's Test cricket history to claim a five-fer, surpassing current Australian Test captain Pat Cummins, who did so when he was 18 years and 196 days old.



France's Karim Benzema Announced Retirement From International Football :-

Karim Benzema, the France striker, announced his retirement from international football on his 35th birthday, a day after France lost the World Cup final on penalties to Argentina. The Ballon d'Or winner, who has 37 goals in 97 appearances, was expected to lead France's attack in Qatar but was forced to withdraw due to a thigh injury sustained in training the day before the tournament. In 2007, Benzema made his international

debut. He competed in the European Championships in 2008 and 2012, as well as the World Cup in 2014.



Blind T20 World Cup 2022: India Beat Bangladesh By 120 Runs :-

Sunil Ramesh's and captain Ajay Kumar Reddy's centuries led India to a 120-run victory over Bangladesh in the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind, which was held here at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. India won the championship without losing a game. The winners and runners-up trophies were presented by Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot. The President praised the Indian cricket team for doing their country proud. She stated that their bravery and determination will inspire others to succeed in the face of adversity.

17: State



UP Government To Build Ramayana, Mahabharata, Buddhist Circuits :-

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet recently approved the New Tourism Policy in order to foster the state's religious potential and to establish the state as the hub of religious and spiritual tourism in the country. According to the policy, the state will create separate religious circuits. While discussing the new tourism policy and the development of new areas, State Cabinet Minister AK Sharma stated that Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Bithoor, and other Ramayana-related sites will be included in the Ramayana circuit.



Uttarakhand High Court To Be Shifted To Haldwani From Nainital:-

According to officials familiar with the situation, the Uttarakhand state cabinet has given "in-principle approval" to move the high court from Nainital to Haldwani. They did, however, add that "it is not yet a cabinet decision." They stated that the state government will now investigate technical and other aspects of the HC's relocation. There has long been a demand to relocate the High Court from Nainital due to the tourist rush, lack of space, and difficult geographical location, though a large number of lawyers and locals have been opposed to the move.



Tamil Nadu Govt Declared Arippapatti Village In Madurai As A Biodiversity Heritage Site :-

The Tamil Nadu government has declared Arippapatti village near Melur in Madurai district a biodiversity heritage site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The site, which covers an area of 193.21

hectares, is the state's first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) to be notified in the state. The Arippapatti village, according to a statement, is surrounded by a chain of seven barren granite hillocks that act as a watershed and support nearly 72 lakes, 200 natural spring pools, and three check dams.



Indore Plans India's First Retail Municipal Green Bond For Solar Plant :-

Indore intends to issue the country's first local government bond, aimed at individual investors, with the proceeds going toward a solar power project. According to Divyank Singh, chief executive officer of Indore Smart City, who is working with various stakeholders to finalise the offering, Indore Municipal Corp. hopes to raise up to 2.6 billion rupees (\$31.8 million) through a 10-year bond sale next month. The Indore municipal green bond, which is located in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, will also be the country's first municipal green bond designed for retail investors.



Tamil Nadu CM Inaugurated SIPCOT Industrial Park :-

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M K Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Eraiyur, Perambalur district. This is the first SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited) industrial park in Perambalur, an industrially depressed district. The park, which is located on 243.49 acres in Eraiyur on the Chennai-Tiruchy national highway, was established in response to the government's announcement in 2022-23 to promote industrial development in the districts of Coimbatore, Perambalur, Madurai, Vellore, and Tiruvallur.



A new songbird has been discovered in the mountains of Arunachal Pradesh :-

Six birdwatchers claimed to have discovered a new species of Wren Babbler while on a trip to Arunachal Pradesh. In March, a group of birdwatchers from Bengaluru, Chennai, and Thiruvananthapuram set off on a trip to climb Mugaphi Peak in search of the endangered Grey-bellied Wren Babbler. The group was joined by two guides from Arunachal Pradesh. The majority of grey-bellied wren babblers have been found in Myanmar, although some have also been identified in China and Thailand. The new bird has been given the name Lisu Wren Babbler in honour of the Lisu people of Arunachal Pradesh.



Meghalaya Cabinet Approved Mental Health And Social Care Policy :-

Meghalaya became the third state in the country to implement a comprehensive mental health and social care policy. Chief Minister Conrad Sangma announced on Twitter that the Meghalaya Cabinet had approved the Meghalaya mental health and social care policy. "As a State and as a Government, we strongly felt that mental health issues have been neglected for a very long time and hence, a comprehensive policy was required to address the same," he said. He also stated that this policy will ensure adequate mental health care, particularly for children, adolescents, and youth.



Koushal-2022 awards presented by Andhra Pradesh Governor to students :-

As the chief guest, Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan attended the State Level Koushal 2022 Award Presentation Program. The award ceremony took place on December 9 at the Vijayawada School of Planning & Architecture auditorium. A State-level science talent test called The Koushal was introduced in 2018. This event was co-organized by the Bharatiya Vijnana Mandali (BVM) and the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Science & Technology. KOUSHAL encourages the children to reason critically, solve problems with team spirit and make them discover the Indian contribution to the world in the field of science and technology.



BJP's Bhupendra Patel Sworn-In As Gujarat CM For 2nd Consecutive Term :-

In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as Gujarat Chief Minister for a second consecutive term in Gandhinagar. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered Patel's oath as Gujarat's 18th Chief Minister. Along with Patel, several BJP leaders, including Harsh Sanghavi and Jagdish Vishwakarma, were sworn in as Gujarat cabinet ministers. The swearing-in ceremony was also attended by BJP national president JP Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



Mopa International Airport Goa Named After Former CM Manohar Parrikar :-

Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's name has been given to the newly opened Mopa International Airport in Goa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mopa International Airport in Goa with the goal of increasing air connectivity and tourism in the coastal state. The airport, which cost around Rs 2,870 crore to build, is based on the theme of sustainable infrastructure. In November 2016, Prime Minister Modi laid the groundwork for the airport. The new international airport is located in northern Goa, about 35 kilometres from Panaji, the state capital.



Chief Justice Of India Inaugurates Digitisation Hubs In 10 Districts Of Odisha :-

D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, has virtually inaugurated ten district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha. With the inauguration, the state now has a total of 15 DCDHs, each serving a neighbouring district and

thus covering all 30 district courts. He praised the Orissa High Court's information and communication technology (ICT) measures implemented under the leadership of Chief Justice S Muralidhar, saying, "Digitisation should be accompanied by a push for e-filing of cases."



Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Inaugurated Statue Of 'Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar' :-

M.K.Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated the statue of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar via video conference at Bharathiyar's renovated house in Varanasi. Mr. Stalin also issued a souvenir commemorating his centenary. On behalf of the State Government, Bharathiyar's 141st birth anniversary was celebrated in various locations throughout the state. The government had decided to renovate his house in Varanasi. According to the Chief Minister's announcement, the government reached an agreement with the house's owner, and a portion of it was renovated at a cost of Rs. 18 lakh.



Gamosa From Assam And Ladakh's Apricots Gets GI Tags :-

The government has granted Geographical Indications (GI) status to a variety of products, including Assam's Gamosa, Telangana's Tandur Redgram, and a Ladakh apricot variety. According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the total number of GI has reached 432. "Famous Gamosa of Assam, Tandur Redgram of Telangana, RaktseyKarpoo Apricot of Ladakh, Alibag White Onion of Maharashtra have got their GI tags," it said. The top five states holding maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, it added.



Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel Unveils Urban-20 Logo, Website And Social Media Handle :-

As part of the ongoing G20 programmes, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the Urban-20 logo, website, and social media handles. Taking to Twitter, Patel declared that Ahmedabad's selection as the chairman of the Urban-20 events on urban development to be held as part of the G20 Summit is a "matter of pride" for Gujarat. On December 1, India officially assumed the G20 presidency. In a video message, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri congratulated the successful organisation of the Urban-20 events.



Tamil Nadu State Government Makes Aadhaar A Must For All Of Its Schemes :-

The Tamil Nadu government has announced that all those eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes must provide proof of Aadhaar number possession or undergo Aadhaar identification. According an order, issued by Finance Secretary N. Muruganandam said that adhaar is mandatory for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the State government through various Departments by their implementing agencies.

Assam Government Launched Orunodoi 2.0 Scheme :-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently launched the second version of 'Orunodoi,' the state government's flagship scheme aimed at providing financial security to economically disadvantaged families. Speaking on the occasion at the ceremonial launch held at the premises of Assam House in the national capital, Sarma termed 'Orunodoi' the largest social-sector scheme in the history of the state that has the capability of radically transforming the lives of millions of its residents.

18: Summits & Conferences



UN Human Rights Body Launches Iran Human Rights Probe :-

The Human Rights Council has established a fact-finding mission in response to the protests in Iran that began in mid-September and have now spread across the country. According to UN News, this comes in response to UN

human rights chief Volker Turk's call for an independent investigation. The Council, meeting in a special session in response to the crisis that was sparked by the death in September in police custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, heard Turk criticise "the fortress mentality of those who wield power" in Iran.



Seventh Edition Of Global Technology Summit Held In New Delhi :-

The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) was held in a hybrid format in New Delhi from November 29 to December 1. The Summit was co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India and was India's annual flagship event on geotechnology. GTS 2022 saw participation from more than 100 speakers across over 50-panel discussions, keynote addresses, book launches, and other events. More than 5000 participants from all over the world have registered to attend the Summit.



China Holds First China-Indian Ocean Region Forum Without India :-

China's expansion into South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) continued recently with the organisation of the first high-level China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, attended by 19 countries from the region except India. Despite the fact that the event was held quietly alongside many other events in Kunming, including the 6th China-South Asia expo and the China-Indian Ocean region thinktank forum in a hybrid format, it demonstrated China's ongoing quest for a larger presence and role in the strategically important Indian Ocean.



14th Edition Of Aero India 2023 To Be Held From 13-17 February 2023 In Bengaluru :-

Aero India 2023 will be held from the 13th to the 17th of February 2023 at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, according to the Ministry of Defence. Since 1996, the show has been held at Air Force Station Yelahanka. Aero India 2023, Asia's largest airshow, will feature both domestic and international exhibitors. It will also make virtual exhibitions possible. The biennial show is open to both business and general public visitors. The biennial exhibition will last five days. Due to the Covid pandemic, the show was reduced to three days in 2021.



International Lusophone Festival Held In Goa :-

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has organised the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from December 3-6, 2022, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Government of Goa.

The festival's goal is to strengthen India's ties with the Lusophone world. Goa has a long history with the Lusophone world, which has been strengthened by the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions such as the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute, which promote Portuguese language and culture in India.



23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 Held In Nagaland :-

The 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 was held from December 1st to December 10th at Naga Heritage Village Kisama. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar graced the the opening ceremony of the festival as the chief guest. In Kisama, 132 stalls were set up, with 100 stalls set up by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and 32 temporary stalls. This 10-day festival also included a slew of activities such as daily cultural programmes, the Hornbill Music Festival, a photo fest, a fashion show, adventure sports, a night carnival, hortiscape, and so on.

NADA India Hosts Inclusion Conclave For The First Time To Focus On Athletes With Disabilities :-

In order to promote inclusivity in our country's anti-doping landscape, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) organised an inclusion conclave to focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities. The Conclave took a holistic approach to building an inclusive anti-doping landscape in India, including sessions on policy landscape and legal framework, challenges faced by such athletes, education of and engagement with such athletes, and Doping Control processes for athletes with disabilities.



India Assumes The Presidency Of The UNSC For December Month 2022 :-

For the month of December, India will preside over the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). India has assumed the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council. India had previously assumed the UN Security Council Presidency in August 2021. During India's UN Security Council Presidency in December, two high-level signature events on 'Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-Terrorism' will be held on the 14th and 15th of December, and will be chaired by External Affairs Minister.





51st 'Maitri Diwas' Marking Recognition Of Bangladesh By India Celebrated In Dhaka :-

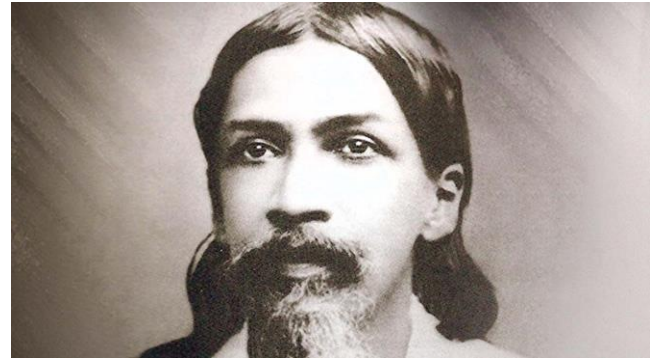
On December 6, Dhaka celebrated the 51st anniversary of 'Maitri Diwas,' which commemorated India's recognition of Bangladesh in 1971. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Bangladesh's Minister for Liberation War Affairs, A.K.M Mozammel Haque. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Mozammel Haque thanked India for its support extended to the people of Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971. He said, without India's active support the war of liberation could not have been won in just about 9 months.



India Hosts Conclave Of NSAs Of Central Asian Countries :-

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval stated at the first India-Central Asia meeting of National Security Advisers in New Delhi that connectivity with Central Asian countries remains India's top priority. This is the first time India has hosted a gathering of top security officials from Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to discuss the evolving security situation in Afghanistan and ways to

deal with the terrorism threat emanating from that country.



PM Participated In A Programme Commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth Anniversary :-

Via video conferencing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a programme commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, and a commemorative coin and postal stamp were released in his honour. Sri Aurobindo, born on August 15, 1872, was a visionary who contributed significantly to India's freedom struggle. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a year-long celebration of Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, with activities and programmes taking place across the country.



8th India International Science Festival 2022 to be held in Bhopal :-

The eighth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held at the Maulana Azad Institute of Technology, Bhopal next month on January 21 to celebrate the country's achievements in the field of

science, technology and innovation. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said at a press conference in New Delhi that the festival will allow people and the scientific fraternity in the country and abroad to come together, work together, and experience the joy of doing science for the benefit of India and humanity.



Ministry Of Culture Organizing Delhi International Arts Festival :-

The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Prasadha Foundation, launched the Delhi International Arts Festival at Kartavya Path, with the tagline 'Where Bharat Meets India'. The festival will take place from the 16th to the 30th of December. From the 17th to the 30th of December 2022, a series of events and performances will be held at various locations in Delhi, including Kartavya Path India Gate Lawns, Central Vista, Samvet Auditorium Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, Amphitheatre Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts Janpath, and others.



599th Meeting Of Central Board Of The Reserve Bank Of India :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 599th meeting of the Central Board of Directors in Kolkata, under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das, the RBI said in a statement. "The board in its meeting reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges, including geopolitical developments, finance and trade," the statement said. The board also discussed the activities of various central office departments, as well as the draft report on the Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2021-22.



UAE To Host The 13th WTO Ministerial Meeting In 2024 :-

The United Arab Emirates was selected to host the World Trade Organization's 2024 ministerial conference, the largest global gathering of trade ministers. The meeting, scheduled for the week of February 26, 2024 in Abu Dhabi, comes at a critical time for the world economy, which is reeling from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an ongoing pandemic, and a simmering trade war between the world's two largest economies. WTO ministerial meetings are typically held twice a year and frequently provide political impetus to advance international trade negotiations.



Agriculture Ministry Organises Millet Food Festival In Parliament :-

To commemorate the International Year of Millets (IYM) in 2023, the Agriculture Ministry organised a Millet food festival in Parliament for members on December 20th. In recent, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets - 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. The United Nations General Assembly, UNGA, accepted the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to celebrate 2023 as International Year of Millets.



Union Minister Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Good Governance Week 2022 :-

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister, launched Good Governance Week 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Minister also launched a five-day nationwide campaign, "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore," to commemorate former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary. Under the campaign, approximately 3,120 new services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for online service delivery. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu stated that his government will not leave any stone unturned in facilitating service delivery of all kinds.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. _____ was named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 Player of the Tournament.

- A) Jos Buttler
- B) Sam Curran
- C) Suryakumar Yadav
- D) Virat Kohli

2. Who among the following was appointed as the CEO of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati?

- A) Uday Muhurkar
- B) Sandeep Unnithan
- C) Gaurav Dwivedi
- D) Ashish Misra

3. When the National Press Day was observed?

- A) November 20
- B) November 16
- C) November 14
- D) November 11

4. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association?

- A) Achanta Sharath Kamal
- B) Mary Kom
- C) Mirabai Chanu
- D) PV Sindhu

5. Which of the following state has implemented the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act?

- A) Odisha

- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Chhattisgarh

6. India's First Elephant Death Audit Framework was launched by which of the following state recently?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Kerala
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu

7. Which bank launched a 100-day CASA (current account savings account) campaign for 2022-23?

- A) Karnataka Bank
- B) Karur Vysya Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) RBL Bank

8. To provide LIC's products, which of the following company has Collaborated with the LIC?

- A) Artivatic
- B) InsuranceDekho
- C) Mantra Labs
- D) PolicyBazaar

9. Which of the following Indian-origin Entrepreneur was featured on Fortune's annual 40 under 40 list in 2022?

- A) Kanav Kariya
- B) Ankit Gupta
- C) Baiju Bhatt

D) Both A & B

10. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the National Pension System Trust (NPST)?

- A) Dinesh Kumar Mehrotra
- B) Ruchir Mittal
- C) Suraj Bhan
- D) Y. Venkata Rao

11. What is the rank of India in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2022 report?

- A) 67
- B) 61
- C) 57
- D) 51

12. For the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) enrollment which of the following bank has received a National Award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)?

- A) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank
- B) Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank
- C) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
- D) Tamil Nadu Grama Bank

13. Veteran _____ player Gulam Abbas Moontasir has passed away recently.

- A) Basketball
- B) Cricket
- C) Hockey
- D) Table Tennis

14. Who among the following was elected as a member of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM)?

- A) Amita Das
- B) Anju Manral
- C) Sanju Tyagi
- D) Venu Gopal Achanta

15. When the World Heritage Week 2022 was observed in India?

- A) 16 to 22 November
- B) 17 to 23 November
- C) 18 to 24 November
- D) 19 to 25 November

16. North East's 1st Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM) was recently inaugurated in which of the following city?

- A) Silchar, Assam
- B) Imphal, Manipur
- C) Dimapur, Nagaland
- D) Agartala, Tripura

17. In which of the following country SARANG-Indian Film Festival was organised by the Indian Embassy?

- A) South Korea
- B) Singapore
- C) Russia
- D) France

18. To launch India's first sticker-based debit card named 'FIRSTAP', which of the following bank has recently collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) IDFC FIRST Bank
- D) YES Bank

19. Which bank has recently launched an Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) with the National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

20. Who among the following was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)?

- A) Vinit Kumar
- B) Sampath Kumar
- C) Manoj Kumar
- D) M. Mahesh

21. Who among the following was appointed as the Pakistan's new Army Chief?

- A) Lt. Gen Asim Munir
- B) Lt Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza
- C) Lt Gen Faiz Hameed
- D) Lt Gen Azhar Abbas

22. In which of the following state the cultural festival Sangai Festival was observed?

- A) Assam
- B) Karnataka
- C) Manipur
- D) Meghalaya

23. Where did the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 was held?

- A) Chennai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Lucknow
- D) Mumbai

24. Which of the following country is set to host the inaugural Olympic E-sports Week in 2023?

- A) Australia
- B) Italy
- C) Japan
- D) Singapore

25. When the Guru Tegh Bahadur's Martyrdom Day is observed annually?

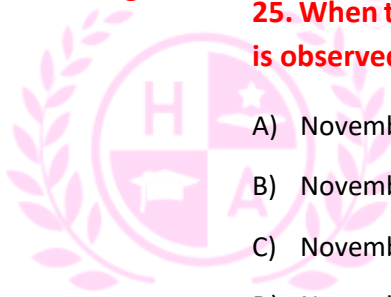
- A) November 24
- B) November 22
- C) November 20
- D) November 19

26. For opening of 3 in 1 account, which of the following bank has signed an agreement with broking partner SMC Global Securities Limited?

