



CURRENT AFFAIRS
DECEMBER – 2022

STATE NEWS

TAMIL NADU STATE ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE (TNSAPCC):

India's first National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) depicting the existing and future policies and programmes addressing climate mitigation and adaptation was released on 30.06.2008. The NAPCC identifies eight core "National Missions" which represents a multi-pronged, long-term and integrated approach for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. The Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TNSAPCC) was endorsed by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI) on 31.03.2015.

TNSAPCC has identified the following seven vulnerable sectors listed below,

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water Resources
- Forest and Biodiversity
- Coastal Area Management
- Sustainable Habitat
- Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Solar Mission
- Knowledge Management

The MoEF&CC, GoI has requested to revise the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change with technical support from German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and accordingly action has been taken to revise the TNSAPCC with the objectives to re-examine the State specific, impact, risk and vulnerability, to take stock of the implementation of the SAPCC, to re-examine various actions (adaptations and mitigation) in the light of climate goals set in India's NDC and to prepare new short range(2023) and long range plans up to 2030.

The first inception and consultative workshop was conducted on 20.09.2018 by the Department of Environment, with the participation of all line and sectoral departments/ agencies. The suggestions/ views / details have been obtained nearly from all the stakeholders and a draft report is completed. The revision of SAPCC document will emphasize on Health, Gender disaster management and mitigation, Sustainable Development Goals and Composite Vulnerable Index (CVI) for the State in general and districts in particular based on 63 indicators. The districts will be categorized into very low, low, moderate, high, very high and extremely high vulnerable categories for appropriate formulation and implementation of adaptation options in the State. After getting the inputs on the said draft report, from the line Departments, the final draft will be placed for the views of the decision makers/ policy makers for comments and suggestions by September 2019. The draft revised TNSAPCC will be submitted to the MoEF&CC, GoI by December 2019.

The Department of Environment, Nodal Agency is implementing all the Climate Change related programmes and coordinating with the concerned line Departments on the TNSAPCC in the State for submitting proposals under Green Climate Fund (GCF) and National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) in consultation with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Tamil Nadu: Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme:

Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme:

- The Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme was launched by the Tamil Nadu government to identify conservancy workers and ensure their welfare through various government initiatives.
- As part of this scheme, a mobile application was launched for the identification and census collection of sanitation workers.
- A survey will be conducted to identify sanitation workers and the collected data will be uploaded into the application.
- The first phase of this scheme will be implemented in five urban local bodies in the state. It will later be expanded to other local bodies.
- Initiatives that will be taken under this scheme are:
 - Making various government welfare schemes accessible for sanitation workers
 - Providing skill training required for the mechanization of cleanliness drives
 - Ensuring that all sanitation workers are covered under pension and insurance schemes
 - Ensuring that children of sanitation workers have access to education and other basic amenities
 - Providing credit and other facilities required for the sanitation workers to pursue alternative businesses.
- The scheme will benefit over 53,300 sanitation workers in the state, including 18,859 permanent employees and 34,442 temporary contract workers in the urban local bodies.
- It will also cover informal workers involved in conservancy operations in the private sector.
- The local bodies will be implementing this scheme with the assistance from Ahmedabad-based Urban Management Centre.



Tamil Nadu: First to Issue Soulbound Token:

The Idol Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police Department partnered with a Chennai and Singapore-based non-fungible token (NFT) start-up named GuardianLink to issue soulbound tokens to its outstanding team members.

It was given to officers who conducted exhaustive investigations that resulted in the retrieval of valuable artefacts. This makes the Tamil Nadu Government the first in the world to use soulbound token as a “digital medal”.



India's first project to conserve Nilgiri Tahr takes shape:

Tamil Nadu to take up the project at a cost of ₹25.14 crore

India's first Nilgiri Tahr project to conserve the State animal of Tamil Nadu will be taken up at a cost of ₹25.14 crore. The State government, on Wednesday, issued an order sanctioning the project.

In the 2022-2023 Tamil Nadu Budget, the Finance Minister had announced in the Assembly that "for the conservation of Tamil Nadu's State animal, expansion of its habitat and to spread awareness among the public, the government will implement project The Nilgiri Tahr with an initial allocation of ₹10 crore".

Based on the Budget announcement, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden sent a proposal to implement the project over a period of five years — 2022 to 2027. This was sanctioned by the State government on Wednesday.

The project will have nine components, including bi-annual synchronised surveys across the division, diagnosis and treatment for affected individuals and Shola grassland restoration pilot in Upper Bhavani, the order said.

The Nilgiri Tahr is the only mountain ungulate in Southern India among the 12 species present in India. It's population has been estimated at 3,122 in the wild, according to a report released by WWF India in 2015. The animal used to be found along the entire stretch of Western Ghats but in small fragmented pockets. A large part of its population has been wiped out from its historical range. The existing populations are under severe stress due to habitat loss and hunting, says information in WWF-India website.

Chief Minister MK Stalin tweeted: "Extremely happy and proud to inform you that the State animal of Tamil Nadu Nilgiri Tahr gets an exclusive project dedicated for its conservation. Government has issued orders today to set up India's first The Nilgiri Tahr project. We will ensure that the state animal of Tamil Nadu is well protected and all efforts are taken for its conservation."

State's Environment Climate Change & Forests Secretary tweeted: "A historic day today for us at Tamil Nadu Forest as India's first 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' takes shape. Government orders issued for conservation of the most beautiful & enigmatic Nilgiri Tahr, the State animal of TN at a cost of ₹25.14 crore.

Project Nilgiri Tahr of Tamil Nadu Forest aims to restore the fragmented habitat especially Shola grasslands where it thrives, reintroduce the Tahr population in its historic habitat and ensure proper rehabilitation facilities are provided, she said.