- A) City Union Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) Indian Overseas Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

27. _____ was promoted as Managing Director (MD) of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

- A) Dilip Rath
- B) Meenesh C Shah



- C) Nihal Chand Sharma
- D) Varsha Joshi

28. Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) is planning to acquire which company?

- A) Bisleri
- B) Dabur India
- C) Patanjali
- D) Red Bull India

29. When the Constitution Day was observed?

- A) 26 November
- B) 24 November
- C) 23 November
- D) 22 November

30. E-Mobility App 'KeMapp' for e-vehicle charging stations was recently developed by which of the following state's Electricity Board?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

31. To eradicate Anaemia which of the following state government has launched AMLAN (Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan) Mission?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Odisha

32. Along with which of the following country the Indian Navy participated in the 13th edition of the bilateral exercise "Naseem Al Bahr" (Sea Breeze)?

- A) Iran
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Oman
- D) Singapore

33. To operate as a non-deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) which company has recently got approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) Balmer Lawrie
- B) Ecofy
- C) Flexituff Ventures International
- D) Polyplex Corporation

34. To offer finance schemes which of the following bank has signed an MoU with Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL)?

- A) YES Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IDBI Bank
- D) Axis Bank

35. For equipment financing which of the following bank has signed an MoU with Sany Heavy Industry India?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

36. Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) declared which of the following animals as 'Food Animal'?

- A) Gaur

- B) Himalayan Brown Bear
- C) Himalayan Yak
- D) Turtles

37. To provide dealer finance which of the following bank has partnered with actyv.ai?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) State Bank of India

38. Which of the following company has developed World's first nasal Covid-19 Vaccine?

- A) Bharat Biotech
- B) Johnson & Johnson
- C) Pfizer
- D) Serum Institute of India

39. In which of the following city the 59th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly was held?

- A) Tokyo
- B) New Delhi
- C) Beijing
- D) Bangkok

40. Who among the following recently took charges as UP's first woman Police Commissioner?

- A) Laxmi Singh
- B) Neera Rawat
- C) Neeti Dwivedi
- D) Sujata Singh

41. Which world heritage sites was recommended on a list of 'in danger' by the UNESCO?

- A) Amazon Rainforest
- B) Angel Falls
- C) Great Barrier Reef
- D) Sundarbans Mangrove Forest

42. Uttarakhand Government has appointed who among the following as the state's brand ambassador?

- A) Anuj Rawat
- B) MS Dhoni
- C) Praseon Joshi
- D) Rishab Pant

43. In which of the following state the SIPCOT Industrial Park was inaugurated?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

44. Jiang Zemin, former President of which of the following country has passed away recently?

- A) Mongolia
- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) Bhutan

45. When the National Organ Donation Day was observed in India?

- A) 28 November
- B) 27 November
- C) 26 November
- D) 25 November

46. The 1st-ever Tribal Winter Festival was held in which of the following state/UT?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Ladakh
- D) Mizoram

47. Which of the following Bank was authorized by RBI to undertake government business?

- A) Dhanlaxmi Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- D) Yes Bank

48. To expand PAN card issuance services in India, which of the following payment bank has partnered with Protean eGov Technologies?

- A) Airtel Payment Bank
- B) Fino Payments Bank
- C) India Post Payment Bank
- D) Paytm Payment Bank

49. To mark assumption of G-20 Presidency of India's, how many national monuments was illuminated on 1 December 2022?

- A) 125
- B) 100
- C) 75
- D) 50

50. Where did the New Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, 840 Squadron was commissioned by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)?

- A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

- B) Pune, Maharashtra
- C) Porbandar, Gujarat
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

51. When the National Pollution Control Day was observed in India?

- A) December 09
- B) December 07
- C) December 05
- D) December 02

52. For December 2022, which of the following country has assumed United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Mexico
- C) Ireland
- D) India

53. Who among the following was appointed as the executive director of Punjab National Bank?

- A) S.M. Jha
- B) S. Balachandran
- C) M. Paramasivam
- D) B.K. Mishra

54. Where did the India's biggest International Yoga Centre was inaugurated?

- A) Daman and Diu
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Ladakh
- D) Puducherry

55. When the World Computer Literacy Day was observed?

- A) December 02
- B) December 05
- C) December 07
- D) December 10

56. Which nation's central bank and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have a currency swap agreement in place?

- A) Nepal
- B) Indonesia
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Maldives

57. What country played host to the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo in 2022?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Goa

58. Which institution has approved USD 780 million loan to expand Chennai metro rail network?

- A) AIIB
- B) IMF
- C) ADB
- D) World Bank

59. In order to improve infrastructure, which Union Ministry plans to provide the country's first-ever surety bonds insurance product?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D) Ministry of Communication

60. Which of the following statements about the electronic rupee (or "e-rupee") is untrue?

- A) As per RBI, the e-rupee will be kept in digital wallets overseen by RBI, which will accrue interest at the prevailing savings bank account interest rate.
- B) It is a central bank digital currency issued by the central bank of India, RBI.
- C) It has to be accepted by everyone in India as a medium of exchange.
- D) Deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice-versa.

61. To enhance the professional practices between two countries which of the following country has signed an MoU with India?

- A) Japan
- B) Germany
- C) Chile
- D) Brazil

62. Which of the following bank has launched Foreign Currency Loan against INR Deposits of Indian Companies?

- A) Union Bank of India
- B) Indian Bank
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

63. India's first passive tax saver fund, IN50 was launched by which of the following mutual fund company recently?

- A) Axis Mutual Fund
- B) Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- C) HDFC Mutual Fund
- D) IIFL Mutual Fund

64. Which of the following bank got authorized to enable Goods and Services Tax (GST) Payments?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) City Union Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

65. The Reserve Bank of India has granted a conditional approval to the Carlyle Group and Verventa Holdings to acquire 9.99% Stake each in _____ bank.

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

66. Which of the following organization has released the 'Tribal Development Report 2022'?

- A) The Tribes Foundation
- B) Samta Foundation
- C) Nisarga Foundation
- D) Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

67. At the Global Banking Summit which of the following bank received the "Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022" for India segment?

- A) Bank of India
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

68. Which of the following team bags the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022?

- A) Himachal Pradesh

- B) Karnataka
- C) Mumbai
- D) Saurashtra

69. What is the rank of India in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Safety Ranking 2022?

- A) 52
- B) 50
- C) 48
- D) 45

70. In the report "Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022" by Knight Frank, which Indian city has secured 22nd rank?

- A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- C) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Bengaluru, Karnataka

71. Along with India which of the following country has signed migration and mobility partnership for easier access to study, research and work between both countries?

- A) Finland
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Norway

72. To enable merchants to accept credit card transactions via UPI, which company has partnered with Axis Bank?

- A) Cashfree
- B) Razorpay

- C) Freecharge
- D) PhonePe

73. Along with ICICI Lombard General Insurance which of the following Small Finance Bank has entered into a Bancassurance agreement?

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C) AU Small Finance Bank
- D) Suryoday Small Finance Bank

74. For Financial Inclusion in Rural India, which of the following bank has partnered with Spice Money Limited?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

75. Which of the following bank has launched the 'Football Fiesta' campaign?

- A) Federal Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) YES Bank

76. Who among the following won silver at the weightlifting World Championship in Colombia?

- A) Ganesh Mali
- B) Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu
- C) Mirabai Chanu
- D) Sukhen Dey

77. When the Armed Forces Flag Day was observed in India?

- A) 04 December
- B) 24 November
- C) 07 December
- D) 01 December

78. For the environmental management, the World Bank is set to finance which of the following country with USD 250 million?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) Pakistan

79. What is the World Bank's recent forecast for the Indian economy, for the financial year 2022-2023?

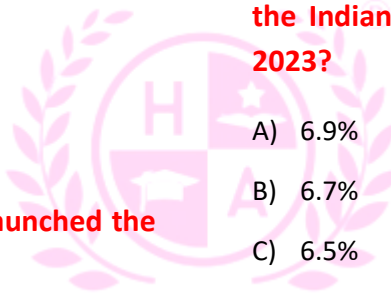
- A) 6.9%
- B) 6.7%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 6.3%

80. Who among the following bags title of Time magazine's "Person of the year 2022?"

- A) Elon Musk
- B) Greta Thunberg
- C) Joe Biden
- D) Volodymyr Zelensky

81. Who among the following was appointed by Indian smartwatch brand Noise as its brand ambassador?

- A) Dinesh Karthik
- B) KL Rahul



- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

82. Who among the following was appointed as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

- A) Om Prakash Rajbhar
- B) Keshav Prasad Maurya
- C) Hansraj Ahir
- D) Brajesh Pathak

83. Which of the following Indian startup bags the Earthshot Prize 2022?

- A) Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs
- B) eNAM
- C) Kheyti
- D) Modern Agriculture Platform

84. _____ mutual fund will be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund.

- A) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund
- B) Axis Mutual Fund
- C) IDFC Mutual Fund
- D) SBI Mutual Fund

85. When the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was observed?

- A) December 04
- B) December 03
- C) December 02
- D) December 05

86. Who among the following is set to unveil the FIFA World Cup trophy in Qatar?

- A) Priyanka Chopra Jones
- B) Deepika Padukone
- C) Anushka Sharma
- D) Alia Bhatt

87. What is the rank of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in the top 100 defence companies list by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)?

- A) 44
- B) 43
- C) 42
- D) 41

88. Which Indian actress was named in the BBC's 100 Most Influential Women's list?

- A) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
- B) Alia Bhatt
- C) Anushka Sharma
- D) Priyanka Chopra Jonas

89. This year which edition of 'Maitiri Diwas' was observed by India in Dhaka?

- A) 54
- B) 53
- C) 52
- D) 51

90. Which of the following country secured top position in the 100 defence companies list by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)?

- A) China
- B) Japan

C) Russia

D) US

91. To promote the startup ecosystem, which of the following bank has partnered with the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Center of Excellence (CoE)?

A) Axis Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) IDFC First Bank

92. To build new lines for which of the following metro rail, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)?

A) Mumbai Metro

B) Delhi Metro

C) Chennai Metro

D) Bengaluru Metro

93. Who among the following was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the high court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh?

A) Justice Tashi Rabstan

B) Justice R.N. Manjula

C) Justice K. Murali Shankar

D) Justice Alok Aradhe

94. By which year, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has extended the 'Rooftop Solar Programme'?

A) March 2027

B) March 2026

C) March 2024

D) March 2023

95. To develop sixth-generation fighter jet by 2035, Which of the following countries has announced a partnership with Japan?

A) UK

B) Italy

C) Australia

D) Both A & B

96. Which company has recently launched a low-cost home loan programme 'Roshni'?

A) ICICI Home Finance Ltd

B) LIC Housing Finance Ltd

C) PNB Housing Finance Ltd

D) Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd

97. _____ Bank entered into a bancassurance partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.

A) Dhanlaxmi Bank

B) IndusInd Bank

C) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

D) Yes Bank

98. Who among the following has won the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year 2022?

A) Mandeep Kaur

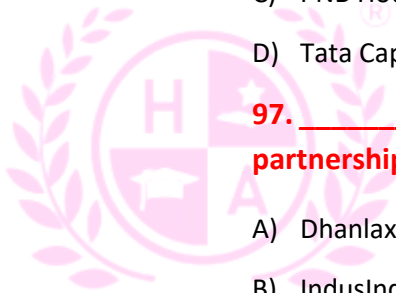
B) Manisha Ramadass

C) Palak Kohli

D) Parul Parmar

99. Who among the following was named as the interim CEO of the Penguin Random House?

A) Rajesh Singh



- B) Nihar Malaviya
- C) Meera Gandhi
- D) Mark Smith

100. Who among the following took charges as the MD & CEO of Ashok Leyland?

- A) Anuj Kathuria
- B) Rajive Saharia
- C) Shenu Agarwal
- D) Vinod K. Dasari

101. Which edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) was recently conducted?

- A) 35
- B) 37
- C) 38
- D) 39

102. To launch the 6th 'Parivartan SmartUp Grants', which of the following bank has partnered with GoI's flagship initiative 'Startup India'?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) YES Bank

103. _____ was conferred with the 25th South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award.

- A) J. P. Nadda
- B) Mallikarjun Kharge
- C) Ram Nath Kovind

- D) Venkaiah Naidu

104. Who among the following recently took oath as the 15th Chief minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh?

- A) Jai Ram Thakur
- B) Prem Kumar Dhumal
- C) Shanta Kumar
- D) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

105. Who among the following was elected as the 1st woman president of Indian Olympic Association?

- A) Dutee Chand
- B) P.T. Usha
- C) Saraswati Chand
- D) Seema Punia

106. To combat global warming, which of the following organization has established an international climate club?

- A) G7
- B) G4
- C) G20
- D) BRICS

107. For the implementation of three High-Impact Development Projects (HICDPs), the Indian Embassy has signed an MoU with which of the following country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

108. To offer life cover and a lump sum amount after the policy term, which of the following insurance company has launched 'Guaranteed Fortune Plan'?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) Canara HSBC Life Insurance
- C) Exide Life Insurance
- D) HDFC Life Insurance

109. To launch a special integrated offering for customers, which of the following insurance company partnered with Zopper?

- A) Edelweiss General Insurance
- B) Future Generali India General Insurance
- C) Universal Sompo General Insurance
- D) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance

110. Who among the following was awarded the 2022 Masters of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Award?

- A) Avnish Seth
- B) K. R. Palaniswamy
- C) Subhash Gupta
- D) Vivek Raj

111. 'Gamocha' of which of the following state was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the central government?

- A) Assam
- B) Nagaland
- C) Tripura
- D) Uttarakhand

112. Along with India which of the following country has signed a joint declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility?

- A) Finland
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Norway

113. Which of the following bank has recently acquired 7.75 % of the total share capital of Mintoak Innovations (Mintoak)?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

114. To support MSME exporters in India, which company has signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)?

- A) Aegis Logistics
- B) FedEx
- C) Shiprocket
- D) TCI Express

115. At the GMR Delhi Airport Awards 2022, which of the following airlines has won the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award?

- A) Air India
- B) Go First
- C) IndiGo
- D) SpiceJet

116. In which of the following city, the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting was held?

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) New Delhi, Delhi
- D) Pune, Maharashtra

117. To deliver satellite internet access globally by 2025, which of the following company has partnered with Viasat?

- A) Google
- B) Microsoft
- C) Tata Consultancy Services
- D) Wipro

118. Who among the following took charges as the Chairman and MD of NHPC Limited?

- A) Amit Kansal
- B) Mohammad Afzal
- C) Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi
- D) Yamuna Kumar Chaubey

119. Which of the following company recently became an official partner of the FIH Men's World Cup 2023?

- A) Adani Sportsline
- B) MPL Sports Foundation
- C) RuPay
- D) Tata Steel Limited

120. Who among the following was elected as the president of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI)?

- A) Dr. P.B.N. Prasad
- B) Dr. PC Rath
- C) Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma

- D) Dr. V. G. Somani

121. Which edition of India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' is being conducted in Meghalaya?

- A) Second
- B) Third
- C) Fifth
- D) Sixth

122. For 1,000 MW Solar power projects at Bikaner, Rajasthan which organisation has signed a loan agreement worth Rs. 4,444.71 crore with SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL)?

- A) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
- B) Power Finance Corporation
- C) Rural Electrification Corporation
- D) Solar Energy Corporation of India

123. Which of the following organisation has partnered with M1xchange as the financier to provide liquidity to MSMEs at low interest rates?

- A) SIDBI
- B) SEBI
- C) NABARD
- D) IRDA

124. To propagate the importance of energy conservation in Telangana, which of the following organization has signed an MoU with the Institution of Engineers (India)?

- A) Power Grid Corporation of India
- B) NTPC Limited
- C) Energy Efficiency Services Limited
- D) Bureau of Energy Efficiency

125. Who among the following was named as the Men's International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion 2022 for the 5th time?

- 1) Roger Federer
- 2) Rafael Nadal
- 3) Casper Ruud
- 4) Daniil Medvedev

126. Where did the Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise 'Surya Kiran-XVI' was held?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Kathmandu, Nepal
- D) Saljhandi, Nepal

127. Along with the HDFC Life which of the following Small Finance Bank has recently entered into a bancassurance partnership?

- A) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Capital Small Finance Bank
- D) AU Small Finance Bank

128. Who among the following was named as PETA India's 'Person of The Year 2022'?

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Katrina Kaif
- C) Shraddha Kapoor
- D) Sonakshi Sinha

129. Which of the following airport has received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI)?

- A) Chennai International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Mangaluru International Airport

130. Which bank has approved the divestment of its majority stake in Nainital Bank?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) State Bank of India

131. Google search-driven education platform named 'Roots' was launched by which of the following company?

- A) Axis Securities
- B) HDFC Securities
- C) ICICI Securities
- D) Motilal Oswal Securities

132. 'Jan Andolan' (people's movement) initiative against Tuberculosis of which of the following state was recently awarded?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Tripura
- D) West Bengal

133. From 6.77 per cent in October 2022, consumer price index (CPI) based inflation of India has eased to how much percent in November 2022?

- A) 5.88%
- B) 6.00%
- C) 6.30%

D) 6.66%

134. Who among the following bags gold in the women's air pistol 65th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Pistol events?

- A) Apurvi Chandela
- B) Divya T.S
- C) Elavenil Valarivan
- D) Rudraksha Patil

135. According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry what is India's wholesale price-based inflation in November 2022?

- A) 5.95
- B) 5.85
- C) 5.75
- D) 5.65

136. To promote accountability for crimes against UN Peacekeepers, which of the following country has recently launched a 'Group of Friends'?

- A) Bhutan
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Ukraine

137. A zero-fee banking for savings accounts was recently introduced by which of the following bank?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) IDFC First Bank

138. To empower MSMEs and retail merchants to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which of the following bank has partnered with Gofrugal Technologies?

- A) DBS Bank India
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) Karnataka Bank
- D) State Bank of India

139. A Special Fixed Deposit of 555 Days was recently launched by which of the following bank?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Indian Bank
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

140. Along with DigiLocker which of the following company has partnered to bring local storage of government-issued IDs on Android devices?

- A) Tesla
- B) Google
- C) IBM
- D) Microsoft

141. In which of the following state the country's first Infantry Research Centre and Museum was inaugurated?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Goa

142. To launch 'Paytm Payment Protect' Insurance Plan, which of the following insurance company

has partnered with One97 Communications Limited (OCL)?

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- C) Edelweiss General Insurance
- D) HDFC ERGO General Insurance

143. To Provide Services to Defence Pensioners, which bank has signed an MoU with Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence?

- A) YES Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) Bandhan Bank
- D) Axis Bank

144. Which of the following company has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Druk Green Power Corporation Limited to supply 600 MW of power?

- A) PTC India Limited
- B) RattanIndia Power Limited
- C) Suzlon Energy Limited
- D) Torrent Power Limited

145. Who was appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)?

- A) A.K Mohanty
- B) Dinesh Kumar Shukla
- C) G Nageswara Rao
- D) K. Mahapatra

146. Who among the following was appointed as first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University?

- A) Nitin Gadkari

- B) Mansukh Mandaviya
- C) Manoj Chaudhary
- D) Ashwini Vaishnaw

147. Who among the following bags the Golden Glove Award in the FIFA World Cup 2022?

- A) Emiliano Martinez
- B) Gianluigi Donnarumma
- C) Manuel Neuer
- D) Mike Maignan

148. To operate a 250-kWh pilot thermal energy storage unit in India, which of the following company has signed an agreement with Switzerland-based E2S Power?

- A) India Power Corporation Ltd
- B) Reliance Infrastructure Limited
- C) Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited
- D) Torrent Power Limited

149. Who among the following won the Golden Boot Award in the FIFA World Cup 2022?

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Kylian Mbappe
- D) Neymar

150. Who among the following actor was the only Indian to feature on 50 Greatest Actors of All Time List of Empire Magazine?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Amitabh Bachchan
- C) Hrithik Roshan
- D) Shah Rukh Khan

ANSWERS**1. Correct Answer: B**

England's Sam Curran was named the ICC Player of the Tournament after his superb returns throughout the ICC T20 World Cup 2022. He took his wickets at an average of 11.38, putting him seventh of all bowlers at the tournament, and finished with an economy of 6.52 – the best of all of England's pace bowlers.

2. Correct Answer: C

Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. A 1995-batch officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, Dwivedi will have a five-year tenure from the date he assumes charge.

3. Correct Answer: B

India celebrates 16th November as National Press Day every year and the day is observed in honor of the Press Council of India. The day is meant to mark the presence of the free and responsible press in India.

4. Correct Answer: B

Olympic medalist Mary Kom has been unanimously elected as the chairperson of the Athletes Commission of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) while table tennis legend Achantha Sharath Kamal has been elected as the vice-chairperson of the body.

5. Correct Answer: B

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has implemented the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in the state. The formal announcement was made by President Droupadi Murmu at a function organised by the State Government on the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'.

6. Correct Answer: D

In a first of its kind initiative in India, Tamil Nadu has brought out the 'Tamil Nadu Elephant Death Audit Framework' to document reasons for elephant deaths for better accountability.

7. Correct Answer: A

Karnataka Bank has launched the CASA (current account savings account) campaign of 2022-23 for 100 days. Under this campaign starting from November 15, 2022 to March 24, 2023, the bank intends to open more than 3.65 lakh CASA accounts in all 883 branches across India.

8. Correct Answer: B

InsuranceDekho has teamed with LIC to provide the latter's products on its platform. Ankit Agrawal, chief executive officer and co-founder, InsuranceDekho, said the partnership will help them provide insurance policies and establish 100% penetration in the remotest towns of the country.

9. Correct Answer: D

Two Indian-American entrepreneurs have featured in Fortune's annual '40 Under 40' list consisting of founders, executives, investors, and activists who are shaping business in 2022. Kanav Kariya is the president of Jump Crypto and Ankit Gupta is the founder and CEO of Bicycle Health.

10. Correct Answer: C

Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed Suraj Bhan as the chairman of the National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust), responsible for managing funds under the National Pension System (NPS).

11. Correct Answer: B

India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report released recently by Portulans Institute (PI) based in Washington DC.

12. Correct Answer: C

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has bagged the national award from Pension Fund regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

13. Correct Answer: A

Ghulam Abbas Moontasir, inarguably one of India's greatest basketball players, died after a brief illness at Saifee Hospital, Mumbai. He was 80. He was the first basketball player from the country to get the Arjuna Award.

14. Correct Answer: D

In a landmark achievement for the Indian scientific community, Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, has been elected as a member of the prestigious International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).

15. Correct Answer: D

Archaeological Survey of India, Mumbai Circle celebrates World Heritage Week. As part of the World Heritage Week Celebration 2022, Archaeological Survey of India, Mumbai Circle celebrated the World Heritage Week at World Heritage Site Elephanta Caves from 19th to 25th November.

16. Correct Answer: A

Union minister for Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, has recently inaugurated the new, state-of-the-art

complex of Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM) in Silchar, Assam.

17. Correct Answer: A

The festival was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India Seoul in association with Busan Cinema Center, the India Centre at Busan University of Foreign Studies, and Hannarae Foundation for Culture, Hongbeop Temple, Busan, South Korea.

18. Correct Answer: C

IDFC First Bank has launched India's first sticker-based Debit Card- FIRSTAP, in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The card will facilitate transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a Near Field Communication (NFC) enables a point-of-sale terminal.

19. Correct Answer: B

On its 117th founder's day, Canara Bank launched an Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL). With this Canara Bank now offers an API based digital workflow of Bank guarantees which will eliminate physical issuance, stamping, verification and paper-based record maintenance of Bank Guarantees.

20. Correct Answer: A

Vinit Kumar IRSEE (1994), has been appointed as CEO, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

21. Correct Answer: A

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has nominated Lieutenant General Asim Munir as the new army chief, putting an end to days of uncertainty that engulfed the nation.

22. Correct Answer: C

Sangai Festival is the biggest tourism festival of Manipur. Under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharata', Government of India has been organizing such programs since October 31, 2016. Sangai is the state animal of Manipur, which is found only in Manipur.

23. Correct Answer: B

The Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 (IPRD-2022) held in New Delhi. The three-day event is the annual apex-level regional strategic dialogue of the Indian Navy, and was conducted from 23 November to 25 November 2022 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

24. Correct Answer: D

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recently announced that the inaugural Olympic E-sports Week will be in Singapore from 22 to 25 June 2023. Olympic E-sports Week aims to showcase the latest technologies in virtual sports.

25. Correct Answer: A

Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day is observed every year on 24 November. He is the ninth guru in the lineage of Sikh saints.

26. Correct Answer: C

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has entered into an agreement with broking partner SMC Global for opening of 3 in 1 account (SB, demat account and trading account). While SB and demat account will be with IOB, the trading account will be with SMC Global.

27. Correct Answer: B

Acting chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Meenesh C Shah, whose term ended on November 30, has been promoted as managing director from executive

director by the Board of Directors, where Shah himself is a member.

28. Correct Answer: A

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) will reportedly acquire Bisleri International for an estimated Rs 6,000-7,000 crore. Bisleri, which is India's largest packaged water company, is expected to have a turnover of Rs 2,500 crore with a profit of Rs 220 crore in FY23.

29. Correct Answer: A

Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day, is celebrated in India on November 26 every year. On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution of India. Constitution Day aims to bring awareness about the importance of the Constitution and Dr B R Ambedkar.

30. Correct Answer: C

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has developed a mobile app which will serve as a common platform for accessing the services of e-vehicle charging stations. The app, christened KeMapp - short for 'Kerala E-Mobility App' - is now on test mode, and will soon be available for download on PlayStore, KSEB officials said.

31. Correct Answer: D

The Odisha government has recently launched Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (Amlan), a multi-departmental campaign to reduce anaemia or haemoglobin deficiency in the state.

32. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) participated in the 13th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze) from November 19-24. India and Oman have

always had cordial relations and a shared appreciation of moral principles, and these kinds of naval exercises increased the substance and strength of these bilateral ties.

33. Correct Answer: B

Eversource-promoted Accretive Cleantech Finance Private Ltd, operating as Ecofy, has said that it has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a non-deposit taking non-banking financial company (NBFC).

34. Correct Answer: C

Honda Cars India has signed an MoU with IDBI Bank to offer a host of finance schemes for its customers. According to the company, this collaboration between HCIL and IDBI Bank will allow customers to avail of hassle-free affordable financing options and schemes for purchasing Honda Car models.

35. Correct Answer: D

With an aim to make equipment financing an easy, efficient, and simple process, Sany Bharat recently signed an MoU with Union Bank of India. While both the parties have agreed to pool their resources and capabilities for mutual benefits, buyers of Sany equipment can now avail a loan of up to 90% of the equipment cost.

36. Correct Answer: C

The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved the Himalayan Yak as a 'food animal'. Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans. The NRC-Yak had in 2021 submitted a proposal to the FSSAI, for considering the yak as a food animal.

37. Correct Answer: C

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has announced that it will be providing finance to dealers onboarded on actyv.ai, an AI-powered enterprise SaaS platform. KMBL will provide short-term finance under the 'Buy Now, Pay Later' category for working capital needs of dealers.

38. Correct Answer: A

Hyderabad based biotechnology company Bharat Biotech has launched the world's first nasal Covid-19 vaccine. According to a Tweet shared by Bharat Biotech, iNCOVACC recently received approval under Restricted Use in Emergency Situation for ages 18 and above for heterologous booster doses.

39. Correct Answer: B

Prasar Bharati, India's Public Service Broadcaster, has organised the 59th ABU General Assembly 2022 which was held from 25th to 30th November' 2022 in New Delhi. The ABU is a nonprofit, professional association of the broadcasting organizations of Asia and pacific region.

40. Correct Answer: A

Senior IPS officer Laxmi Singh recently took charge as the police commissioner of Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida), according to officials. With the appointment, Singh has become the first woman officer to head Police Commissionerate in Uttar Pradesh.

41. Correct Answer: C

A joint report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) expressed concern about the status of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) in Australia, recommending that it "be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

42. Correct Answer: C

The Uttarakhand government has named Prasoon Joshi, the CEO and CCO of McCann Worldgroup India, the state's brand ambassador. Joshi, a native of Uttarakhand, is a prominent and highly awarded member of the Indian advertising and media fraternity.

43. Correct Answer: D

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited) Industrial Park at Eraiyur in Perambalur district.

44. Correct Answer: C

China's former President Jiang Zemin, who came to power after the Tiananmen Square protests, has died at 96. A Chinese Communist Party statement said he died of leukaemia and multiple organ failure.

45. Correct Answer: B

National Organ Donation Day is celebrated on November 27 in India every year. The first organ donation day was celebrated in 2010. Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it is organised by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO).

46. Correct Answer: B

A first-of-its-kind Tribal Winter Festival was held in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir on November 30. 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.

47. Correct Answer: C

Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) said it has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to undertake government business on behalf of the banking regulator. An agreement

in this connection was signed by the bank with RBI in Mumbai for appointing TMB as an 'agency bank' of RBI to undertake government agency business.

48. Correct Answer: B

Fino Payments Bank has tied up with citizen-centric and population-scale e-governance solutions Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), to expand permanent account number (PAN) card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.

49. Correct Answer: B

To mark India's assumption of G-20 Presidency 100 monuments including UNESCO world heritage sites bearing the G-20 logo was illuminated for seven days from December 1 to 7.

50. Correct Answer: D

In a major boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned by DG Shri VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai.

51. Correct Answer: D

National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on December 02. It honours those who died in the Bhopal Gas catastrophe on December 2nd and 3rd in 1984.

52. Correct Answer: D

India assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 1st December 2022. On the same day, the country also assumed the presidency of G20.

53. Correct Answer: C

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of M. Paramasivam as the executive director of

government-owned Punjab National Bank with effect from December 1 for a period of three years.

54. Correct Answer: B

India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed in village Mantalai in the Chenani Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur. As the Tourism Ministry in the Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 9,782 crore for this, the International Yoga Centre has been given a modern outlook.

55. Correct Answer: A

World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on December 2 every year. Started in 2001, World Computer Literacy Day seeks to address the digital divide by taking computer literacy to the remotest corners of the world.

56. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This agreement will enable the MMA to make withdrawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of USD 200 million from the RBI.

57. Correct Answer: D

The 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo 2022 was inaugurated on 10 December at Panaji, Goa. It aims to showcase the efficacy of AYUSH systems of medicine at Global level.

58. Correct Answer: C

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of USD 780 million to build new lines for Chennai's metro rail and improve the network's connectivity with bus and feeder services.

59. Correct Answer: B

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will launch India's first-ever surety bonds insurance product to boost liquidity in the infrastructure sector, as per Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

60. Correct Answer: A

The digital rupee, or the e-rupee, is a central bank digital currency issued by the RBI. It is similar to the physical cash kept in wallet except that the e-rupee is held electronically in a digital wallet overseen by the RBI. The digital rupee is recognised as legal tender by the RBI, and thus has to be accepted by everyone in the country as a medium of exchange.

61. Correct Answer: C

The Comptroller & Auditor General of India and the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen institutional and professional capacities and learn from each other's best practices.

62. Correct Answer: D

Bank of Baroda has 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).

63. Correct Answer: D

IIFL Mutual Fund has launched the new fund offering of IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50), India's first Tax Saver Index Fund. The NFO opened on December 1 and closes on December 21. The scheme will re-open for subscription and redemption on an ongoing basis from January 02.

64. Correct Answer: B

All City Union Bank customers can pay their GST dues payable to the Government through their bank account on the GST Portal. Customers need to select City Union Bank and pay the tax amount. City Union Bank has always been offering numerous innovative offerings to SME & Corporate customers to enable easy and safe financial transactions, said a statement.

65. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India has granted a conditional approval to The Carlyle Group and Verventa Holdings to acquire 9.99 per cent stake each in YES Bank, the latter said without specifying the conditions. The investors and YES Bank will engage with the central bank to seek an early resolution of the conditions to procure the final approval on this matter, the notification said.

66. Correct Answer: D

The Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation, an independent society set up under the Ministry of Rural Development, has recently released a first-of-its-kind Tribal Development Report-2022.

67. Correct Answer: B

Canara Bank has announced that it received the "Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022" for the India segment at the Global Banking Summit, which was held in London, UK from 29 Nov 2022 to 01 Dec 2022.

68. Correct Answer: D

Saurashtra defeated Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Batting first, Maharashtra scored 248 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 50 overs.

69. Correct Answer: C

India jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The position is the highest-ever spot attained by the country. India was in the 102nd position four years ago in the ranking.

70. Correct Answer: A

In its report on 'Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022', Property consultant Knight Frank said that Mumbai stood at 22nd rank in a global index that measures annual price appreciation of premium residential properties.

71. Correct Answer: C

A meeting was held between External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and Federal Foreign Affairs Minister of Germany Annalena Baerbock, during the meeting, both sides have signed a Migration and Mobility Agreement which will facilitate easier access for people to study, research and work in both countries.

72. Correct Answer: B

Fintech platform Razorpay has announced an industry-first move to enable merchants to accept credit card transactions on unified payments interface (UPI) in partnership with Axis bank.

73. Correct Answer: C

ICICI Lombard General Insurance has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with AU Small Finance Bank. The partnership will provide the bank's diverse customers access to the insurer's portfolio and enhance penetration across India.

74. Correct Answer: A

Fintech player Spice Money has partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank to bridge the rural-urban divide and bring financial inclusivity by providing access to banking products to the last mile at their doorstep.

75. Correct Answer: A

Federal Bank has rolled out 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.

76. Correct Answer: C

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu secured silver in the Weightlifting World Championships with a total weight of 200kg. Mirabai started slowly with an 85kg lift in snatch, and even failed in her second attempt at 87kg before clearing her third with the same weight. She was fifth after the third attempt.

77. Correct Answer: C

Since 1949, 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day throughout the country to honor the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on our borders to safeguard the country's honor.

78. Correct Answer: A

The World Bank has approved USD 250 million financing to help Bangladesh strengthen environment management and promote private sector participation in green investment. This will help the country tackle key pollution issues, benefitting over 21 million people living in Greater Dhaka and beyond.

79. Correct Answer: A

The World Bank has upgraded its growth forecast for Indian economy to 6.9 percent from its earlier estimate of 6.5 percent for the fiscal year 2022-23. The international financial institution said that despite external challenges, India is expected to remain one of the fastest growing major

economies in the world, due to robust domestic demand.

80. Correct Answer: D

Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, has been titled the Person of the Year 2022 by Time Magazine. China's leader Xi Jinping, protesters in Iran, and the US Supreme Court were some other finalists.

81. Correct Answer: D

Indian tech brand Noise has announced that it has onboarded Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador for its smartwatches. Over his tenure, Kohli is said to be involved in a robust campaign that entails all touchpoints. He joins the cohort of Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu and cricketer Rishabh Pant.

82. Correct Answer: C

President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed former Union minister of state for home affairs and national vice-president of BJP OBC Morcha, Hansraj Ahir as the Chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

83. Correct Answer: C

Indian startup Kheyti, which provides ground-breaking yet simple farming solutions, has been named as one of the five winners of this year's prestigious Earthshot Prize, an initiative of Prince William that rewards each winner with 1 million pounds.

84. Correct Answer: C

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cleared Bandhan-led consortium's proposed acquisition of IDFC Asset Management Company. Post the acquisition, IDFC AMC will be renamed as Bandhan AMC and IDFC

Mutual Fund is proposed to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund.

85. Correct Answer: D

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed on December 5. The day is also referred to as International Volunteer Day (IVD) to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.

86. Correct Answer: B

Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone will unveil the FIFA World Cup trophy during the final on December 18. Deepika will be the first actor of international stature to have been presented with such a rare honour in one of the world's biggest sporting events.

87. Correct Answer: C

Two Indian defence PSUs, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) ranked 42nd and Bharat Electronics (BEL) ranked 63rd, figure in the list of the top 100 arms-producing companies released by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

88. Correct Answer: D

The four Indians in the BBC's 100 Most Influential Women's list are actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale.

89. Correct Answer: D

This year the 51st 'Maitri Diwas' was commemorated on December 06 to mark India recognising Bangladesh in 1971. India was one of the first countries to establish bilateral diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.

90. Correct Answer: D

In the list of the top 100 arms-producing companies released by Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) the US continues to overwhelmingly dominate the list, with 40 companies in the top 100 accounting for \$299 billion arms sales in 2021.

91. Correct Answer: D

IDFC First Bank and NASSCOM Centre of Excellence (COE) have partnered to grow the innovation ecosystem and guide startups through a range of banking solutions. An MoU was signed between IDFC First Bank and NASSCOM COE, appointing the bank as a preferred banking partner for startups in Bengaluru.

92. Correct Answer: C

With an aim to build new lines and improve the connectivity of metro rail services in Chennai with the city's existing bus and feeder services, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF).

93. Correct Answer: A

Justice Tashi Rabstan was appointed as the acting chief justice of the high court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Justice Rabstan belongs to Varsudopa of Skurbuchan village, Leh. He did his LLB from University of Jammu and enrolled as an advocate on March 6, 1990, in the Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir.

94. Correct Answer: B

The 'Rooftop Solar Programme' has been extended till 31 March 2026 and therefore, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the Programme is achieved.

95. Correct Answer: D

Britain's Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak has announced a partnership between the UK, Italy, and Japan in an ambitious project to develop sixth-generation fighter jet by 2035. It will be called the "Tempest."

96. Correct Answer: C

PNB Housing Finance (HFC) unveiled Roshni, a low-cost home loan programme. This launch is in line with PNB Housing Finance's long-term goal of enabling and assisting an individual's desire to purchase a home.

97. Correct Answer: C

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance have entered into a bancassurance partnership. Through this partnership, new and existing customers of the Bank can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products, including term, savings, retirement, and investment products, according to a statement.

98. Correct Answer: B

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) named Manisha Ramadass as the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year after the 17-year-old won the gold in the World Championships in the SU5 section.

99. Correct Answer: B

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 chief executive officer Markus Dohle announced he is stepping down from the role.

100. Correct Answer: C

Ashok Leyland has appointed Shenu Agarwal as MD & CEO of the company with immediate effect. He

succeeds Vipin Sondhi, who stepped down in November 2021. Prior to this, Mr. Agarwal served as president of Escorts Kubota Ltd.

101. Correct Answer: D

The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 08 – 19 December 2022. India and Indonesia have been carrying out CORPATs twice a year since 2002.

102. Correct Answer: C

HDFC Bank has announced the launch of its sixth annual grants program for social startups in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India'. Known as 'Parivartan SmartUp Grants', the program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.

103. Correct Answer: D

Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES) at Mumbai. The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

104. Correct Answer: D

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (58) recently took oath as the 15th chief minister of Himachal Pradesh along with deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnhotri in a ceremony held at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla.

105. Correct Answer: B

Legendary Indian athlete PT Usha was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The 58-year-old 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.

106. Correct Answer: A

The G7 leading economies have created an open, international climate club for countries that want to cooperate in the fight against global warming, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said after a video conference with other G-7 leaders.