First Tripartite Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund:

The fund includes setting up of berth facilities for safe landing for number of fishing vessels. It will also be used to increase fish production, stimulate fisheries related economic activities, and to boost economic activities in the region. The projects are to be implemented in the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu. The funding will also be used to augment deep sea fishing, cage culture and promote exports in the future.

Role of NABARD

NABARD provides concessional financing to fisheries infrastructure facilities through state governments under FIDF. It is the Nodal Lending Entity of the fisheries department. It also supports fisheries under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Fisheries in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is the home of 10 lakh fisher families. The state is ideal for brackish water fisheries, marine fisheries and inland fisheries. Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in total fish production in the country.

India ranks second in the world fish production. The fisheries sector in the country contributes to 1% of GDP of the country.



Cabinet allows Bill to remove Governor as Chancellor:

- In Kerala, Cabinet allows Bill to remove Governor as Chancellor Arif Mohammed Khan
- The Bill proposes replacing the Governor with eminent academics as Chancellors of various universities.

Kerala's man-animal conflict mitigation team selected for Wildlife Trust of India award:

The Wildlife Trust of India has selected an eight-member team from Chinnakkanal (Munnar forest division) for its award this year for reducing incidents of man-animal conflict in the region.

The team had been selected for its work in ensuring the protection of the wild elephants and people in the region.

About Indian Elephant:

It is also known as "Elephas maximus".

Statistics in India:

The population of elephants in India has reached about 27,312 (2017 Census).

Karnataka had the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).

Protection Status:

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I
- World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on the 12th of August.

About Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is an Indian NGO committed to nature conservation.

Motto: In Service of Nature Its mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

Human-Animal Conflict:

□ It refers to struggles that arise when the presence or behaviour of wildlife poses actual or perceived direct, recurring threats to human interests or needs, often leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.

Causes:

- Habitat loss
- Growth of the population of wild animals
- Changing cropping patterns that attract wild animals to farmlands
- Movement of wild animals from forests area to human-dominated landscapes for food and fodder
- Movement of human beings to forests for illegal collection of forest produce
- Habitat degradation due to the growth of invasive alien species, etc.

Related Data:

- As many as 1,578 people died in elephant attacks in India between 2019-20 and 2021-22.
- Of which the highest 322 such deaths were reported from Odisha.

Government Measures:

- **Project Elephant:** The scheme aimed at protecting and conserving elephants and their habitats in the country. It was launched in 1992.
- **Elephant reserves:** Elephant Reserve is a management entity notified by the State Governments as per the recommendation of the Government of India.
- **Agasthiyamalai** (Tamil Nadu) will be the country's 32nd elephant reserve.
- **Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme** - Mandated by the Conference of Parties (COP) resolution of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Privacy not absolute, CCTVs needed to ensure children's safety, govt. tells High Court:

The Delhi government has opposed a plea in the High Court challenging its decision to install CCTV cameras in classrooms of government schools. Privacy is not absolute and that the system would ensure safety of children. CCTV (closed-circuit television) is a TV system in which signals are not publicly distributed but are monitored, primarily for surveillance and security purposes.

'West Bengal power plants failed to curb sulphur emissions'

- The 600-MW Haldia thermal power plant is in West Bengal's Midnapore district.
- Not a single coal-based thermal power plant in West Bengal has installed flue gas desulphurization (FDG)
- (FDG)-A technology to eliminate sulphur compounds from exhaust emissions.
- The country's first emission norms for control of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury from coal-fired power plants were notified in December 2015
- The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.

Supreme Court seeks Centre's response on evolving a programme to protect Great Indian Bustard

'Project Great Indian Bustard' conservation programme like the Project Tiger to bring attention to the peril faced by the critically endangered bird.

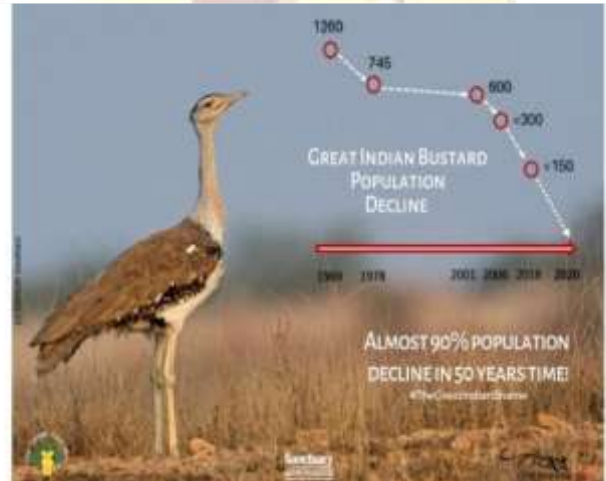
BINOMIAL NAME : *Ardeotis nigriceps*

STATE BIRD OF RAJASTAN

Its stronghold was once the Thar Desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula. Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Salim Ali, an Indian Ornithologist, strongly supported the Great Indian Bustard when it was proposed as India's National Bird, but the Indian Peafowl was chosen instead.



Local Name	Godavan
Height	1 to 1.2 meter
Weight	15kgs
Population	150 in India (Wild Life Institute of India Study)
Population Distribution	India and Pakistan
Habitat	Grass Plains, Scrublands, Dry and Semi-dry Grasslands
Food	Arthropods, Worms, grass seeds, berries, rodents
IUCN Status	Critically Endangered
Reasons for Extinction	Habitat Loss, Hunting, Collision with Power Lines
Popular National Parks and Sanctuaries	Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Solapur, Maharashtra
WWF – India Initiatives for Conservation of the Species	Inputs to expand the ‘Guidelines for the State Action Plan for Resident Bustard Recovery Program’. Raising awareness and making efforts to lift funds for the purpose

Punjab now a ‘debt-trapped State’, say economists, seek relief from Finance Ministry:

As the preparations for the Union Budget- 2023-24 continues, noted economists from Punjab have urged the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to take urgent steps to revive the growth momentum in Punjab economy, as the State has transitioned over the years from being “debt-stressed” to “debt-trapped”.

India tops index on social hostilities relating to religion:

It ranked relatively low in the Government Restrictions Index, but high on social hostility involving religion, especially in the first year of the pandemic.

Chart 1: The chart plots SHI against GHI for 198 countries in 2020

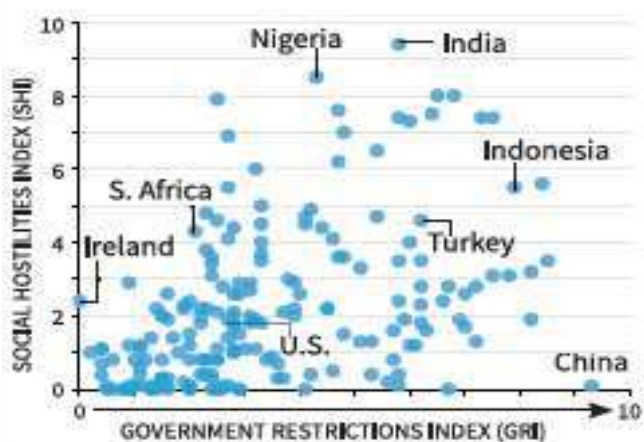


Table 2: The table shows the SHI score of select countries in 2007, 2019 and 2020

Nations	2007	2019	2020
India	8.8	9.1	9.4
France	3.4	3.5	4.7
Egypt	6.1	6.5	7.4
Nigeria	4.4	8.4	8.5
Afghanistan	8.5	5.6	8
Bangladesh	8.3	6.7	7
Mexico	5.5	4.5	5
Indonesia	8.3	4.8	5.5
Iran	6	1.5	1.9
Sudan	6.5	2	2.4
Ghana	4.9	1.8	2.6
Philippines	3.7	4.9	4.8
Libya	1.4	7.7	7.4
Ethiopia	5.3	5.9	4.5
Brunei	4.2	1.3	1.3
Pakistan	8.9	8.1	7.5
Iraq	10	7.7	7.3
Yemen	6.2	5.1	3.5

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 to be held in Bhopal in January 2023 assumes significance as it is coinciding with India's presidency of the G20 Summit:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 will be held in Bhopal in January 2023 and incidentally, it is one of the major events to be held after India took over G-20 Presidency.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last over 8 years under the Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, scientific breakthroughs have reached from the lab to the land, indeed every household while applications of science have been used to bring “Ease of Living” for the common man.



India's longest escape tunnel:

India's longest escape tunnel, which is 12.89 km long constructed on the 111 km under-construction Banihal-Katra railway line in **Jammu and Kashmir** was completed by the Indian Railways. The longest tunnel is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL)** project.



AstraZeneca India announces the appointment of Dr. Sanjeev Panchal as Country President & Managing Director:

Bangalore, December 14th 2022: AstraZeneca Pharma India Ltd a leading biopharmaceutical company announces a change in its leadership with the appointment of Dr. Sanjeev Panchal as Country President & Managing Director, AstraZeneca Pharma India Ltd with effect from 1st January 2023.

Sanjeev has been with AstraZeneca for 19 years and began his career in India back in 2003 as a Brand Associate. Over time, he progressed through several positions in India, Indonesia, Asia Pacific and International region, based in Singapore and the UK.

Sanjeev is currently the Country President for AstraZeneca Malaysia, where he has been instrumental in transforming the business, by driving new launches, innovative patient centric partnerships and Market Access strategies, guiding an inclusive and diverse team to achieve double digit growth outpacing market. He played a critical role in supporting the government in combating the pandemic through AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine and long-acting monoclonal antibodies, as well as leading the Corporate Affairs strategy and sustainability initiatives.



Kerala's first smart mobile composting unit inaugurated:

- **Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh inaugurated the first smart mobile composting unit** in the State jointly launched by **Suchitwa Mission** and the **Kerala Mission at Pallithottam, Kerala.**
- He stated that the **waste management issues** in Kerala will be **eliminated by 2026** making the **State completely garbage free.**
- The **smart mobile composting unit** is an **innovative concept** that **scientifically treats waste** from auditoriums and large catering centers and turns it into manure.
- The unit can process up to **500 kg of waste per hour** and convert it into manure.

Kerala

Governor : Arif Mohammad Khan
Chief minister : Pinarayi Vijayan
Capital : Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the 24×7 ‘drink-from-tap’ project in 19 cities of the state under the 5T initiative:

Patnaik launched the 24×7 ‘drink-from-tap’ projects in 19 cities—Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Nimapada, Berhampur, Gopalpur, Rourkela, Sundergarh, Birmitrapur, Rajgangpur, Keonjhar, Joda, Badbil, Champua, Anandpur, Baripada, Rairangpur, Udala, Karanjia and Vyasaganagar from the convention hall of Lok Seva Bhawan. As many as 5.50 lakh people in these cities will benefit from these projects.

It is worthwhile to mention here that earlier under the 5T initiative, everyone in Puri got ‘drink-from-tap’ facility. From today Gopalpur became the second city in the state where 100 per cent people have access to drink-from-tap system.