107. Correct Answer: C

The Embassy of India and Nepal government's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for undertaking three High-Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal.

108. Correct Answer: B

Canara HSBC Life Insurance's new "Guaranteed Fortune Plan" is a non-linked, non-participating individual savings scheme offering life cover and a lump sum amount on outliving the policy term.

109. Correct Answer: C

Universal Sompo General Insurance said it has 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.

110. Correct Answer: B

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has presented the 2022 Masters of the WGO award to Chennai-based gastroenterologist K. R.

Palaniswamy for his contributions to the field of gastroenterology.

111. Correct Answer: A

'Gamocha', which is a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the central government. The tag was received five years after the first application was made.

112. Correct Answer: A

India and Finland have signed a joint declaration of Intent on migration and mobility to arrive at a mutually beneficial arrangement on migration and mobility between the two countries. The declaration was signed by Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Employment of Finland Ms. Tuula Haatainen.

113. Correct Answer: B

The private lender HDFC Bank has announced that it will acquire 7.75% stake in a fintech start-up, Mintoak Innovations (Mintoak) for a total cash consideration of Rs 31.14 crore. Mintoak is a fintech start-up that provides a payments-led platform offering value-added services to merchants.

114. Correct Answer: C

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shiprocket to support micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters in India showcasing their products on the Indian Business Portal (IBP).

115. Correct Answer: D

SpiceJet has won the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award at the annual GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines, besides for "its success in reducing ground safety violations".

116. Correct Answer: A

The First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting, under the Indian Presidency, was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, during December 13-14, 2022, under the co-chairship of Secretary, Economic Affairs, Shri Ajay Seth and Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Michael Patra.

117. Correct Answer: B

Microsoft announced that it has 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.

118. Correct Answer: D

State-owned hydro power giant National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited said its Director (Technical) Yamuna Kumar Chaubey will continue to hold additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director for another three months.

119. Correct Answer: D

Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India to become an official partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela. The FIH Men's World Cup is the 15th edition of the prestigious event.

120. Correct Answer: B

Senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, Dr PC Rath, was formally elected president of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24. Dr PC Rath is currently a senior consultant cardiologist and head of department of Cardiology at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills.

121. Correct Answer: D

The 6th Edition of Indo - Kazakhstan joint training exercise "KAZIND-22" is scheduled to be conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15 to 28 December 2022. Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

122. Correct Answer: A

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (Ireda) has announced that it has inked a loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy for financing ₹4,444.71 crore for a 1,000 MW solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

123. Correct Answer: A

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing, and development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has partnered with M1xchange as the financier. This move is expected to bring liquidity to MSMEs at competitive interest rates.

124. Correct Answer: C

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Conservation Mission of The Institution of Engineers (India) in an effort to propagate the importance of energy conservation in Telangana.

125. Correct Answer: B

Rafael Nadal has been named men's ITF World Champion for a fifth time following an incredible 2022 season in which he triumphed at the Australian Open. Nadal joins Roger Federer in third place for the most men's ITF World Champion awards behind Novak Djokovic (seven) and Pete Sampras (six).

126. Correct Answer: D

The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI" between India and Nepal was organised at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi. Exercise SURYA KIRAN is conducted annually between India and Nepal.

127. Correct Answer: D

AU Small Finance Bank has recently announced that it has entered into a corporate agency arrangement with HDFC Life for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life through the bancassurance business model.

128. Correct Answer: D

Sonakshi Sinha has been named PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year. The actress is often seen speaking out about the need for stronger animal welfare laws in India.

129. Correct Answer: D

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI). The certificate recognises the commitment of MIA to continue with its customer experience improvement, a release from the MIA said.

130. Correct Answer: A

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) said it plans to sell its majority stake in Nainital Bank. The board of directors of the bank has approved divestment of its majority shareholding in Nainital Bank Limited (NBL)

131. Correct Answer: B

Stock brokerage firm HDFC Securities has launched Roots, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis. The biggest feature of the platform is that it produces content which are being searched on

Google by current or prospective investors and traders.

132. Correct Answer: B

The Meghalaya government, which has adopted a 'jan andolan' (people's movement) against Tuberculosis, received an award for Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization in Tuberculosis control at a national workshop in New Delhi, which focused to eliminate TB infections.

133. Correct Answer: A

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) the consumer price index (CPI) based inflation declined for the second consecutive month to 5.88 per cent in November, from 6.77 per cent in October 2022.

134. Correct Answer: B

Karnataka shooter Divya T.S, won her maiden women's 10m air pistol national title, getting the better of Uttar Pradesh's Sanskriti Bana 16-14 in a close gold medal encounter at the MP Academy Shooting range in Bhopal in 65th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Pistol events.

135. Correct Answer: B

India's wholesale inflation measured by the wholesale price index (WPI) eased to a 21-month low of 5.85 per cent in November from 8.39 per cent in September, data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry showed.

136. Correct Answer: B

India has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announcing that New Delhi will soon have a

database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets.

137. Correct Answer: D

IDFC FIRST Bank has announced ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on 25 commonly used banking services. The bank has announced the facility on the occasion of its Foundation Day on 18 December.

138. Correct Answer: A

DBS Bank India has partnered with GoFrugal Technologies, a seller-centric platform to empower micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) and retail merchants to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

139. Correct Answer: B

Indian Bank has launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed as "Ind Shakti 555 days" effective from December 19, 2022. Indian Bank offers interest rate of 6.30% on deposits maturing in more than one year to less than two years. The bank will offer an interest rate of 6.50% on deposits maturing in two years to less than three years.

140. Correct Answer: B

Google has recently announced a partnership with DigiLocker, a government authorized identification storage system, to bring local storage of government issued IDs on Android devices.

141. Correct Answer: B

The country's first and World's 2nd infantry museum was inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. The museum will showcase 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.

142. Correct Answer: D

One97 Communications (OCL), that owns the brand Paytm, has launched "Paytm Payment Protect", a group insurance plan, in association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance to insure transactions made through UPI across all apps and wallets.

143. Correct Answer: C

Bandhan Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence, for extending banking services to the defence pensioners and their families through 557 branches.

144. Correct Answer: A

PTC India Ltd, has entered into an agreement with Bhutan, through Druk Green Power Corporation Limited for supply of 600 MW power from Indian power market to the Himalayan nation in order to meet its power requirement during the dry winter season.

145. Correct Answer: B

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, according to a government order. Shukla, who has been the executive director of the AERB, succeeds G. Nageswara Rao to the top post.

146. Correct Answer: D

Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav has been appointed as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Vadodara, by President Smt. Draupadi Murmu. President also appointed Dr

Manoj Chaudhary as the first Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Vadodara.

147. Correct Answer: A

Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez scooped the Golden Glove Award for best goalkeeper in the FIFA World Cup 2022 after saving a penalty from Kingsley Coman in the shoot-out.

148. Correct Answer: A

Switzerland-based E2S Power, a developer of thermal energy storage solutions, and power utility firm India Power Corporation Ltd (IPCL) have signed an agreement for a 250-kWh pilot thermal energy storage unit to be operated in India.

149. Correct Answer: C

Kylian Mbappe of France won the Golden Boot Award thanks to a hat-trick in the final of FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, but ended up on the losing side. Mbappe and Lionel Messi were both on five goals going into the tournament finale between Argentina and France.

150. Correct Answer: D

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has become the only Indian to be named in the list of '50 Greatest Actors of All Time', released by Empire magazine. Others who are named in the list include Hollywood stalwarts Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Denzel Washington, Natalie Portman and Bette Davis among many others.



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

What is SHAKTI Policy?



Ministry of Power has launched a scheme for procurement of aggregate power of 4500 MW for 5 years under SHAKTI Policy to help states that are facing power shortages and help generation plants to increase their capacities.

SHAKTI Policy

- Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India is known by the abbreviation SHAKTI.
- It was introduced in 2018 to feed coal to overworked power plants that couldn't get any.
- Through coal auctions, it aims to connect power plants without fuel supply agreements (FSAs) to the coal supply chain.

Need for such policy

- The government has defined SHAKTI as a policy for transparent and impartial coal distribution among thermal power facilities.

- It tries to pass on linkage coal's advantages to final customers.
- The plan is meant to help both the infrastructure industry and the public sector banks, which owe enormous amounts to power firms in outstanding loans.
- Companies that had no connections to the coal industry before the Shakti Scheme was implemented would profit from competitively priced domestic fuel supplies.
- The programme also seeks to strengthen domestic businesses and lessen reliance on imported coal.
- The government hopes to lessen its reliance on imported coal with this programme.

Coal linkage scenario in India

- Coal The New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP), published in 2007, has measures that govern coal's relationship to the electricity sector.
- A Letter of Assurance (LoA) issuance system was introduced as part of the NCDP.
- The Ministry of Power receives the requests for Linkage/LoA and makes suggestions.
- The scenario for coal availability has now progressed from scarcity to sufficiency.

India leaps in to ICAO Aviation Safety Rankings

ICAO gives India's aviation safety highest ever rank

The improved safety ranking will make it easier for Indian carriers to expand their wings abroad

Rank in 2018: 102
Rank in 2022: 48

In the rankings by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), India is now at the 48th position, a “quantum leap” from the 102nd rank it had in 2018.

How has India fared in ICAO ranking?

- With a score of 85.49 per cent each, India and Georgia are at the 48th position.
- Neighbouring Pakistan is at the 100th spot with a score of 70.39 per cent.

Global scenario

- The rankings are topped by Singapore with a score of 99.69 per cent.
- It is followed by the UAE at the second position with a score of 98.8 per cent and the Republic of Korea is at the third place (98.24 per cent).
- Others in the top ten are France (4th; 96.42 per cent), Iceland (5th; 95.73 per cent), Australia (6th; 95.04 per cent), Canada (7th; 94.95 per cent), Brazil (8th; 94.72 per cent), Ireland (9th; 94.6 per cent) and Chile (10th; 93.9 per cent).

What is ICAO?

- The ICAO is a specialised UN body that organises the concepts and procedures of global air navigation.
- To ensure safe and orderly expansion, it promotes the planning and development of international air travel.
- The ICAO's headquarters are in Montreal, Quebec's Quartier International.

Functions of ICAO

- Standardization: The ICAO Council develops standards and advised practises with regard to the infrastructure of air navigation, flight inspection, the avoidance of unauthorised interference, and the facilitation of border crossing procedures, among other things.
- Investigation standards: The Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) establishes the procedures for air accident investigation that are followed by transport safety agencies in signatory nations.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) market cap deadline extended by 2 years



The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has extended by two years the deadline to comply with its 30 percent cap on the market share of platforms operating on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

What is UPI?

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) created the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), an instant real-time payment system that makes interbank transactions easier.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) controls the interface, which operates by immediately moving money between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.

What is the NPCI plan for UPI?

- The market cap guidelines were initially scheduled to go into effect in January 2021 by NPCI.
- It was designed to prevent any one payments app from handling more than 30% of UPI transactions in a given month.

Why extension?

- The extension is being seen as a major relief for Walmart and Flipkart-backed PhonePe and Google Pay, which currently command a majority of the UPI market share.

How could it impact UPI platforms?

- Industry observers think the decision will give PhonePe and Google Pay, which together account for more than 80% of UPI's market share, a boost.

- However, the extension can be viewed as a natural setback for services like Paytm and WhatsApp Pay.
- In terms of UPI market share as of October, Paytm held a 15% share.
- Comparatively, GooglePay accounted for about 35% of the market, while PhonePe held a 47% share.

How is UPI performing?

- The Reserve Bank of India's Payment Vision 2025 projects that UPI will increase by an average annualised 50 percent.
- The UPI transaction value for the month of November came in at Rs 11.90 lakh crore after reaching a new high of Rs 12.11 lakh crore in October.
- The number of transactions, which stood at 7.3 billion in October, did not change in November.

What is First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) System?



Two months after the RBI issued guidelines on digital lending, banks, NBFCs and fintech players are still awaiting clarity on many aspects, including the First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) system.

What is FLDG System?

- A FLDG is a contract between a fintech firm and a regulated entity (RE), such as a bank or non-banking finance company, whereby the fintech partially reimburses the RE in the event of a default by the borrower.
- In this scenario, the fintech originates a loan and guarantees to reimburse the partners up to a predetermined percentage in the event that clients default on their payments.
- Through the fintech, the bank/NBFC partners lend, but from their own books.
- Although it depends on the fintechs' underwriting abilities, FLDG aids in growing the clientele of conventional lenders.
- A validation of the fintech's loan underwriting ability is also apparent in FLDG.

Issues with FLDGs

- Risks of FLDG agreements with unregulated businesses were outlined in a report by a working group on digital lending that the RBI had established.
- Another issue is that FLDG expenses are frequently passed forward to customers.

Species in news: Badri Cow



To increase the productivity of its indigenous petite Badri cow that grazes on the medicinal herbs of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is now planning for its genetic enhancement.

Badri Cow

- Uttarakhand's native cow species is the badri/Pahari desi cow.
- Because this cow forages on local bushes and herbs in the Himalayas, her milk has a high medicinal potential.
- These cattle are well suited to the weather conditions and hilly terrain of Uttarakhand.
- The steep Almora and Pauri Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand are home to this hardy and disease-resistant breed.

- Given that this breed rarely contracts diseases, disease resistance is a crucial trait.

Medicinal benefits

- This breed has a robust immune system.
- The Badri cow's milk has one of the highest percentages of A2 beta-casein proteins of any indigenous breed, at approximately 90%.
- Pure desi ghee's antioxidants aid in better vitamin and mineral absorption, enhancing immunity.
- By boosting the development of T cells in the gut, which aids in the defence against allergens, butyric acid in Badri cow ghee helps to increase immunity.

Why in news?

- The State officials suggested using sex-sorted semen technology to increase Badri cattle productivity.
- In order to create more cattle with a strong genetic foundation, they also suggested choosing the embryo transfer procedure.

Economic significance of Badri cow

- The price of Badri ghee ranges from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 per kg.
- Cow dung, Panchgavya, and Gaumutra Ark (distilled cow urine) all have enormous business potential (the five products of the cow, including milk, curd, ghee, dung and urine).

GI tag sought for Beypore Uru



The District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beypore Uru (boat).

Beypore Uru

- Beypore Uru is a wooden dhow (ship, sailing boat, or vessel) that was handmade in Beypore, Kerala by expert craftsmen and carpenters.
- They stand for Kerala's friendship and business ties to the Gulf nations.
- It is built entirely of high-quality wood without the use of any contemporary methods.
- The timber is still sawed the old-fashioned way, which calls for enormous skill.
- Each Uru must be built manually, which takes anywhere from one to four years.

Its historic significance

- Since the first century C.E., Beypore has been a renowned maritime trading centre for merchants from all over the world, according to historical documents.

- Since almost 2000 years ago, the recognisable Uru ships have been in high demand.
- The skillful locals known as Khalasis, who launched Uru canoes at Beypore, had a 2000-year tradition.
- Odayis stands out among them as a notable individual. They oversee the technical aspects of manufacturing ships.
- Their surname is derived from the word "odam," which refers to a small ship that was once utilised for trading between the Malabar coast and Lakshadweep.
- Since the bulk of them are Mappila Muslims, they are also known as Mappila Khalasis.

Q. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statement:

1. They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
2. They rear the Pashmina goats that yield fine wool.
3. They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

Centre rules out an increase in MSP for Cotton



While cotton farmers in several States have demanded an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of the crop, the Centre has said that it is watching the cotton production scenario and decide accordingly.

What is MSP?

- The MSP guarantees farmers a fixed price for their crops that is far higher than their production expenses.
- MSP, on the other hand, has no legal support. Contrary to PDS-subsidized grains, access to it is not a right for farmers.
- They are not entitled to demand it. The only thing that falls within administrative decision-making is a government policy.
- Based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Centre now establishes MSPs for 23 agricultural commodities.

What changed with the 2018 budget?

- The Budget for 2018-19 announced that MSPs would henceforth be fixed at 1.5 times of the production costs for crops as a "pre-determined principle".
- Simply put, the CACP's job now was only to estimate production costs for a season and recommend the MSPs by applying the 1.5-times formula.

Farmers demand legalization

- MSP based on a C2+50% formula should be declared a legal entitlement for all agricultural products, according to a demand.
- Some argue that private traders should bear the majority of the expense, pointing out that both middlemen and multinational corporations are purchasing goods from farmers at reduced prices.
- MSP-required purchases: A agricultural union allied with the left has proposed a rule that merely states that neither the government nor private actors will be permitted to acquire at a price lower than MSP.
- Other unions have stated that the government must be ready to acquire the entire surplus at MSP pricing if private buyers fail to buy their crops.

- Farm unions are demanding that C2 must also include capital assets and the rentals and interest forgone on owned land as recommended by the National Commission for Farmers.

Government's position

- The PM has announced the creation of a committee to change crop patterns, which are frequently determined by MSP and procurement, and to make MSP more transparent.
- Along with agricultural scientists and economists, the panel will include representatives from farm organisations, the State and Central Governments, as well as agriculture.

Environment & Diversity

Places in news: Great Barrier Reef



A joint report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) expressed concern about the status of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) in Australia, recommending that it "be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

About Great Barrier Reef

- The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the largest reef system in the world, spanning 2,300 km, and has about 3,000 distinct reefs.

- It supports 4,000 distinct types of molluscs, 1,500 species of fish, and 400 different forms of coral.
- Even though they only cover 1% of the ocean floor, coral reefs are responsible for nearly 25% of marine biodiversity.
- Global fishing enterprises are further fueled by the marine life that coral reefs nourish.

What does the new report say?

- Between August 2021 and May 2022, 87 reefs in the GBR were surveyed for the current report.
- The increase in the amount of hard corals is used to calculate coral cover.
- The northern GBR had a 36% hard coral cover, whereas the centre region had a 33% hard coral cover.
- In the southern region, coral cover levels decreased from 38% in 2021 to 34% in 2022.
- The analysis revealed that the fast-growing Acropora corals, a prevalent form in the GBR, were a major contributor to the recovery's unprecedented levels of growth.

Threats found

- Acropora corals are also the most susceptible to environmental pressures such as rising temperatures, cyclones, pollution, crown-of-thorn starfish (COTs) attacks which prey on hard corals and so on.

Does this mean the reef is out of the woods?

- The lack of tropical cyclones and reduced heat stress in 2020 and 2022 compared to previously

are the primary causes of the reef's recent recovery in some areas.

- Scientists believe that heat stress brought on by climate change, which causes coral bleaching, poses the greatest threat to the health of the reef, surpassing predatory attacks and tropical cyclones.
- The recent ten years have shown an increase in the spatial proximity of major bleaching occurrences, which is concerning.
- When the sea surfaces heated up in 1998 due to the El Nio weather pattern, it resulted in the first major bleaching event, which led to the death of 8% of the world's coral.
- The second incident happened in 2002.
- But the longest and most damaging bleaching event took place from 2014 to 2017. Mass bleaching then occurred again in 2020, followed by earlier this year.

Cyclone Mandous makes landfall in Tamil Nadu



Cyclone Mandous crossed the north Tamil Nadu coast with fierce winds and heavy downpour.

Cyclone Mandous

- 'Mandous' was a name submitted by WMO member United Arab Emirates and is pronounced as 'Man-Dous.'
- It means 'treasure box' in Arabic.

What are Tropical Cyclones?