Apart from this, the Chief Minister announced the start of the drink-from-tap programme for the cities of Khurda, Jatni and Hinjilikatu. As many as 1.50 lakh people in these three cities will be benefited.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that providing safe drinking water to every family was his long-time dream and it has always been the priority of his government.

Madhya Pradesh: Indore gets the Country’s First Infantry Museum:

The country’s first Infantry Museum has been opened for public at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh in December 2022

About the Infantry Museum:

The Infantry Museum covers the history of the Infantry from 1747 to 2020. It depicts the rich heritage, glorious past and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers preserved in sculptures, murals, and photo galleries.

The construction of this museum has been in the works for a decade. This three-story building of the museum has been built on two acres of land. It has 17 different rooms covering the history and development of the Indian Infantry since 1747 in chronological order in 30 subject areas. In this museum, along with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Subhash Chandra Bose, and Maharaja Ranjit, the history of many great men will be seen.



World's first National Infantry Museum:

The world's first National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is located outside the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning in Columbus Georgia. The 190,000-square-foot museum opened in June 2009. The museum describes the history of the United States Army Infantry from the American Revolution to present operations. It displays artifacts from all eras of American history.

Kashmir's harshest winter period 'Chillai Kalan' begins:

- In Jammu and Kashmir, a 40-day intense cold period, Chilia-Kalan began on 21 December 2022.
- 'Chillai Kalan' is the coldest and harshest winter period in Kashmir valley.
- The 40-day period (Chillai Kalan) is followed by the 20-day-long Chillai Khurd (small cold) and the 10-day-long Chillai Bachcha (baby cold).
- Chillai Kalan starts on 21 December and lasts till 31 January.

Supreme Court gives Centre three months to constitute T.N.-Karnataka water disputes tribunal:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Centre three months to constitute an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over constructions in Pennaiyar river

Pennaiyar river:

- A river originating from the eastern slopes of the Nandi Durga Hills in eastern Karnataka.
- The South Pennar River is a river in India.
- Bangalore, Hosur, Tiruvannamalai, and Cuddalore are the important cities on the banks of South Pennar river.
- This is the second longest river in Tamil Nadu, with a length of 247km, after the Kaveri.
- The river flows in Tamilnadu 77%
- It splits near Thirukovilur Dam into two distributries; Kedilam and Pennaiyar
- Tributaries are Markanda River, Bambaru, Vanniaru, Chinnaru.
- Reservoirs constructed across the river is two.
 1. Krishnagiri reservoir
 2. Chatanur Reservoir

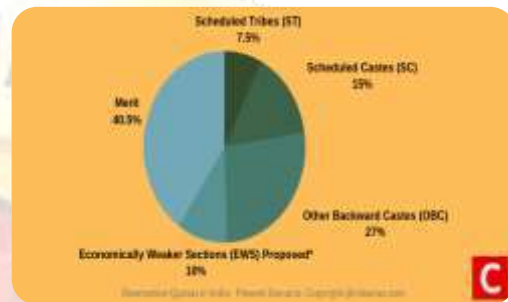


- The South Pennar River is known as Thenpennaiyaru in Tamil and Dakshina Pinakini in Kannada. It is also referred as Ponnaiyar.
- The South Pennayaru River is considered a **HOLY** river by the Hindus.
- The South Penna River flows into the Bay of Bengal.

DMK seeks review of SC verdict on 10% EWS quota:

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on a petition in the Supreme Court to review its judgment upholding the 10% quota granted to economically weaker sections in government jobs and educational institutions, saying the leeway has made a large section of upper caste population eligible.

Government of India provides 10% reservation to economically weaker sections. In 2019, the Parliament of India passed the **103rd Amendment** to the Constitution of India to provide 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections. Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections came into effect on 14 January 2019.



Hyderabad-based startup gets India's first real-time Gold ATM:

Goldsikka with technology support from Hyderabad-based startup, Opencube Technologies has launched its first Gold ATM at Begumpet and described it India's first Gold ATM and world's first Real Time Gold ATM. This ATM can dispense gold coins in different denominations ranging from 0.5 gm to 100 grams.



Cyclone Mandous – A Tropical Cyclone:

Mandous, pronounced Man-Dous, is an Arabic word meaning 'Treasure box'. It was named by the UAE (member of WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION) and features in the list of tropical cyclone names prepared by the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RMSC) being followed since April 2020

Cyclone Mandous, which emerged from the Bay of Bengal, made landfall in Mamallapuram, 30 km from Chennai, on December 9, 2022, resulting in heavy rainfall and squally winds in parts of coastal Tamil Nadu.

In meteorology, the term cyclone is defined as

A system of winds that are rotating inwards to an area of low barometric pressure, such that in the Northern Hemisphere it is anticlockwise and in the Southern Hemisphere it is clockwise circulation.

Cyclones are formed with an enormous amount of energy from the ocean to the atmosphere. According to studies, every year there are 70 to 90 cyclonic systems developed across the globe. The surface winds get spiralled towards the low-pressure system due to the Coriolis force. The cyclonic systems are not formed in the equatorial regions because the Coriolis force is negligible between the latitudes 5 degrees north and 5 degrees south.

There are 4 types of cyclones and they are:

- **Tropical cyclone**
- **Polar cyclone**
- **Mesocyclone**
- **Extratropical cyclone**

The 1970 **Bhola cyclone** (Also known as the Great Cyclone of 1970) was a devastating tropical cyclone that struck East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) and India's West Bengal on November 11, 1970. It remains the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded and one of the world's deadliest natural disasters.

The India Meteorological Department is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the **Government of India**. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

Founded: 15 January 1875

Founder: Government of India

Jurisdiction: India

Headquarters: Mausam Bhavan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

First set of lists

Country	Cyclone	Duration
Bangladesh	Nisarga	June 1-4 2020
India	Gati	November 21-24
Iran	Nivar	November 23-27
Maldives	Burevi	November 30-December 5
Myanmar	Tauktae	May 14-19 2021
Oman	Yaas	May 23-28
Pakistan	Gulab	September 24-26 (landfall)
Qatar	Shaheen	October 1-3 (landfall)
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	December 2-6
Sri Lanka	Asani	May 7-12 2022
Thailand	Sitrang	
UAE	Mandous	
Yemen	Mocha	

There are 13 such lists with each country giving 13 names each

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (ESCAP) have been naming cyclonic storms since 2000

Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.

The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.

Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.

The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake.

It was coined by Henry Paddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.

There are two types of cyclones:

- Tropical cyclones
- Extra-Tropical cyclones (also called Temperate cyclones or middle-latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).

In Australia, Cyclones are called willy-willy.

In America, It was called a Hurricane.

In China, It was called a Typhoon.

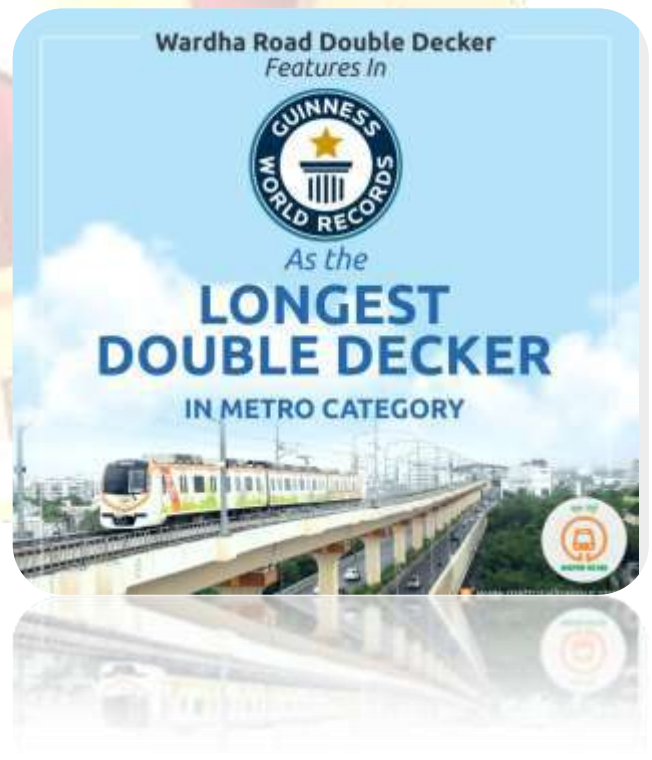
- ❖ In the past 121 years (1891-2021), 12 cyclones have crossed the coast between Chennai and Puducherry.

Nagpur Metro Enters Guinness Book of World Records for World's Longest Double-decker Viaduct:

Nagpur Metro in Maharashtra has entered Guinness Book of World Records for creating the longest double-decker viaduct metro measuring 3.14 km on Wardha Road.

Maha Metro MD Brijesh Dixit received a certificate for the achievement from judge and adjudicator of Guinness World Records Rishi Nath at an event at Metro Bhawan.

The double-decker viaduct has already been certified as the longest structure in Asia and India by Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Dixit said that executing the project on Wardha Road was a major challenge. It is part of a three-tier structure, with metro



rail on top, highway flyover in the middle and the existing road at the ground level.

As per an official release, the double-decker viaduct measuring 3.14 km is the longest such structure across any metro rail system in the world and has three stations.

Earthquake of 3.7 magnitude hits Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh:

A magnitude 3.7 earthquake struck Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on Friday, National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. The earthquake was 10 km below the earth's surface, NCS added. The earthquake struck at 4:24 AM.

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital : Itanagar

Itanagar is not only the capital city of Arunachal Pradesh, but also the largest city in Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh – An Important State in North East India

Arunachal Pradesh – Tribes and Ethnic Diversity

Arunachal Pradesh is home to 26 major tribes of India and 100 sub-tribes.

Greater Chennai Corporation launches World Bank's flagship Gender Toolkit:

It is a two-volume guide created by the World Bank with a four-pillar implementation framework for urban bodies to design a gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces programme

A Gender Toolkit based on “Enabling gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces” was launched on Thursday by Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi at a session conducted by the World Bank and the Chennai Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority.

The World Bank's toolkit aims at bringing under spotlight the gender issues surrounding mobility and city design. “Cities are experienced differently by men, women and gender minorities and our toolkit provides tools to understand and address gender disaggregated mobility patterns, strengthen policies and develop infrastructure to meet the needs of women and gender minorities”, said Gerard Ollivier, lead transport specialist, India.

The toolkit is a two-volume guide brought out by the World Bank that details a four-pillar implementation framework for urban bodies to design a gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces programme.

Assessing the ground situation is the first pillar and includes understanding gender differences in mobility patterns, safety concerns, gaps in policy and infrastructure.



ADB approves USD 780 million loan to expand Chennai metro rail network:

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 on Thursday a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF).

"This project will expand Chennai's metro rail system to provide a safe and integrated transport solution essential in improving urban mobility and making the city more livable," said ADB Senior Transport Specialist for South Asia Andri Heriawan.

"By fostering a shift to less greenhouse-gas-emitting metro systems, it will also benefit climate change mitigation and, through appropriate design elements, improve resilience to climate change," the senior functionary added.

The international organization which is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific also announced a \$1 million additional technical assistance (TA) grant to help the Chennai Metro Rail Limited with the planning and management of the metro system's multimodal integration.