- A tropical cyclone is a powerful circular storm with low air pressure, strong winds, and heavy rain that develops over warm tropical waters.
- Over slightly warm ocean waters, cyclones form. To enable the formation of a cyclone, the sea's surface temperature must be at least 28°C up to a depth of roughly 60 metres.
- This explains why cyclone season occurs between April and May and October and December.
- The low level of air above the waves must then rotate "anticlockwise" (in the northern hemisphere; clockwise in the southern hemisphere).
- During these times, there is an ITCZ in the Bay of Bengal with winds running from west to east along its southern boundary and from east to west along its northern boundary.
- Cyclones in this region typically migrate northwest after forming. The cyclone picks up additional humid air from the warm water as it passes over the ocean, adding to its weight.

Requirements for a Cyclone to form

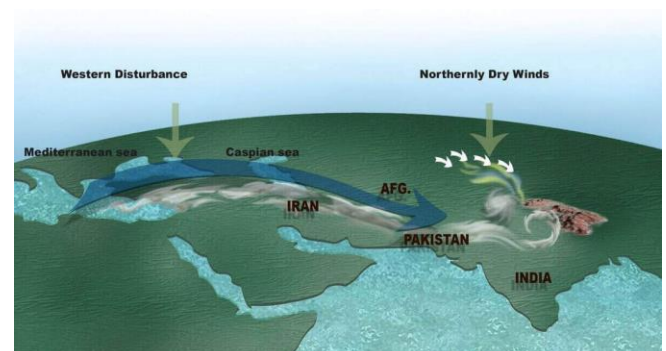
There are six main requirements for tropical cyclogenesis:

- Sufficiently warm sea surface temperatures
- Atmospheric instability
- High humidity in the lower to middle levels of the troposphere
- Enough Coriolis force to develop a low-pressure centre
- A pre-existing low-level focus or disturbance
- Low vertical wind shear

How are the cyclones named?

- The World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to give cyclones names in 2000.
- It was decided to begin naming cyclones in the area by Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- The list was finalised by the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) after each nation submitted suggestions.
- In 2018, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen were added to the WMO/ESCAP.

What are Western Disturbances?



The days have been unusually warm for winter in New Delhi with the maximum temperature remaining above normal mostly on account of fewer western disturbances affecting this year.

Western Disturbances

- An extratropical storm known as a "western disturbance" develops in the Mediterranean Sea and brings abrupt winter rain to the Indian subcontinent's northwest.
- It is a westerly-driven non-monsoonal precipitation pattern.
- These storms typically get their moisture from the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Seas.
- Contrary to their tropical counterparts, which carry moisture in the lower atmosphere, extratropical storms are a worldwide phenomenon that often carry moisture in the upper atmosphere.
- When a storm system collides with the Himalayas, moisture can occasionally fall as rain on the Indian subcontinent.
- In the winter, western disturbances are more common and powerful.

Impact: Winter Rainfall and Extreme Cold

- The Indian Subcontinent has considerable snowfall in the mountains and moderate to heavy rain in low-lying areas due to western disturbances, particularly in the winter.
- In northwest India, they are responsible for the majority of the winter and pre-monsoon precipitation.

- During the winter, four to five western disturbances emerge on average.

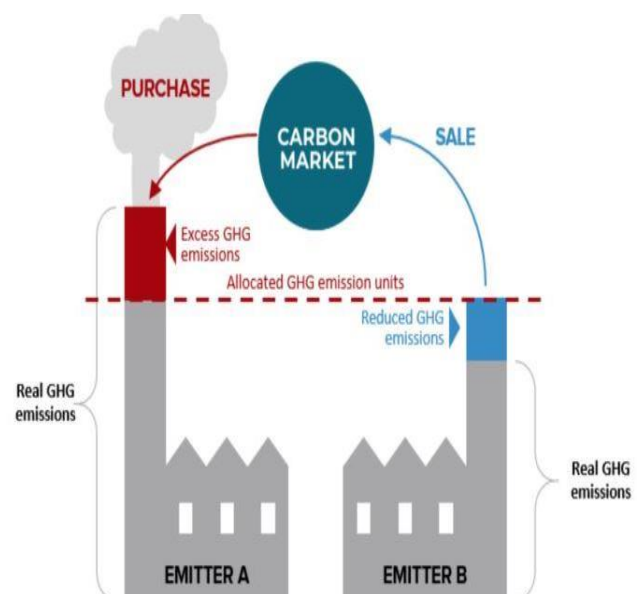
Its significance

- In agriculture, precipitation during the winter months is crucial, especially for the rabi crops.
- One of the most significant crops among them, wheat contributes to India's ability to meet its food security needs.

Consider the following statements and state which one is correct?

1. The winds which blow between 30°N and 60°S latitudes throughout the year are known as westerlies.
2. The moist air masses that cause winter rains in the North-Western region of India are part of westerlies.

What are Carbon Markets and how do they operate?



The Parliament passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. It amends the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, to empower the Government to establish carbon markets in India and specify a carbon credit trading scheme.

A quick recap

- Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be cut by 25 to 50% during the next ten years in order to limit global warming to 2°C, and ideally no more than 1.5°C.
- As part of the 2015 Paris Agreement, nearly 170 nations have so far submitted their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which they have promised to update every five years.
- NDCs are targets for achieving net-zero emissions that countries set as part of their climate pledges.
- For example, India is developing a long-term strategy to meet its goal of net zero emissions by 2070.

What are Carbon Markets?

- One mitigation strategy—carbon markets—is growing in popularity with several nations as a means of achieving NDCs.
- The Paris Agreement's Article 6 allows countries to use the global carbon markets to meet their NDCs.
- In essence, carbon markets serve as a method for placing a price on carbon emissions; they create trading platforms where carbon allowances or credits can be purchased and sold.

- According to United Nations standards, a carbon credit is a type of tradeable permit that equals one tonne of carbon dioxide that has been removed, reduced, or sequestered from the atmosphere.
- In contrast, nations or governments set carbon allowances or limitations in accordance with their goals for reducing emissions.

Popularity of the carbon markets

- This year, a UNDP report noted that interest in carbon markets is rising across the globe.
- Nearly 83% of the NDCs filed by nations state that they want to use global market mechanisms to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Successful example of Carbon Market: EU's emissions trading system (ETS)

- Member nations set a cap or limit on emissions in a variety of industries, including waste management, manufacturing, oil, and power, under the EU's ETS, which was introduced in 2005.
- This cap is established in accordance with national climate goals and is gradually lowered to cut emissions.
- Governments grant annual allowances or permits to entities in this sector that are equal to the emissions they are able to produce. This makes up the 'trade' part of cap-and-trade.

How is carbon price determined?

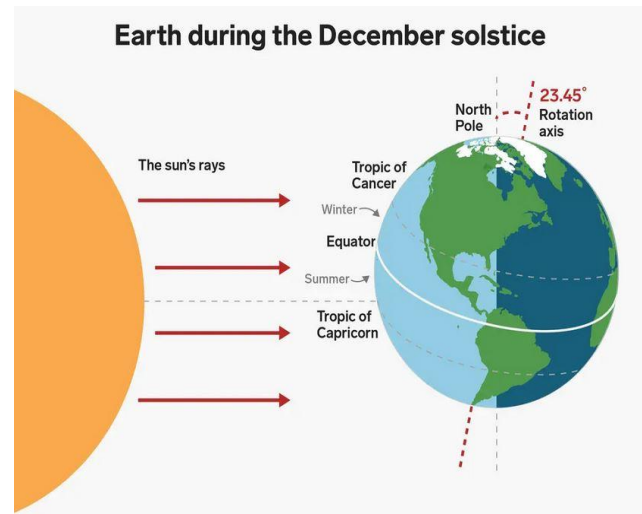
- When buyers and sellers exchange emissions allowances, market forces decide the market price of carbon.
- Notably, businesses can save extra permits for future use.
- Companies can choose whether it is more cost-effective to use clean energy technologies or to buy more allowances through this type of carbon trading.
- These markets might stimulate a decrease in energy consumption and a switch to cleaner fuels.

Significance of Carbon Market

- According to the World Bank, trade in carbon credits may cut the cost of implementing NDCs in half by 2030, to as much as \$250 billion.
- Global markets for tradable carbon allowances or permits saw their value increase by 164% to a record 760 billion euros (\$851 billion) last year.
- The EU's ETS, which accounted for 90% of the global value at 683 billion euros, made the biggest contribution to this increase.
- Voluntary carbon markets currently have a global value of \$2 billion, which is considerably less.

What is Winter Solstice?

Today, December 21, is Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, conversely, it was Summer Solstice, the year's longest day.



What is Winter Solstice?

- The winter solstice, also called the hibernal solstice, occurs when either of Earth's poles reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun.
- This happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere.

What are Solstices?

- Earth's axis of rotation is inclined by around 23.4 degrees in relation to its orbit around the sun, which causes solstices to occur.
- Since the Northern and Southern Hemispheres receive different quantities of sunlight throughout the course of a year, this tilt determines the seasons on our planet.
- The Northern Hemisphere's spring and summer are caused by a greater tilt toward the sun from March to September.
- The Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun from September to March, making it feel like autumn and winter.

- The seasons are backwards in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The Earth's axis is tilted most closely toward the sun twice a year during what are known as the solstices.

Impact on day-time

- The longest day occurs in the hemisphere that is slanted most toward our star, whereas the longest night occurs in the hemisphere that is tilted away from the sun.
- The Southern Hemisphere experiences its winter solstice on June 21, which coincides with the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The Southern Hemisphere experiences its summer solstice around the same time as the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice, which consistently occurs around December 22.

Impact of the tilted axis

- The majority of the year, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun, receiving direct sunlight during the lengthy summer days.
- The days are shorter during the other half of the year when it tilts away from the Sun.
- On December 21, the Winter Solstice, the North Pole is tilted away from the Sun at its greatest angle.
- The various seasons that we experience on Earth are also a result of the tilt.
- Daytime is experienced on the side facing the Sun; while Earth keeps rotating on its axis, daytime turns into night.

Un-impacted regions

- Day and night are equal on the equator. The fluctuation becomes more extreme when one gets closer to the poles.
- That pole is inclined toward the Sun in the summer in either hemisphere, giving the polar region months of nonstop daylight.
- In the winter, the area experiences extended periods of complete darkness.

In Vedic tradition

- The Surya Siddhanta in Vedic tradition tacitly acknowledges the northern movement of the Earth on the celestial sphere.
- The Uttarayana is described (the period between Makar Sankranti and Karka Sankranti). As a result, the first day of Uttarayana is the Winter Solstice.

Q. On 21st June, the Sun

- A) Does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle
- B) Does not set below the horizon at Antarctic Circle
- C) Shines vertically overhead at noon on the Equator
- D) Shines vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn

Kerala government publishes map for people to seek exemption from ESZ



The Kerala government has published a forest department map that better reflects the block and plot-wise details of localities that could potentially fall under the Supreme Court-suggested one-km ecologically sensitive buffer zone (ESZ) around forests if imposed.

What are the Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs)?

- The MoEFCC has designated certain regions as Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) that are located surrounding Protected Areas, National Parks, and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- By controlling and supervising the activities in and around protected areas, ESZs serve as a form of "shock absorber" for the protected regions.
- They serve as a crossing point between regions with high levels of protection and those with lower levels of protection.

Defining its boundaries

- According to the Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002, an ESZ may extend up to 10 kilometres around a protected area.
- Additionally, sensitive corridors, connectivity, and ecologically significant patches that are necessary for landscape linkage and are wider than 10 km should be included in the ESZs.
- Additionally, even within the boundaries of a specific Protected Area, the distribution of an ESZ and the degree of restriction may not be consistent everywhere and may vary in width and extent.

Activities Permitted and Prohibited

- Regular horticultural or agricultural techniques, the use of renewable energy sources, organic farming, and the deployment of green technologies are all permitted.
- Commercial mining, sawmills, industries that pollute the environment (air, water, soil, noise, etc.), the construction of large hydroelectric projects (HEP), the use of wood for commercial purposes, tourism-related activities like hot-air balloon flights over national parks, the discharge of effluents or any solid waste, and the production of hazardous materials are all prohibited.
- Regulations apply to the following activities: cutting down trees, building hotels and resorts, using natural water for commercial purposes, erecting electrical cables, drastically changing the agriculture system, such as using heavy

machinery, insecticides, etc., and enlarging roads.

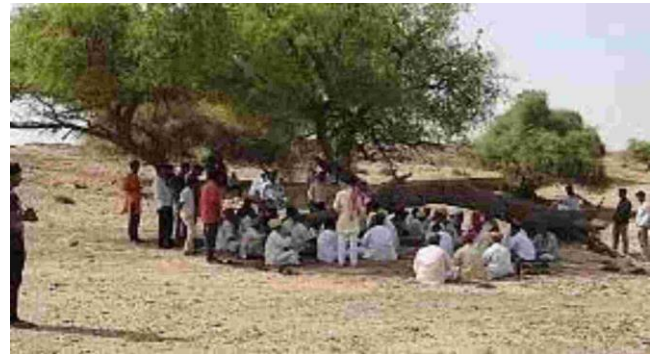
What is the recent SC judgment that has caused an uproar in Kerala?

- On June 3, a three-judge Supreme Court panel heard a PIL that first aimed to save forest lands in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris but was later expanded to include the entire nation.
- While describing the 2011 rules as "appropriate" in its ruling, the court ordered all states to establish a minimum 1-km ESZ from each protected area's defined bounds.
- Additionally, it was declared that mining and new permanent structures would not be allowed inside the ESZ.
- According to the Live Law report, if the present ESZ exceeds the 1-km buffer zone or if any statutory instrument specifies a greater limit, the enlarged boundary will take precedence.

Why are people protesting against it?

- Near the alerted protected areas, there is a substantial human population.
- Farmers' organisations and political parties have been calling for the exclusion of all human settlements from the ESZ judgement.
- Eight lakh acres make up all of Kerala's wildlife reserves.
- Around 4 lakh acres of human settlements, including farmlands, would fall under that jurisdiction if an ESZ was delineated at a distance of one kilometre from their borders.

What are Orans?



Oran Bachao Yatras are taking place in Rajasthan for the protection of orans or sacred groves facing the threat of destruction due to the land being allotted for renewable energy infrastructure and high-tension power lines.

What are Orans?

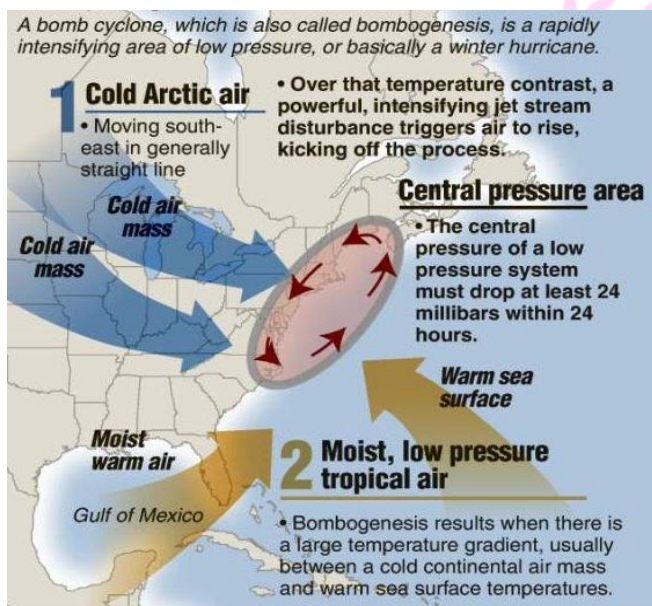
- Because of their spiritual values, Orans are Community Conserved Areas.
- They consist of wooded areas, pastures, orchards, sacred groves, and ecosystems that are typically built around water sources like springs, rivulets, or man-made ponds.
- At the centre of an Oran, there is typically a shrine honouring a regional deity.
- The landmarks or geographic markers that serve as their traditional limits were set by the indigenous and agro-pastoral populations that are connected to them.
- A solid community-territory relationship and an efficient government structure typically characterise orans.

Reasons for the Yatra

- Orans, which are little patches of woodland in the middle of the vast Thar desert and are named after regional deities and mediaeval warriors, are significant in terms of religion and society.
- The Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a protected species under the Wildlife Protection Act and the state bird of Rajasthan, is also found in India's orangutans, which provide as its native habitat.
- The most important threat to the majestic birds, according to the number of GIBs that have died in recent years due to collisions with electricity wires.

- A bomb cyclone is a sizable, powerful storm that forms in the mid-latitudes. It features low pressure at its centre, weather fronts, and a variety of accompanying weather, including blizzards, severe thunderstorms, and heavy precipitation.
- When its central pressure drops dramatically—by at least 24 millibars in a 24-hour period—it explodes.
- When a cyclone "bombs," or develops through bombogenesis, this indicates that it has access to the best conditions for fortifying elements like a lot of heat, moisture, and rising air.

What is a 'Bomb Cyclone'?



Why is it called a bomb?

- The majority of cyclones don't intensify quickly like this.
- Forecasters are on high alert because bomb cyclones have the potential to do serious damage.

How does it occur?

- Heat and moisture are in great supply over the warmer ocean.
- However, as chilly continental air passes overhead and a significant temperature differential results, the lower atmosphere becomes erratic and buoyant.
- Clouds and precipitation are created when rising, cooling, and condensing air.

Where does it occur the most?

- One of the areas where bombogenesis is most prevalent is along the US coast.

Bomb cyclone continued to unleash havoc as the death toll due to weather-related incidents in the United States mounted to 34 and has left millions without power.

What is Bomb Cyclone?

- The reason for this is that storms in the mid-latitudes—a temperate region north of the tropics that encompasses the entire US—get their energy from significant temperature disparities.
- The cool land and the warm Gulf Stream current create a dramatic thermal contrast along the US East Coast in the winter.

Governance

In news: Electoral Bond Scheme



The government has opened yet another week-long window for electoral bond sales starting December 5.

What are Electoral Bonds?

- In order to donate to political parties anonymously, any individual or business may purchase electoral bonds, which are financial instruments.
- It resembles a promissory note and is available from a few State Bank of India branches to any Indian national or Indian-incorporated firm.
- Then, the individual or business can donate the money to any eligible political party of their choice.
- These bonds will be available for digital or check purchases by an individual or group.

About the scheme

- The bond may only be purchased by Indian citizens or entities registered in India.
- These bonds can be acquired from any of the designated State Bank of India branches for any amount in multiples of 1,000, 10,000, 10 lakh, and one crore.
- The buyer will only be permitted to purchase electoral bonds after properly complying with all applicable KYC requirements and after making payment from a bank account.
- The bonds will expire after 15 days (15 days time has been prescribed for the bonds to ensure that they do not become a parallel currency).
- Donors who contribute less than ₹20,000 to political parties through purchase of electoral bonds need not provide their identity details, such as Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Objective of the scheme

- **Transparency in political funding:** To ensure that the funds being collected by the political parties is accounted money or clean money.

Who can redeem such bonds?

- An qualifying political party may only redeem the electoral bonds through a bank account with the authorised bank.
- To be eligible to receive Electoral Bonds, a political party must be registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), and it must have received at least 1% of the votes cast in the most recent general election for the Lok Sabha or the State Legislative Assembly.

Issues with the Scheme

- Despite the donor's identity being recorded, opaque funding keeps it a secret from the recipient party and the general public. Thus, the voter's access to transparency is not improved.
- Income tax advantages may not also be offered for donations made through electoral bonds. The contributor is forced to decide between preserving their anonymity and avoiding taxes as a result.
- Donors are not anonymous: As the bank will know the donor's identity, their privacy is jeopardised.
- Different advantages: Due of the government's ability to track financial contributions and recipients, these bonds will benefit any party in power.
- The electoral bonds scheme and amendments in the Finance Act of 2017 allows for “unlimited donations from individuals and foreign companies to political parties without any record of the sources of funding”.