Kerala High Court strikes down Section 10 A of the Divorce Act, 1869- rules stipulation of period of one year or more for filing divorce petition by mutual consent unconstitutional:

A division Bench of the Kerala High Court Friday said that the stipulation of the period of one year or more for filing a divorce petition by mutual consent — under Section 10 A of the Divorce Act, 1869 — violates fundamental rights and is unconstitutional.

The bench of Justices A. Muhamed Mustaque and Shoba Annamma Eapen said the Union Government should seriously consider having a "uniform marriage code in India to promote the common welfare of spouses in matrimonial disputes."

The High Court was acting upon a petition moved by a young Christian couple, challenging the refusal of a family court to enter their joint petition for divorce.

Their marriage was solemnised as per Christian rites on January 30 this year. Their marriage was not consummated. The couple decided to seek divorce and on May 31, moved a joint petition before the Family Court, Ernakulam, under Section 10 A of the Divorce Act, 1869.

Subsequently, the couple moved the High Court under Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The court appointed Sandhya Raju and Leela R. as amici curiae to assist it.

IIT Chennai Discovery of Electricity from Ocean Waves:

An IIT Chennai research team has designed a device to generate electricity using energy from ocean waves. Known as 'Shindhuj-1'.

This instrument is 6 km inside Tuticorin sea. placed at a depth of 20 meters at a distance. The device currently produces 100 watts of power.

In the next 3 years, the target is set to generate one megawatt of electricity from ocean waves.



NATIONAL NEWS

GDP growth dips to 6.3% as manufacturing slides:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total money value of goods and services produced in a country in a year. Calculating GDP is a very difficult process. Till today it cannot be calculated accurately. However, refinement of this calculation method is ongoing.

Why do we need to calculate GDP?

There is no better index than GDP to measure the development level of a country. All the countries of the world are coming to the same system of calculating GDP. As all countries share the experience of calculating GDP, the method of calculating it is evolving rapidly. Thus, since GDP is calculated in the same way in all countries, it is easy to compare the growth of one country with the growth of another country.

Nobel Prize winner Simon Kuznets. He was the first to introduce the concept.

Important for GDP:

Through this the economy of a country is calculated. The Gross Domestic Product of the country is also calculated to find out whether the economy of the country has increased or decreased during a particular period. This helps to know whether inflation and money value have increased.

For India, the GDP period is April 1 to March 31. Only manufacturing is taken into account while calculating GDP. Does not count sales. Because the GDP is doubled when the cost of

production is calculated and then the cost of selling the same product is calculated.

Which organisation calculate the GDP in our country?

GDP is usually calculated by the national statistical agency of the country following the international standard.

$$GDP = C + I + G + (X - M).$$

இதில் C = நுகர்வு பண்டங்கள்;

I = முதலீட்டு பண்டங்கள்,

G = அரசின் வாங்குதல்கள்;

(X - M) = நிகர ஏற்றுமதி (இது நேர்மறையாகவோ, எதிர்மறையாகவோ இருக்கலாம்.)

India-U.S. exercise near Line of Actual Control irks China:

- New Delhi: India-US joint military exercise in the Uttarakhand region on the India-China border is considered very important. The border issues between India and China have become an ongoing story even beyond the wars. Negotiations have been going on for years following China's incursion into the eastern Ladakh border. China's harassment continues in all areas like Ladakh border, Arunachal Pradesh border, Bhutan border.
- In this case, the Indian-American army is going to conduct a joint military exercise in the border region of Uttarakhand state, which is shocking to China. The military exercise will be held in Ali, Uttarakhand. This joint military exercise will be conducted under the name of Ex - Youth Abhyas 2022.
- Ex - Youth Abias is an annual India-US joint military exercise. The 18th edition of the X Youth Abias is currently being held.
- The exercise was held as part of Indo-US military cooperation. An Indian contingent of 350 soldiers from the 7th Madras Infantry Battalion and 350 American soldiers from the First Squadron (Airborne) participated in it.
- The exercise is hosted alternately by the two countries since 2004.

16 drones shot down along Pakistan border in 2022: BSF:

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has shot down 16 drones in areas along the Pakistan border this year, mostly in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh said on Wednesday.
- Drones have emerged as one of the key challenges for the force that guards the border, said Mr. Singh, as it does not yet have a "foolproof anti-drone technology" though some Indian companies are working on solutions.

November GST revenues rise 11% from year earlier:

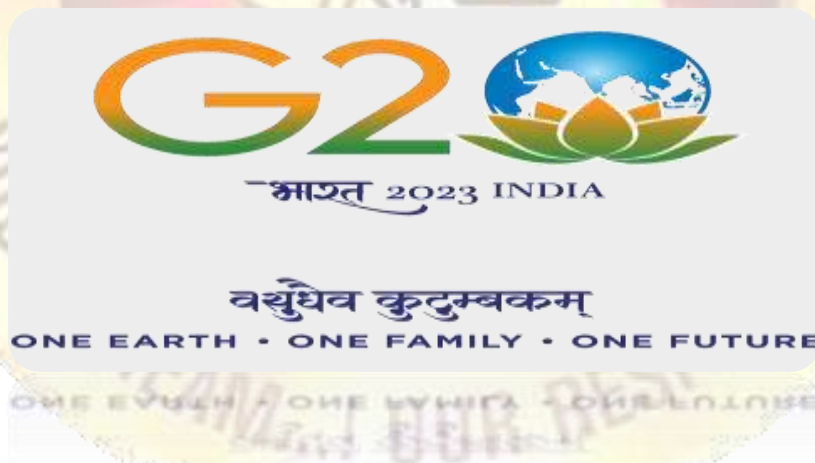
India's gross GST revenues were ₹1, 45,867 crore in November 2022, 11% higher than a year ago, but nearly 4% below October's month

HISTORY OF GST:

- The idea of a Goods and Services Tax (GST) for India was first mooted sixteen years back, during the Prime Minister ship of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- On 28th February, 2006, the then Union Finance Minister in his Budget for 2006-07 proposed that GST would be introduced from 1st April, 2010.
- The Central Government, released its First Discussion Paper (FDP) on GST in November, 2009.
- In March 2011, Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to enable levy of GST.
- On 19th December, 2014, The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill 2014 was introduced in the Lok Sabha and was passed by Lok Sabha in May 2015.
- The Goods and Service Tax Act was passed in the Parliament on 29th March 2017 and came into effect on 1st July 2017.

Inception of G20:

- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.
- In 2009, was designated the “premier forum for international economic cooperation”.
- The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India’s national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue.



G-7 COUNTRIES:

- The G-7 is an organization of seven countries with developed economies, considered to be advanced countries. These include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States.
- These countries consider themselves to have a society with core values such as freedom, human rights, democracy, law and order, prosperity and sustainable development.

G – 4 COUNTRIES:

- The G4 nations are an alliance of India, Germany, Japan, and Brazil. The alliance was formed to support each other for permanent membership in the United Nations Assembly

G – 8 COUNTRIES:

- The G8 (Group of Eight) refers to the confederation of republics with the highest industrial development in the world. Countries in this group are France, Italy, Germany, Japan, United States of America, United Kingdom, (G6 until 1975), Canada (G7 until 1976) and Russia (not participating at all). Annual economic and political summits attended by the leaders of these countries and international officials are important in the activities of the G8.

G – 8 + 5 COUNTRIES:

- The G8+5 is a group of presidents and prime ministers of the G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, United States of America) and emerging economies (India, China, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico)

India has assumed the Presidency of G-20:

- India has assumed the Presidency of the grouping at a very challenging time in world politics; it will make citizens understand that India will be ‘**more world-ready**’ and the ‘**world more India-ready**’, says External Affairs Minister **Jaishankar**

G20 Members

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union.

The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said a committee would be constituted to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** in the State.

It is defined in our Constitution under Article 44 of Directive Principles of State Policy.

It states that it is the duty of the state to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.

We can say that it means one country one rule.

Centre to cut funds if land is not allotted for housing scheme by the states :

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAY-G) was launched in April 2016 with a goal of building 2.95 crore houses for the rural poor by March 2022.

President of South Africa faces impeachment over 'Farmgate' scandal:

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa denies any wrongdoing in what has become known as the “Farmgate” scandal, claiming that nearly \$600,000 in cash found stuffed in sofa cushions at his Phala Phala farm in the country's northeast were proceeds from buffalo sales.

NIA arrests Ludhiana court blast main accused at Delhi airport:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the main accused Harpreet Singh in connection with the Ludhiana court blast in December last year.
- National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- It is functioning as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in the country.
- Information is given about the NIA's mission, objectives, banned organisations, NIA special courts, nodal officers and branch offices etc.
- A list of wanted by NIA is also provided.
- Helpline numbers and contact details of officers are available.
- Users can also access the case details under the Agency.

Centre set to prioritise wages for MGNREGS site supervisors:

Heeding to persistent complaints from Mates or site supervisors that their wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are inordinately delayed, the Union Rural Development Ministry has devised a protocol to prioritise

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS):

1. The Government of India passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 in September, 2005.
2. The Act gives legal guarantee of a hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to adult members of a rural household who demand employment and are willing to do unskilled manual work.
3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched by Govt. of India in all Gram Panchayats of districts Mahendergarh and Sirsa on 2nd February, 2006

160-200 million Indians could be exposed to lethal heat waves annually: World Bank report:

From 2030, 160 million to 200 million people can be exposed to lethal heat waves in India every year, and nearly 34 million Indians will face job losses due to heat stress-related productivity decline.

By 2037, the demand for cooling is likely to be eight times more than the current level, the World Bank has said in a report.

According to the report, “Climate investment opportunities in India’s cooling sector”, this could open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040, besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly and creating 3.7 million jobs.

The report proposes a road map to support New Delhi’s India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), 2019, through new investments in three major sectors: building construction, cold chains and refrigerants.

The report suggests That India’s Affordable housing programme for the poor, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), can adopt such changes on scale.

The World Bank HISTORY

JULY - 1944 - BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE

1946 – 1967 - THE WORLD BANK AS BUILDER AND ENGINEER – POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN EUROPE

1982 – 1994 - ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

1995 – NOW - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is an initiative of the Government of India which aims at providing affordable housing to the urban poor by the year 2022. The scheme was first launched on 25 June 2015. The interest rate for the PMAY scheme starts at 6.50% p.a. and can be availed for a tenure of up to 20 years.

WORLD BANK ESTABLISHED

DECEMBER 1944 (78 years ago)

TYPE : INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

HEAD QUARTERS : WASHINGTON, D.C.,

U.S PRESIDENT : DAVID MALPASS 2019 APRIL 5 ONWARDS 13th PRESIDENT

MANAGING DIRECTOR (OR)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: ANSHULA KANT

India’s growth and prosperity is linked to the oceans, says Murmu:

President Droupadi MurMu on Sunday said oceans would play a vital role in India’s growth and prosperity with the future linked to the waters, as in the past. Addressing a large gathering at the Navy Day celebrations here, Ms.Murmu said the Indian Navy, with its role in the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, had earned a permanent place in history and continued to inspire generations.