Way ahead

- However, concerns about the electoral bond plan go beyond its blatant constitutionality.
- The worry about possible financial misuse is really significant.
- The EC has been pushing for the passage of legislation that would require political parties to have their financial records reviewed by an auditor chosen from a panel proposed by the CAG or EC. This has to be highlighted.
- Creating a National Election Fund and designating it as the recipient of all donations is another viable choice.
- This would eliminate the funders' imagined fear of political retaliation.

Pendency falls in the Child Adoption cases



The pendency in the adoption of children has come down to 644 from 905 over the last two months since the new Adoption Regulations were notified.

What is the news?

- The Rules for the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Act were notified in September this year.

Adoption Regulations, 2022

- District Magistrates may now issue adoption orders under the new regulations.
- The judges used to exercise this authority.
- The Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) online platform for adoption has also undergone changes.
- Prospective adoptive parents can now choose their home State or region in compliance with the new regulations.
- This is required to make sure that the family and child get along well and share the same sociocultural environment.

Adoption in India: A backgrounder

- The Central Adoption Resource Authority was given authority in 2015 by the then-Minister for Women and Child Development, who did this to centralise the entire adoption system (CARA).
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development established the CARA in 2015 as an independent, statutory authority.
- It was given the authority to keep a registry of children and potential adoptive parents in several specialised adoption organisations, as well as to pair them together before adoption.
- As child care facilities and NGOs could immediately give children for adoption after acquiring a no-objection certificate from CARA, this was intended to address rampant corruption and trafficking.

Why is there concern over the revised rules?

- It will be necessary to transfer parents, activists, attorneys, and adoption agencies, and the procedure will need to be restarted.
- If such an order is delayed, a child may frequently be denied entrance to a school because their parents do not yet possess a birth certificate.
- Parents and attorneys claim that the JJ Act modification has caused confusion in the system and delays because neither judges nor DMs are aware of it.
- Civil cases that give a child the right to inherit or succeed to a property are not handled by DMs.
- If these rights are contested when a child turns 18, a court ruling is much more likely to hold up and guarantee the child won't be denied their rights.

Is it such a big issue?

- The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) says there are **nearly 1,000 adoption cases pending** before various courts in the country.
- This is not such a huge burden.

Issues with child adoption in India

- Parent-centrism: The current adoption strategy is mostly focused on the parents, but parents need to make it more child-centered.
- Most parents in India prefer children between the ages of 0 and 2, since they feel that this is when the parent-child link is created.
- Institutional problems: There aren't enough kids up for adoption because there are

disproportionately more abandoned kids than kids in institutions.

- Lineage discrimination: Because they desire their genes, blood, and lineage to be passed down to their children, the majority of Indians have a mistaken perspective of adoption.
- Red tape: Since the adoption regulations of 2017 and the juvenile justice rules of 2016 were implemented, adopting a child is also a difficult undertaking.

Practical issues in adoption

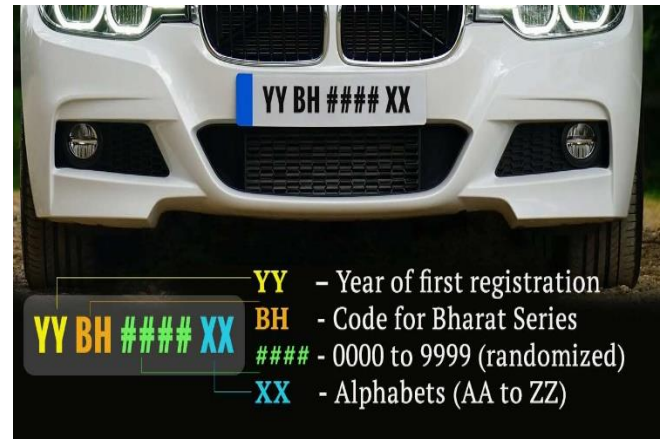
- There are no guidelines for keeping track of adoptions, confirming the origin of children, or establishing if prospective parents are qualified to adopt.
- The CARA adoption system has several issues, but the fact that there are so few children listed on its registry is its main flaw.
- Only 2,188 children are currently available for adoption, according to the most recent data, while more than 31,000 parents are actively looking to adopt a kid.

Road ministry notifies new rules on BH Series registration mark for vehicles

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has notified new rules to further increase the scope of implementation of the BH series registrations for vehicles.

What is the update?

The transport ministry has proposed new rules that would permit transfer of vehicles with BH series registration mark to other persons, who are eligible or ineligible for the getting the series.



What is Bharat series (BH-series)?

- There was a procedure of re-registration of a vehicle while moving to another state.
- A vehicle bearing BH registration mark shall not require assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another.
- Format of Bharat series (BH-series) Registration Mark –

Registration Mark Format:

1. YY BH #### XX
2. YY – Year of first registration
3. BH- Code for Bharat Series
4. ####- 0000 to 9999 (randomized)
5. XX- Alphabets (AA to ZZ)

Why such move?

- Changing stations happens to personnel in the public and private sectors.
- When it comes to the transfer of registration from the parent state to another state, such movements make these employees feel uneasy.
- A person is only permitted to maintain a vehicle in a state other than the one in which it is registered for a maximum of 12 months under section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988.

Who can get this BH series?

- Defense personnel, employees of the Central Government, State Government, Central/State PSUs, and private sector businesses/organizations will all have access to the BH-series on a voluntary basis.
- The motor vehicle tax is imposed for a period of two years or a multiple of two years.
- As soon as a person relocates to a new State or UT in India, this scheme will enable unrestricted personal vehicle transportation between such States/UTs.
- A motor vehicle tax equal to half of what was previously assessed for that vehicle will be imposed yearly after the completion of the fourteenth year.

The Urban Learning Internship Programme (TULIP)

More than 25,000 internship opportunities have been advertised under the TULIP programme so far.



TULIP Program

- The Ministry of HRD, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, and the All India Council for Technical Education together created the portal TULIP (AICTE).
- As India is expected to have the world's largest working-age population in the next years, it aids in capturing the demographic dividend.
- It contributes to the improvement of the graduates' value-to-market and the development of a potential talent pool in a variety of industries, including municipal finance, urban planning, transportation engineering, and the environment.
- It advances the government's efforts to strengthen ties between the government, academics, business, and civil society.

Why need such a program?

- There is a sizable pool of technical graduates in India, and exposure to the design and implementation of real-world projects is crucial for their professional development.

- The breadth of useful information present in society could not be adequately represented in general education.

- Our civilizations need to reconsider education as "learning by doing" rather than "doing by learning."

History

150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's



PM will participate in a program commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary.

Sri Aurobindo (1872 –1950)

- Sri Aurobindo Ghose was an Indian patriot, poet, yogi, and maharishi.
- He was a journalist as well, editing publications like Vande Mataram.
- He joined the Indian independence struggle against British colonial rule and served as one of its powerful leaders up until 1910.

Major activities

- Aurobindo attended King's College in Cambridge, England to prepare for the Indian Civil Service.
- Upon his return to India, he began working in the civil service for the Maharaja of the Baroda Princely State.
- He was more and more active in Bengal's fledgling revolutionary organisation, the Anushilan Samiti, and nationalist politics through the Indian National Congress.
- He was taken into custody following several bombs that were connected to his group, and he was put on trial in front of the public on treason charges for the Alipore Conspiracy.
- However, Sri Aurobindo was only found guilty and sentenced to prison for his publications criticising British colonial administration in India.

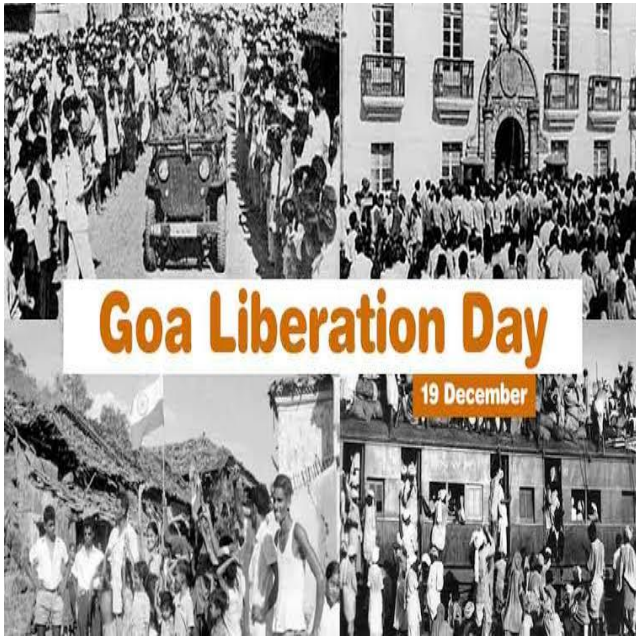
Q. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?

- (a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
- (b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government

(c) Foundation of Muslim League

(d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian national Congress

In news: Goa Liberation Day



The President of India tweeted her greetings to the nation on December 19, marking Goa Liberation Day, which is celebrated annually to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay' undertaken by the Indian armed forces to defeat Portuguese colonial forces and liberate Goa in 1961.

Goa's Colonization: A backgrounder

- After Yusuf Adil Shah, the sultan of Bjiapur, was routed by Admiral Afonso de Albuquerque's army in 1510, Goa became a Portuguese possession.

- A lengthy colonial conflict between rival regional and international powers occurred in Goa during the course of the following four and a half centuries.
- It experienced a theological and cultural upheaval that eventually resulted in the emergence of a unique Goan identity, which is still a subject of debate today.
- By the turn of the century, Goa had begun to experience a rise in anti-Portuguese colonial feeling that was coordinated with the anti-British nationalist movement.

Recognition of Goa

- The legislation of occupation was rejected by the Supreme Court of India, which upheld the legality of the annexation.
- Portugal acknowledged the independence of India in a treaty with retroactive application in 1974.
- Jus cogens holds that since forced annexations, such as the annexation of Goa, occurred after the UN Charter went into effect, they are unlawful.

Why was Goa left un-colonized?

As India moved towards independence, however, it became clear that Goa would not be free any time soon, because of a variety of complex factors.

- No immediate war: At the time, PM Nehru believed that if he started a military effort to remove the colonial authorities (like in Hyderabad), his reputation as a world leader of peace would suffer.
- Trauma of Partition: The Government of India was prevented from opening a new front by the trauma of Partition and the enormous rift that resulted, as well as the conflict with Pakistan.
- Internationalization of the problem: This might have prompted participation from other countries.
- No demand from within: According to Gandhi, much groundwork still needs to be done to raise public awareness and bring together the various political voices that are rising.

Nehruvian dilemma

- India's international reputation: Nehru was influential in establishing India's place in the community of nations.
- Exhausting all peaceful options: In light of the situation that India was emerging from, he was attempting to use every nonviolent option at his disposal.
- Obsession with Portugal: In 1951, Portugal amended its constitution to claim Goa as an overseas province rather than as a colonial colony.

- Portugal joining NATO: The action appeared to be intended to include Goa in the recently established North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance. As a result, the treaty's collective security clause would be activated.

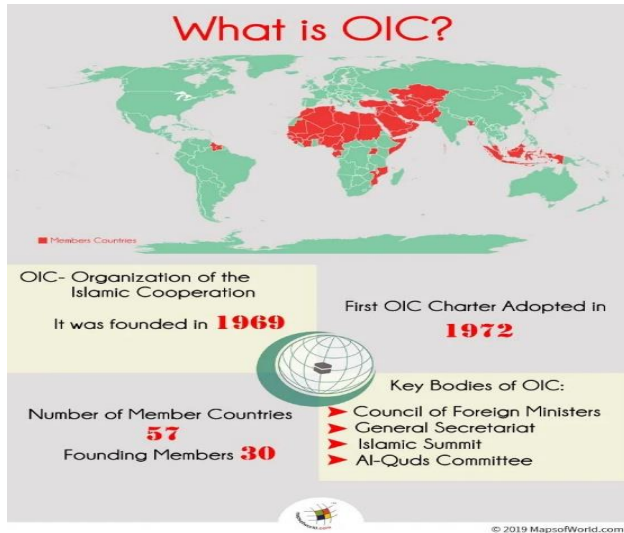
Why did Nehru wait until December 1961 to launch a full-scale military offensive?

India could no longer be seen to delay the liberation of Goa because:

- The fire incident also sparked a stern response from the Indian government, which severed diplomatic and consular connections with Portugal in 1955. This was part of a Portuguese effort against Satyagrahis.
- India as the torchbearer for decolonization: With decolonization and anti-imperialism as the cornerstones of its foreign policy, India solidified its position as a leader of the Non-Aligned World and Afro-Asian Unity.
- African nation criticisms: Africans expressed their strong opinions during a Portuguese colonies conference held by the Indian Council of Africa in 1961, saying that this was impeding their own fights against the brutal dictatorship.
- Weakening Colonialism: The delegates believed that the day Goa was freed, the Portuguese empire would fall.

International Relations

Back in news: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



India strongly condemned the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation chief's visit to Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistani side.

What is OIC?

- With 57 member states, the OIC, originally known as the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, is the second-largest intergovernmental body in the world after the UN.
- "To defend and promote the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world" is the OIC's stated goal.

- Countries with a majority of Muslims may only join the OIC. Russia, Thailand, and a few more little nations are recognised as observers.

Recent developments

- India attended the OIC Foreign Ministers' conference in Abu Dhabi for the first time in 2019 as a "guest of honour."
- Particularly in light of the current state of heightened hostility between India and Pakistan as a result of the Pulwama assault, this invitation was considered as a diplomatic victory for New Delhi.
- Pakistan had objected to Swaraj's invitation and boycotted the plenary after the UAE rejected its request for the invitation to be revoked.
- The former Pakistani prime minister convened an OIC summit earlier this year, but there were no remarks made.

OIC members and India

- India personally gets along well with practically all of the other members. Particularly in recent years, relations with the UAE and Saudi Arabia have improved dramatically.
- Bangladesh and the Maldives, two of India's close neighbours, are members of the OIC.
- According to Indian diplomats, both nations secretly acknowledge they do not want to complicate their bilateral relations with India

about Kashmir but rather cooperate with the OIC.

Way ahead

- Given that several of these nations have strong bilateral relations and advise India to disregard OIC remarks, India now views the OIC's dualistic position as untenable.
- However, these nations ratify the joint statements, which are primarily written by Pakistan.
- India feels it important to challenge the double-speak since Pakistan's campaign and currency on the Kashmir issue have hardly any takers in the international community.

UK's Rwanda asylum seeker deportation plan is lawful, court rules



Britain's plan to send migrants to Rwanda is lawful, London's High Court ruled, in a victory for PM Rishi Sunak who has made a high-stakes political promise to tackle the record number of migrant arrivals.

Immigrant's crisis in UK

- The number of migrants and asylum seekers making the perilous journey between Calais, France, and Dover, England, has significantly increased since 2018.
- Most of these migrant workers and asylum seekers are from developing nations like Iran and Iraq or war-torn nations like Sudan, Afghanistan, and Yemen.
- These border breaches represent an immigration issue for Britain, which has taken a tough stance against illegal immigration.
- Under "exceptional circumstances," anyone's citizenship may be revoked without warning by the British government under the Nationality and Borders Bill, 2021, which is still being debated in the UK.
- The Rwanda agreement operationalizes one of the Bill's goals, which is to discourage unauthorised entry into the United Kingdom.

What is the Rwanda Deal?

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two governments that is known as the Rwanda Deal or the UK and

Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

- Rwanda will agree to accept asylum seekers who enter the UK on or after January 1, 2022 through illegally facilitated and illicit cross-border migration as part of this agreement.
- Asylum seekers will wait in Rwanda as a holding facility while the Rwandan government decides whether to grant their requests for asylum and resettlement there.
- On its side, Rwanda will accept everyone who is over the age of 18 and does not have a criminal history.

Rationale of the deal

- The agreement aims to curb "people smugglers," who frequently charge vulnerable migrants exorbitant fees to board unsafe boats from France to England, frequently resulting in horrific drownings.
- The UK claims that this approach to the migrant problem is compassionate and intended to take aim at the criminals that control these unauthorised crossings.

What will the scheme cost the UK?

- As part of a "economic transformation and integration fund," the UK will provide Rwanda £120 million in addition to covering the operational expenses and an as-yet-undetermined sum for each immigrant.

- The UK currently spends £4.7 million a day to house some 25,000 asylum seekers.
- This was estimated to be worth £430 million per year at the end of 2021, with a predicted increase of £100 million in 2022.
- The Rwanda Deal is predicted to reduce these costs by outsourcing the hosting of such migrants to a third country.

Will the Rwanda Deal solve the problem of illegal immigration?

- Unless it is contested and delayed by British courts, this contract will be put into effect in a couple of weeks.
- It's safe to say that Boris Johnson's administration is preparing for these kinds of legal troubles, but it's still not obvious whether the Rwanda Deal would end the issue of unauthorised crossings.
- Evidence from comparable experiences suggests that such restrictions fall short of effectively preventing "people smuggling."

Criticisms of the deal

- Transferring refugees and asylum seekers to third nations without adequate protections is risky.
- The refugees are sent abroad for processing and exchanged like commodities.
- Such agreements violate the word and spirit of the Refugee Convention, dodge international

duties, and merely shift the burden of providing shelter.

- Additionally, Rwanda is infamous for its extrajudicial executions, suspicious deaths while

in custody, arbitrary or illegal incarceration, torture, and harsh legal actions that target critics and dissidents in particular.

Polity

Who exactly counts your Vote after polling?



For a country like India where each individual constituency can have lakhs of voters, counting votes is a complex process that requires both pace and precision.

Where are the Votes counted?

- All votes should ideally be counted in the same place inside the constituency.
- The number of counting centres that are appointed during general elections, when seats are greater and there are more Assembly constituencies, will depend on how many votes need to be counted.
- The Returning Officer (RO) selects the site(s) for voting, with several centres in assembly

segments being supervised by the Assistant Returning Officers (ARO).

- All votes should ideally be counted in one large hall with numerous tables at counting centres.
- However, with approval from the Election Commission, more rooms may be added if the RO believes there is a risk of overpopulation (EC).

Role of Returning Officer

- The RO is appointed for each constituency by the Election Commission.
- During the duration of the election, the RO is the highest authority in the constituency having a wide range of powers in order to peacefully and impartially conduct elections.
- With respect to counting of votes, the RO has the following duties:
 1. To designate the counting centres and get them approved by the Commission well in advance;
 2. To send notice to the candidates about the place, date and time of counting of votes;
 3. To appoint and train counting staff;
 4. To count the votes and declare the result.

- ROs themselves do not count all votes but verify the counting at multiple stages and announce the results.
- They are the final authority in the matter of vote counting in an election.

Supervision of the process

- Each counting table in a counting room will tally a specific number of postal ballots or electronic voting machines on a round-by-round basis.
- A counting supervisor and up to two assistants perform the actual counting at each table.
- They should be officers who have been gazetted, and the RO appoints them.
- They acquire specialised training for the duties they are required to do.
- For instance, the training for individuals who count postal ballots differs from that given for those who count votes from electronic voting machines.

Observers in the counting process

- At each counting room, the EC assigns observers who are tasked with keeping a record of events and submitting a report.
- They are typically Gol workers who have the responsibility of monitoring the entire operation of the electoral system.
- The counting room is open to all candidates who appeared on the ballot as well as their representatives.
- Each party and candidate sends a counting agent to make sure the votes are tallied properly and

in accordance with the rules, and to file any complaints that may arise.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's response against cancellation of OCI card



The Delhi High Court has sought a response from the central government on a petition against the cancellation of a person's Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card.

Who is an Overseas Citizen?

- The government created the category of OCI in 2005.
- OCI cards are only valid for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who fall under one of the categories listed in the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- Before the government consolidated the PIO and OCI card categories in 2015, some perks were different for PIO and OCI cardholders.
- Among other eligibility requirements, the MHA defines an OCI as someone who was an Indian citizen on or after January 26, 1950, or who was qualified to obtain Indian citizenship on that day, or who is the child or grandchild of such a person.

- According to Section 7A of the OCI card rules, an applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Privileges to an OCI

- OCI cardholders are exempt from registering with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) regardless of the length of their stay, are eligible for multiple entry into India, receive a multipurpose lifelong visa to visit India.
- An individual is qualified to apply for Indian citizenship if they have been registered as an OCI for five years.
- OCI cardholders are given access to special immigration desks at all international airports in India.
- Owners of OCI cards are eligible to create special bank accounts in India, purchase non-farm property, exercise ownership rights, and apply for a driver's licence and PAN card, among other things.
- OCI cardholders cannot, however, vote, hold a government position, or buy farm or agricultural land.
- They cannot run for public office either, nor can they travel to restricted areas without government permission.

What it takes to become a 'National Party' in India?



A political party (revived from the anti-corruption movement) is on track to be recognized as a 9th national party by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

What is a national party?

- A national party, according to the term, would be one that is present "nationally," as opposed to a regional party, which is only present in a single state or region.
- The largest parties in India are often national parties.
- Some lesser-known parties, such as the communist parties, are nonetheless acknowledged as national parties.
- Being a national party is sometimes linked with a certain stature, but this does not always imply having significant political influence at the national level.

So how is a political party defined?

The ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook species following criteria:

For recognition as a **NATIONAL PARTY**, the conditions specified are:

1. A 6% vote share in the last Assembly polls in each of any four states, as well as four seats in the last Lok Sabha polls; or
2. 2% of all Lok Sabha seats in the last such election, with MPs elected from at least three states; or
3. Recognition as a state party in at least four states.

For recognition as a STATE PARTY, any one of five conditions needs to be satisfied:

1. Two seats plus a 6% vote share in the last Assembly election in that state; or
2. One seat plus a 6% vote share in the last Lok Sabha election from that state; or
3. 3% of the total Assembly seats or 3 seats, whichever is more; or
4. One of every 25 Lok Sabha seats (or an equivalent fraction) from a state; or
5. An 8% state-wide vote share in either the last Lok Sabha or the last Assembly polls.

Benefits for recognized parties

- This is subject to the fulfillment of the conditions prescribed by the Commission in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

(a) Reserved Sybol

- If a party is recognised as a 'state party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the state in which it is so recognised.
- If a party is recognised as a 'national party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved

symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.

(b) Proposer for nomination

- Recognised 'state' and 'national' parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination.

(c) Campaigning benefits

- They are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost and broadcast/telecast facilities over state-owned Akashvani/Doordarshan during the general elections.

Election Security Deposit and its symbolic significance



A political party based in New Delhi lost its election deposit for most of its candidates in the assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

What is an Election Security Deposit?

- When a candidate files their nomination, they must deposit a certain sum with the returning officer as an election security deposit.
- Either cash or a receipt must be included with the nomination form when submitting this.

- It states that the aforementioned quantity has been placed in a government treasury or the Reserve Bank of India on the candidate's behalf.
- The major goal of this procedure is to make sure that only candidates who are really interested in running for office actually submit their candidature.

Is the amount same for all elections?

- The Representation of the People Act of 1951 stipulates various sums depending on the level of election, thus the answer is no—it depends on the specific election that is being held.
- The sum is Rs 25,000 and Rs 12,500 for a candidate from a Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) in elections for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats, respectively.
- It costs Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 for a SC/ST candidate to run in an election from an Assembly or Council constituency, or at the level of state legislative bodies.

- A deposit of Rs 15,000 must be made, even for elections for the office of president and vice president.

Losing the deposits

- According to the same Act, the deposit must be returned after the election if the candidate receives fewer than 1/6th of the total legitimate votes cast.
- Or, if more than one member was up for election, it would be 1/6th of the total valid votes cast, divided by the number of members up for election.
- This is a reference to elections using the Rajya Sabha's system of proportional representation.
- The deposit "must be repaid as soon as practical after the outcome of the election is declared" if the candidate meets the requirement.
- The sum is repaid if a candidate withdraws their candidature or passes away prior to the election.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

DigiYatra Initiative for facial recognition technology at Airports



The centre has introduced paperless entry at select airports to make air travel hassle-free under the DigiYatra initiative.

What is DigiYatra?

- According to DigiYatra, passengers will proceed through numerous airport checkpoints using paperless and contactless technology.

- Customers won't need to carry both their ID card and boarding permit, as a result.
- To establish their identification, which would be connected to the boarding pass, this would prefer to employ face features.
- With this technology, all checkpoints, such as airport entry, security checkpoints, aeroplane boarding, etc., will automatically process passenger entries based on facial recognition technology.

Implementation strategy

- The project would be introduced in seven airports in the first phase, beginning with three - Delhi, Bengaluru, and Varanasi.
- By March 2023, four additional airports, including those in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada, would be added.
- The technology will then be used all around the nation.

How is it being implemented?

- The project is being carried out by the DigiYatra Foundation, a joint venture whose shareholders include Bengaluru Airport, Delhi Airport, Hyderabad Airport, Mumbai Airport, and Cochin International Airport. The Airports Authority of India owns a 26% investment in the company.
- The remaining 74% of the shares are held equally by these five shareholders.

How can people avail the DigiYatra facility?

- A passenger must register their information on the DigiYatra app utilising Aadhaar-based

validation and a self-image capture in order to use the service.

- The boarding pass must be scanned in the following step, and the credentials must be given to airport officials.
- The traveller must first scan their bar-coded boarding pass at the airport e-gate before the facial recognition system located at the e-gate verifies their identification and travel documentation.
- The passenger can use the e-gate to enter the airport once this process is complete.
- The standard process for passing through security and boarding the aeroplane will need to be followed by the traveller.

ISRO to establish SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a MoU with Social Alpha, a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform, to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN).

SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)

- SpIN is India's first dedicated platform for innovation, curation, and venture development

for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- SpIN will primarily focus on facilitating space tech entrepreneurs in three distinct innovation categories:
 1. Geospatial Technologies and Downstream Applications;
 2. Enabling Technologies for Space & Mobility; and
 3. Aerospace Materials, Sensors, and Avionics.

Key initiative

- For the purpose of creating solutions in the fields of mapping, surveying, urbanisation, and land and sea transportation, SpIN has announced its inaugural innovation challenge.
- According to the current regulations, the chosen start-ups and innovators will have access to the infrastructure and resources of both Social Alpha and ISRO.
- They will receive active guidance in crucial areas, such as access to testing and validation facilities, product design, and intellectual property management.

What is a Trisonic Wind Tunnel?



The new trisonic wind tunnel at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was inaugurated by conducting the first blow-down test successfully.

What is a Wind Tunnel?

- Large tubes with air moving within are called wind tunnels.
- The tunnels are used to mimic an object in flight's movements.
- Wind tunnels are used by researchers to better understand how an aircraft will fly.
- Space agencies test scale models of aircraft and spacecraft in wind tunnels. Some wind tunnels are large enough to accommodate whole automobile models.
- In a wind tunnel, air is moved around an item to simulate actual flight.

How do Wind Tunnels work?

- Powerful fans are typically used to move air through the tube.
- The testing object is secured inside the tube so that it cannot move.
- A miniature replica of a car might be the item. It might only be a component of a car.
- It might be a large spaceship or aircraft. Even a commonplace thing like a tennis ball qualifies.
- You may put smoke or dye in the air and watch it move. To demonstrate how the air is moving, threads might be affixed to the object.
- The force of the air on the object is frequently measured using specialised instruments.

About Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC

- The phrase "trisonic" describes the tunnel's ability to conduct tests at three different speeds: subsonic, transonic, and supersonic (supersonic).
- Its components include air storage tanks, an airflow'smoothering' chamber, and nozzles for releasing air into the test portion.
- It is roughly 160 metres long and 5.4 metres wide at its widest point.
- A "blow down test" simulates flight circumstances by releasing stored gases and blowing them through the test section of the tunnel.
- According to the space agency, the tunnel can simulate flight circumstances at speeds ranging from 0.8 times the speed of sound (68 metres per second) to 4 times the speed of sound (1,360 metres per second).
- Commissioned in 2017, this tunnel can simulate flow speeds up to Mach 12.

The ISRO successfully conducted test for credible next-generation air-breathing scramjet engines, in order to launch satellites in a predetermined orbit at a low cost.

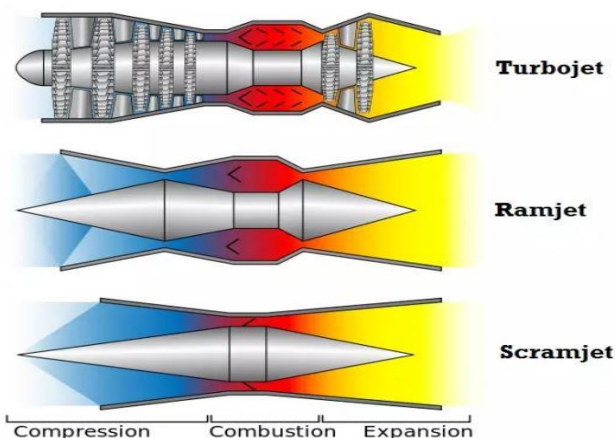
What is a jet engine?

- A jet engine is a device that produces a strong pushing force known as thrust out of liquid fuel that is high in energy.
- A plane is propelled forward by the thrust from one or more engines, pushing air past its aerodynamically formed wings to produce lift, which propels it into the air.

Ramjet vs. Scramjet Engine

- Ramjet and scramjet are both varieties of jet engines.
- Ramjets are air-breathing jet engines that are frequently used for supersonic travel.
- Ramjets are unable to start at zero velocity and cannot produce thrust because there is not enough airspeed. Ramjets can only start at supersonic speeds.
- Therefore, it requires assisted takeoff aircraft or rockets to drive it to supersonic speeds, from where it begins to produce thrust.
- Ramjet engines can accelerate to speeds of roughly Mach 6, which limits their efficiency to supersonic travel.
- Over the years, Ramjet has transformed both rocket propulsion and missile technology.

ISRO successfully conducts test of Scramjet Engine

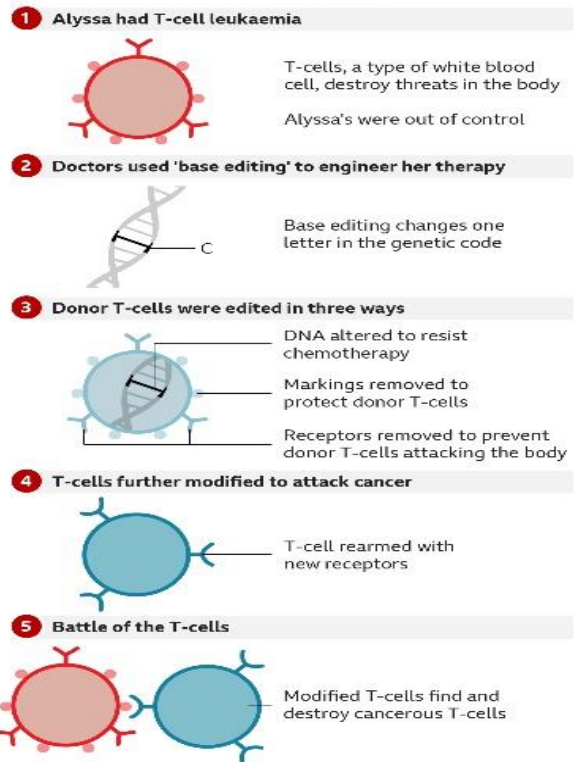


How different is Scramjet?

- The Scramjet, also known as the Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, is a more intricate design that operates effectively at hypersonic speeds, often above Mach 6.
- Since the air entering is already at a high pressure, they don't have any moving parts to compress the air.
- Scramjets operate very similarly to ramjets, with the exception that combustion also occurs at supersonic speeds.
- This indicates that as pressurised air enters the combustion chamber, it does not slow down.

- This device was employed by the vast group of medical professionals and researchers to create a brand-new type of T-cell that could find and eliminate malignant T-cells.

How does the treatment work?



Source: BBC research

BBC

What is Base Editing?

A teenage cancer patient suffering from T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (T-ALL) has defeated her seemingly incurable cancer with the help of base editing technique.

Base Editing

- The language of life is bases. Our genetic code is composed of four different types of bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T).
- The billions of bases in our DNA spell out the instructions for our body, just as letters in the alphabet make out words with meaning.
- Base editing enables researchers to focus on a specific location in the genetic code, change the molecular makeup of only one base, transform it into another, and modify the genetic instructions.

What is T-Cell?

- White blood cells known as T cells are thymus cells.
- They originate from stem cells in the bone marrow and are a component of the immune system.
- They may aid in the fight against cancer and protect the body from infection.
- also known as a thymocyte and a T lymphocyte.

How base editing helped this teenage cancer patient?

- Starting with donor-provided, healthy T-cells, doctors began about altering them.
- The T-cell targeting mechanism was disabled in the first base edit to prevent patient body attacks.
- The second eliminated CD7, a chemical label present on all T-cells.
- The third edit was an invisibility cloak that stopped chemotherapy drugs from killing the cells.
- The last step of genetic modification commanded the T-cells to search for anything in the patient's body that had the CD7 marking, including the malignant ones, and destroy them all.
- Because of this, the marking must be taken out of the therapy; else, it will self-destruct.
- If the therapy works, the patient's immune system – including T-cells – will be rebuilt with the second bone-marrow transplant.

Delhi Police has established identity of a victim of brutal murder and mutilation by DNA fingerprinting.

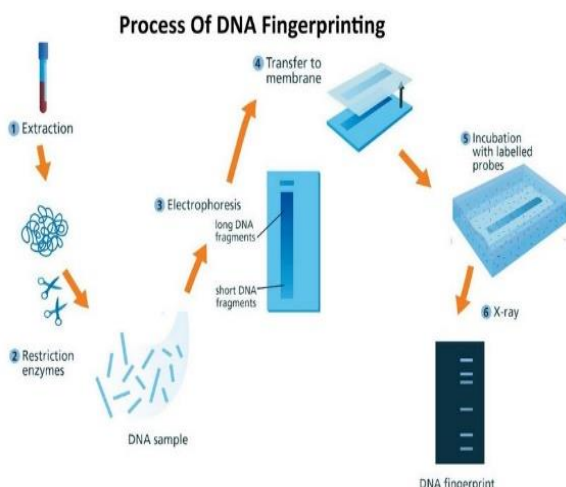
What is DNA fingerprinting?

- Alec Jeffreys in the UK invented DNA fingerprinting in 1984 as a result of his discovery that no two people could have the same DNA sequence.
- Within three years of the discovery, the UK obtained the first DNA-based conviction in the history of the world in a rape and murder case.

How is DNA fingerprinting done?

- Except for identical twins, each person has a distinct genetic makeup.
- A crime lab can create a profile to be used in identifying a suspect by studying specific DNA sequences, or loci.
- Numerous materials, including hair, bone, teeth, saliva, and blood, can be used to extract DNA.
- Since DNA is present in the majority of human body cells, even a tiny sample of biological fluid or tissue can provide important data.
- Even used clothing, linen, combs, and other commonly used objects can be utilised to collect samples.

What is DNA Fingerprinting?



How it is used in criminal investigation?

- DNA evidence is used to solve crimes in two ways:
1. If a suspect is identified, it is possible to determine whether they were present at the crime site or whether they committed the crime

by comparing their DNA sample to biological evidence discovered there.

- Biological evidence from the crime site can be studied and matched to offender profiles in existing DNA databases to help identify a suspect if one is not already known.
- Beyond its accuracy, DNA fingerprinting also offers detectives new techniques to sort through evidence from crime scenes.
 - For instance, sophisticated DNA fingerprinting may produce distinct prints of different people even from a sample mixture discovered at the crime scene; this is helpful during gang rape investigations as it allows for the identification of each culprit separately.

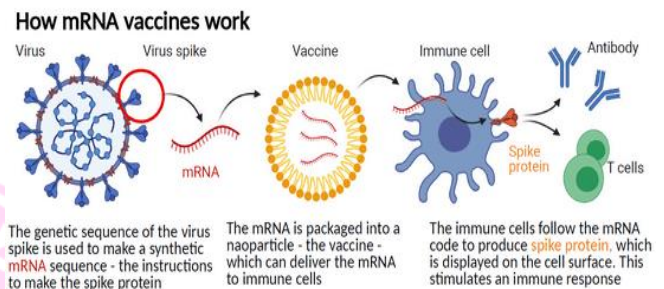
Challenges with DNA fingerprinting in India

- It is crucial to prevent the DNA of the investigators from interacting with that of the suspects or victims.
- Therefore, for the evidence to pass a court test, it is essential to collect samples from a crime scene using sterile tools and to store samples properly.
- Although India has laws and regulations in this area, its police forces nevertheless lag behind their international counterparts.
- State police personnel are not appropriately trained or equipped, despite the fact that central agencies like the CBI have the knowledge to ensure that crime scenes are protected and proper procedure is followed.

Issues with such technology

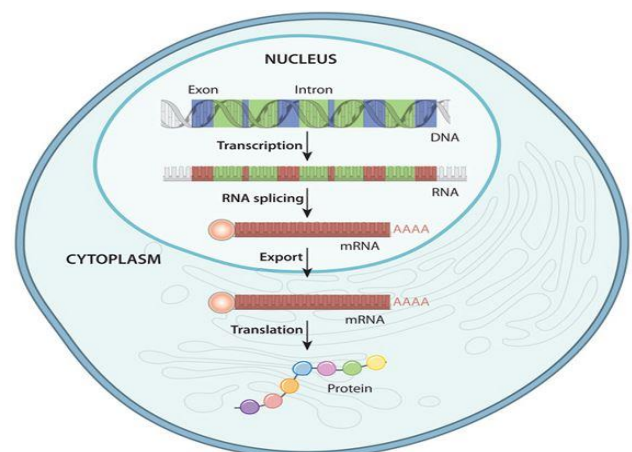
- The issue goes beyond just police awareness.
- In the nation itself, there are no facilities for DNA fingerprinting.
- Only a few locations – Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Chandigarh – offer DNA fingerprinting services.
- Only the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) in Hyderabad uses advanced technologies.

How can mRNA vaccines help fight cancer?



The results of a trial of an experimental cancer vaccine built on the mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) platform, made by Moderna and MSD (Merck&Co.), have shown promising results.

What is mRNA?



- A single-stranded RNA (ribonucleic acid) molecule known as messenger RNA (mRNA) is complementary to one of a gene's DNA strands.
- The cytoplasm is where proteins are created, and the mRNA is an RNA form of the gene that exits the cell nucleus.
- An organelle called a ribosome moves along the mRNA during protein synthesis, scans its base sequence, and then uses the genetic code to translate each codon—a sequence of three bases—into its matching amino acid.

What are mRNA vaccines?

- A little portion of a protein typically located on the viral outer membrane is introduced as part of an mRNA vaccine's delivery mechanism.
- People who receive an mRNA vaccine are not exposed to the virus and cannot contract the virus through the vaccine.
- The immune system identifies that the protein is foreign as part of a typical immunological response and creates specialised proteins known as antibodies.
- By identifying specific viruses or other pathogens, adhering to them, and designating the pathogens for eradication, antibodies aid in the body's defence against infection.
- In order for the immune system to promptly react if exposed again, antibodies that have already been created stay in the body even after the body has cleansed itself of the infection.

How does the vaccine work?

- The COVID vaccine was created using the same messenger-RNA technology as the individualised cancer vaccine.
- It enables the body's immune system to find and eliminate malignant cells, in this case melanoma, with the hope that it might also result in novel strategies for combating other malignancies.

Why is it a significant feat?

- The chance of developing cancer or dying from it was reduced by 44% as a result of the cancer vaccination.
- It is unique to each patient because it is a tailored cancer vaccine.
- It is therefore anticipated that manufacturing it will be exceedingly expensive.
- However, this has been hailed by oncologists all around the world as a promising new development in the treatment of cancer.

3 more sites added to UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites

Gujarat's Vadnagar town, the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

What is UNESCO tentative list?

- The UNESCO tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination.

- With these 3 sites, India now has 52 sites on UNESCO Tentative List.

About the sites

(1) Sun Temple, Modhera



- In the Becharaji taluka of the Mehsana district, the Sun Temple at Modhera is situated on the left bank of the river Pushpavati, a tributary of the river Rupan.
- According to the temple's description, it is constructed in the Maru-gurjara architectural style and includes a sacred pool (Kunda), which is today known as Ramakunda, a hall (gadhamandapa), an exterior hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa), and the main temple shrine (garbhagriha).
- This temple faces east and is made of a vivid yellow sandstone.
- It is the first of these types of temples, and it best exemplifies the Solanki architectural and decorative style.

(2) Vadnagar



- With more than 2,700 years of continuous settlement, Vadnagar is a historic town.
- Vadnagar is a town with a rich history that dates back to almost the eighth century BCE.
- The town still has a significant number of old structures, mostly houses of worship and residences.
- It has changed over time and now includes a late mediaeval town, a religious center/temple town, an early historic fortified hamlet, a hinterland port, a centre for the shell and bead industries, a key junction on trade routes, and a mercantile town.
- The town's rampart, which dates to the second century BCE, the lake's fortification, which dates to the third to the fourth centuries CE, the discovery of Indo-Pacific glass beads and marine shells, and palaeoseismic evidence all clearly indicate that the town has a long history.

(3) Unakoti



- Unakoti, which can be found in the northeastern part of Tripura, is a revered ancient site for Shaiva worship.
- Popularly referred to as the "Angkor Wat of the North-East,"
- The enormous, clearly mongoloid, and mystically alluring formations of the rock-cut sculptures are reminiscent of the mesmerising figures in Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple.

Dhokra Art of West Bengal



Dhokra Art

- The art of Dhokra was first discovered in the area between Bankura and Dariapur in Bengal, as well as in the metal-rich regions of Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, where it was named after a nomadic tribe known as the "Dhokra Damar."
- It is still practised today in the tribal region that spans the modern states of Telangana, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bengal.
- The Dhokra artists first create a wax clay model, which is then swapped out for molten brass or bronze using a lost-wax metal casting process.

What is Dhokra?

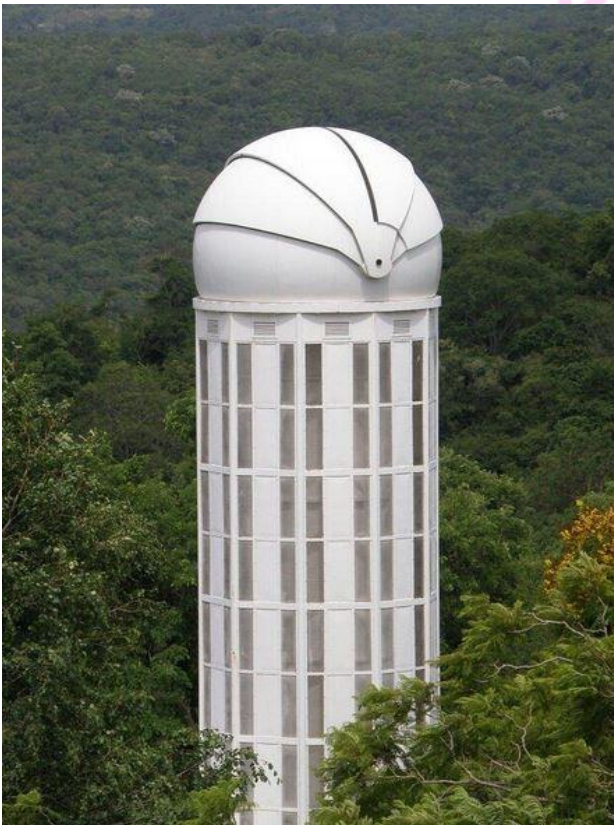
- Dhokra is a form of metal casting that makes use of the age-old lost-wax casting process.
- This art is considered to be the first of its kind to use a non-ferrous metal like copper and its alloys, which don't contain iron like brass (a combination of copper and zinc) or bronze (a mixture of copper and tin).
- It applies the annealing process, in which a metal is heated at extremely high temperatures and then allowed to cool gradually.
- Both the conventional hollow-casting procedure and solid casting are used to complete the casting. While hollow casting is employed in Central and Eastern India, solid casting is more common in Telangana.

Symbolism of Dhokra

- Dhokra, which has origins in ancient civilizations, depicts a primal way of life and prehistoric beliefs that date to the time of hunting.

- For this reason, Dhokra art frequently features images of elephants, owls, horses, and tortoises.
- The tortoise represents femininity, the owl wealth and death, the horse motion, the owl prosperity, and the elephant masculinity.
- These recognisable images have stories associated with them in Hindu mythology.
- Four elephants are said to be supporting the weight of the world while standing atop a tortoise shell.
- The tortoise, who is regarded as Lord Vishnu's avatar, bears the universe on his back while supporting the earth and the oceans.

Vainu Bappu Observatory



The several stellar discoveries of the 40-inch telescope at the Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu, were highlighted at the celebration of its 50 years of its operation.

Vainu Bappu Observatory

- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics is the owner and operator of the Vainu Bappu Observatory, a scientific observatory.
- It may be found in Tamil Nadu's Tirupathur district at Kavalur in the Javadi Hills, close to Vaniyambadi.
- Installed in 1972, the 40-inch telescope rapidly began to yield significant astronomical discoveries.
- This telescope also served as a training ground for more than a generation of astronomers.

Significant feats achieved by VBO

The telescope set up by Professor Vainu Bappu has played a significant role in astronomy with major discoveries like-

1. New satellite of Uranus
2. The presence of rings around the planet Uranus
3. The presence of an atmosphere around Jupiter satellite Ganymede
4. Numerous "Be stars," lithium depletion in big stars, optical variability in blazars, the mechanics of the renowned supernova SN 1987A, and other discoveries and studies.

Security Issues

In news: Exercise Yudh Abhyas



China expressed concern over the India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas being held in Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the LAC.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- Exercise The longest-running combined military training and defence cooperation project between India and the US is called Yudh Abhyas.
- The purpose of the exercise is to improve communication, teamwork, and interoperability between the two militaries.
- It's interesting that this is the only ongoing bilateral service drill between India and the US.

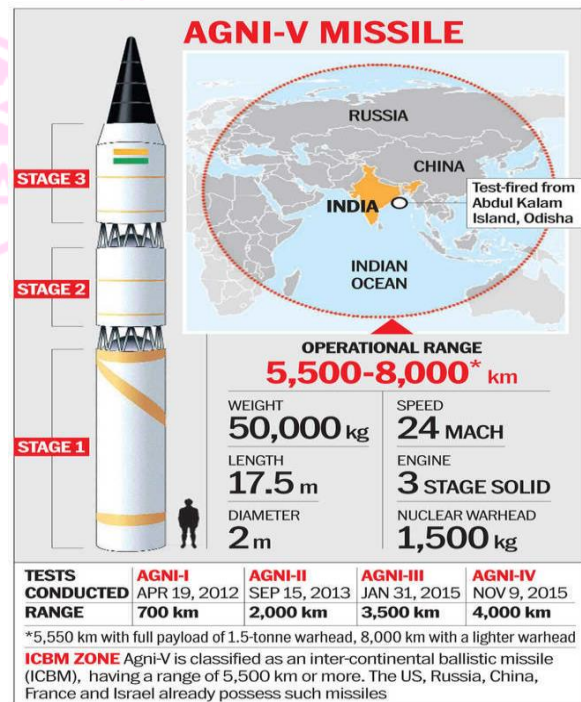
Why in news?

- After multiple rounds of negotiations between India and China, the process of disengaging the troops is still ongoing.
- Chinese and Indian personnel have engaged in fights along the LAC at several areas since May

2020, using rocks, batons, and clubs covered in barbed wire as weapons.

- The cause is different perceptions of border demarcations along the LAC.
- Each nation wants the other's forces to leave and for things to revert to how they were before the standoff, but neither China nor India consented to the conditions.

India test-fires Agni-V Ballistic Missile amid LAC heat



India successfully carried out the night trials of the Agni V nuclear-capable ballistic missile days after Indian and Chinese troops clashed in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Why in news?

- It was a midnight test fire.
- And there are rumours about the increased range and stealth capabilities of Agni-V missile.

Agni Missiles



- Agni missiles are surface-to-surface ballistic missiles with a great range and nuclear weapons capability.
- Under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP), the Agni-I, the first missile in the series, was created and tested in 1989.

- Realizing the strategic significance of the Agni missile programme after it was successful and separated from the IGMDP.
- In India's defence budget, it was designated as a special programme and received sufficient funding for future development.

Variants of Agni missiles

1. **Agni I:** It is a Medium Range Ballistic Missile with a Range of 700-800 km.
2. **Agni II:** It is also a Medium Range Ballistic Missile with a Range more than 2000 km.
3. **Agni III:** It is also an Inter-Medium Range Ballistic Missile with Range of more than 2,500 Km
4. **Agni IV:** It is also an Inter-Medium Range Ballistic Missile with Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
5. **Agni-V:** Currently it is the longest of Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.
6. **Agni- VI:** The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of ICBM 11,000–12,000 km.

Strategic significance of Agni Missiles

- The success of the AGNI missiles conforms to India's stated objective of having "credible minimum deterrent," which supports the commitment to "No First Use."
- Agni 5 is a "canisterised" missile, which makes it nimble. It implies that the missile may be launched from platforms on roads and trains,

making it simpler to deploy and launch it more quickly.

- The missile's shelf life is extended by the canisterization, which also shields it from the more extreme weather.
- India is one of the few countries with access to ICBMs.
- The Agni VI missile, which is currently under development, is anticipated to have a range of roughly 8,000 kilometres.

Missile destroyer INS Mormugao commissioned into Indian Navy



Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (Pennant 67), a P15B stealth-guided missile destroyer was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

INS Mormugao

- This was the second ship to be inducted as a part of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.
- It was created domestically by the Navy's internal organisation, Warship Design Bureau, and was built by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, the nation's financial hub.
- The ship, which was commissioned on the eve of Goa Liberation Day, was named after a significant port in the Indian state of Goa.
- The ship was first launched in September 2016 and started sea trials last year on December 19, which also happened to be the day Goa was freed from Portuguese domination six decades earlier. Operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Armed Forces on December 18 in 1961.
- Singh also honoured the late Manohar Parrikar, a former defence minister who had commissioned the INS Mormugao in 2016.

Features of INS Mormugao

- Due to its entire atmosphere control system, the ship, which measures 163 metres by 17 metres, may engage in nuclear, biological, as well as chemical (NBC) warfare (TACS).
- Additionally, the INS Mormugao, which has a displacement of 7,400 tonnes, is outfitted with cutting-edge armaments.
- A crew of at least 350 people, including 50 officers and 250 sailors, will be in charge of running it.
- Over 75% of the ship's components were designed and produced in India, either directly

by Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), through strategic alliances, or both.

- It is propelled by four strong gas turbines in a "combined gas and gas" (COGAG) arrangement, which allows it to reach speeds of 30 knots (55 km/hour).

Combat weaponry

- Surface-to-surface missiles BrahMos and surface-to-air missiles Barak-8 are among the weaponry carried by INS Mormugao.
- It is also equipped with a cutting-edge surveillance radar that aids in feeding target information to the ship's armament system.
- The ship's arsenal also includes rocket launchers, torpedo launchers, and ASW helicopters like the

Sea King or HAL Dhruv that were produced domestically.

Historic significance of Mormugao Port

- Mormugao has made a substantial contribution to the expansion of India's maritime trade even as a port.
- Because of the services it offers, whether it be for the Mormugao fort or Mormugao port, it continues to be one of the largest and oldest ports in the nation.
- Since the Maratha struggle against the Portuguese in the 17th century led by Chhatrapati Sambhaji (Ch. Shivaji Maharaj's son), it has been a significant event.

Trivia

'French Baguette' gets UNESCO heritage status



Baguette the staple French bread has been inscribed into the UN's list of intangible cultural heritage (ICH).

What is a Baguette?

- France's staple food is the baguette, a long, thin loaf prepared from flour, water, salt, and yeast.
- Some people think that it was created by August Zang, a baker and businessman from Vienna, who is credited with employing a steam oven to introduce the world to the flavour of crusty bread with softer insides in 1839.
- In 1920, it received its formal name.
- The origin of bread is unknown, however some people think that Napoleon Bonaparte ordered thin sticks of bread for his men to eat because they were easier to transport.

Why did France nominate it for the UN list?

- A population of 67 million people in France consumes roughly 10 billion baguettes annually.
- It brought attention to the country's steadily declining bakery population, since about 20,000 of them have shut down since 1970.
- France submitted the baguette as a candidate for inclusion on the UNESCO ICH list in March 2021.
- There were 55,000 artisanal bakeries in 1970 (one for every 790 persons), compared to 35,000 currently (one for every 2,000 residents), and industrially made baguettes were frequently preferred.

In news: Hornbill Festival



The logo for India's upcoming G20 presidency was officially unveiled recently at the Hornbill festival in Nagaland.

What is Hornbill Festival?

- Kohima, Nagaland hosts the Hornbill Festival every year from December 1 through December 10.

- In 2000, the festival made its debut.
- The enormous, colourful woodland bird that is depicted in the folklore of the majority of the state's tribes, the Indian hornbill, is the source of the name.
- The traditional Naga Morungs exhibition and sale, food stalls, herbal medicine stalls, flower shows and sales, cultural mélange - music and dances, fashion shows, etc. are festival highlights.

About Great Indian Hornbill

- One of the bigger members of the hornbill family is the great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*), commonly referred to as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill.
- The great hornbill has a lengthy lifespan, spending around 50 years in captivity.
- It primarily consumes fruit, although it also pounces on small mammals, reptiles, and birds when the opportunity arises.
- It has become significant in many tribal cultures and ceremonies thanks to its amazing size and colour.
- Their population is primarily concentrated in India, particularly in the Western Ghats and the Nilgiris.
- It's also thought that some of the biggest bird concentrations can be found in the Nilgiris North Eastern Range, where the birds build their nests.

Threats

- Despite being cultural icons for some ethnic communities in the northeast, particularly the Nyishi of Arunachal Pradesh, hornbills used to be killed for their casques, or upper beaks, and feathers for embellishing headgear.
- There are fewer tall trees where the birds nest as a result of illegal logging.

In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

- (a) Sand deserts of northwest India
- (b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat
- (d) Western Ghats

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Report



The number of journalists jailed around the world for practicing their profession has touched a record high, with 363 reporters deprived of their freedom as of December 1, 2022, according to the 2022 prison census released by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

About Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

- The CPJ is a worldwide network of correspondents for the American independent non-profit, non-governmental organisation with headquarters in New York City, New York.
- CPJ upholds journalists' rights while promoting freedom of the press.
- The "Red Cross of Journalism" is another name for it.
- The organisation has been issuing an annual census of journalists who have been slain or imprisoned as a result of their work since the late 1980s.

Key highlights of CPJ report

- The top five countries imprisoning journalists this year were Iran, China, Myanmar, Turkey, and Belarus, in that order.
- Press freedom restrictions include new "fake news" regulations, criminal defamation, and abuse of the judicial system.
- The top five countries imprisoning journalists this year were Iran, China, Myanmar, Turkey, and Belarus, in that order.
- These governments sought to quell simmering unrest in a world shaken by COVID-19 and the economic repercussions of Russia's assault on Ukraine.
- Numerous imprisoned journalists in China, another "worst offender," were Uighurs from Xinjiang.

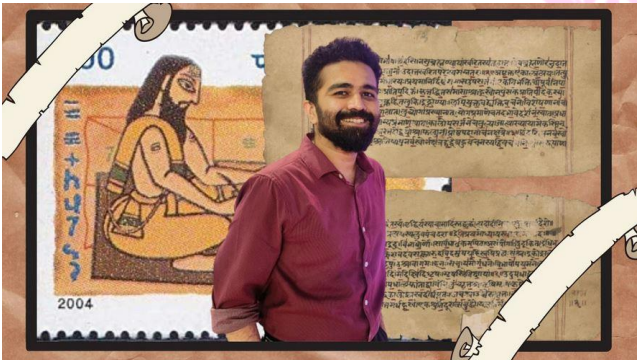
Why does this report matter?

- In the World Press Freedom Index earlier this year, India dropped further from its 142nd rank out of 180 countries to 150th place.
- In the Indian media environment, journalists' safety is of the utmost importance.

Conclusion

- The time is now to think carefully about the country's urgently required media ecosystem reforms.
- The urgent actions required are to establish plurality in ownership, improve legal protections for journalists, and take measures to lessen the influence of vested interest organisations in media operations.

Indian student at Cambridge decodes Panini's Language Machine



A grammatical problem by Panini that has defeated Sanskrit scholars since the 5th Century BC has finally been solved by an Indian Ph.D. student at the University of Cambridge.

Who was Panini?

- According to many sources, Panini lived in ancient India during the sixth and fourth centuries BCE. He was a respected scholar and Sanskrit grammarian.
- Panini has been referred to as "the father of linguistics" and the "first descriptive linguist" since European academics discovered and published his work in the nineteenth century.
- Foundational linguists like Ferdinand de Saussure and Leonard Bloomfield were influenced by Panini's grammar.

Major literary works

- The Astadhyayi, the founding text of the Vyakarna branch of the Vedanga, is one of Panini's best-known works. It is a sutra-style treatise on Sanskrit grammar that contains verses or rules on linguistics, syntax, and semantics in "eight chapters."
- His writings drew various bhashya (comments), the most well-known of which is Patanjali's Mahabhashya.
- Scholars of other Indian religions, such as Buddhism, were affected by and commented on his theories.

What is the recent breakthrough?

- Panini had a brilliant mind, and he created the most advanced language processing system in human history.
- He has successfully decrypted a 2,500-year-old algorithm, making it feasible to utilise Panini's

so-called "language machine" with accuracy for the first time.

- With the use of Panini's language generator, it is now possible to "derive" any Sanskrit word and create millions of grammatically sound terms.
- One of history's greatest intellectual accomplishments, according to many, is this.

How does this language machine works?

- The 4,000 rules in Panini's legendary work, the Astadhyayi, which is believed to have been composed around 500 BC, are intended to function as a machine.
- Once you enter a word's base and suffix, a step-by-step process should produce grammatically sound words and sentences.

Significance of this development

- The most important implication of the latest finding is that Panini's grammar can now be run by an algorithm.
- We might be able to teach computers this grammar.
- Rule-based approaches were abandoned by computer scientists working on Natural Language Processing (NLP) more than 50 years ago.
- NLP is a subfield of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Teaching computers how to connect the speaker's intention with Panini's rule-based

language would thus be a significant turning point in the development of human-machine interaction.

GI in news: Joynagar Moa



The Joynagar Moa, the popular Bengal sweet got 10 year extension for its Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Joynagar Moa

- The moa is a ball of popped rice that is kept together with fresh date-palm jaggery, which is extracted from early December to late February.
- Its production is so closely linked to Joynagar, a community outside of Kolkata, that it received the Geographical Indication designation of Joynagar Moa in 2015.

How is it made?

- Making a moa with kholi (puffed rice). The greatest ones are made with kholi from kanakchur rice, a type of rice.
- Cardamom and Bengal's fabled nolen gur are used (a liquid jaggery made from date palms and found only in winter).



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