UNESCO:

The term ‘cultural heritage’ has changed content considerably in recent decades, partially owing to the instruments developed by UNESCO. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

While fragile, intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. An understanding of the intangible cultural heritage of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue, and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

The importance of intangible cultural heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a State, and is as important for developing States as for developed ones.

Intangible cultural heritage is:

- Traditional, contemporary and living at the same time
- Inclusive
- Representative
- Community-based

SpiceJet awarded ‘Safety Performer of the Year’ award by GMR Delhi airport:

SpiceJet has been awarded the ‘Safety Performer of the Year’ award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines and as it has been able to reduce ground safety violations significantly. SpiceJet ground handling team at Delhi Airport achieved this performance through constant focus on quality improvements, innovation and hard work. Moreover, their role in minimising incidences of ground safety violations ensured compliance with safety guidelines and regulatory requirements.



Earlier this year, as many as 90 pilots of Spicejet were restrained from flying Boeing 737 Max aircraft after the DGCA found they were not properly trained. That was followed by multiple snags in its aircraft.

6th Edition of Indo – Kazakhstan joint training exercise “KAZIND-22”:

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 upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

Kazakhstan Army soldiers comprising of troops from the Regional Command, South and Indian Army soldiers from the 11 Gorkha Rifles will be participating in the exercise. Aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other’s best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking counter terrorist operations in semi urban / jungle scenario, under a UN peace enforcement mandate. This joint exercise will enable the two armies to train, plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations.



The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX) on sub-conventional operations. During the exercise, participants will engage in variety of missions ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, basics of special arms skills, HADR and raiding a hostile target.

“Exercise KAZIND” will enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

Jio offers unlimited 5G data for iPhone 12 and above users at no extra cost:

Jio has announced that its “true 5G will now be available on iPhone 12 and above and iPhone users need to upgrade to the latest software to avail of the service.

“All iPhone 12 & above Jio users to get Jio welcome offer with unlimited 5G data at no extra cost,” Jio added.

Owners of iPhone 12 Mini, iPhone 12, iPhone 12 Pro, iPhone 12 Pro Max, iPhone 13 Mini, iPhone 13, iPhone 13 Pro, iPhone 13, Pro Max, iPhone SE 2022 (3rd gen), iPhone 14, iPhone 14 Plus, iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max can access Jio’s 5 services.



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

India's 'Namami Gange'- river Ganga rejuvenation project- has been recognised as one among world's 10 most "ground-breaking" initiatives for restoration of natural ecosystems, according to a report released during the UN Biodiversity Conference.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has won the "Public Water Agency of the Year" award at the Global Water Awards, 2019 by Global Water Intelligence.

The award was received by G Ashok Kumar, Director General, Namami Gange, at the 15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada on 14 December 2022.

Namami Gange was selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe.

They were selected under the banner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

About Namami Gange

- It was approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Central Government in June 2014.
- It was launched to serve the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the national river Ganga.
- It is being operated under the Ministry of Water Resources, Department of River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- Recognized initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise.

Kaushal Rozgar Yojna 2022 Registration:

Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 on 13th October, 2021. It has been set up with the objective of providing contractual manpower to all Government entities in Haryana in a transparent, robust and equitable manner. It will act as the authorized agency for providing contractual manpower in Haryana.

Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, in the process of providing contractual manpower, will focus on :

- Uplifting socio-economically disadvantaged candidates
- Facilitating timely payment of salary and benefits to deployed manpower
- Ensuring adherence to the State Reservation policy.

Tata Consumer, Hindustan Unilever set sights on tea major Girnar:

- Consumer product companies such as Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and Tata Consumer Products are looking to acquire Gujarat-based tea major Girnar Food & Beverages, Business Standard reported on Friday.

- While the discussions are at an initial stage, according to the report, the deal could be valued at Rs 1,000-1,500 crore.
- The acquisition would strengthen the buyer's hold in the western Indian market, a source close to the development told the daily.

India Monuments:

Monuments are witnesses of India's past; The monuments of India are also the Guardian pillars of India's cultural heritage. While the monuments of India have become an inspiration for the future Generation. Now , it is the duty of all citizens to conserve our historical monuments & preserve our Indian Heritage.

Which states have the highest number of centrally protected monuments that have been encroached on?

- ❖ a total of 356 centrally protected monuments have been illegally encroached into across India.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, at 743
- ❖ Tamilnadu, at 412
- ❖ Karnataka and Maharashtra with 48 and 46
- ❖ Gujarat has the fifth highest number of illegally encroached centrally protected monuments.



What are centrally protected monuments?

Centrally Protected Monuments are those that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

Under this Act, construction activities are prohibited within 100 meters of a centrally protected monument and construction within 100 to 200 meters of these structures is strictly regulated.

The regulations under this Act are implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Jio completes 100% acquisition of Reliance Infratel for ₹3,720 cr:

Reliance Jio has deposited ₹3,720 crore in an escrow account of the State Bank of India (SBI) to acquire Reliance Infratel Ltd (RITL), under Section 31 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016.

The National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench (NCLT), in its order on December 3, 2020, had approved the resolution plan submitted by Reliance Projects & Property Management Services Limited (RPPMSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), for the acquisition of RITL, which is one of the major private telecom infrastructure providers in the country.

Centre approves Bharat Biotech's nasal Covid vaccine for booster dose: The Government has granted approval to Bharat Biotech's nasal Covid vaccine for booster dose.

The nasal vaccine has been approved for those aged above 18 years. The nasal vaccine BBV154 had received approval of the Drugs Controller General of India in November 2022 for restricted use in an emergency situation for those above 18 as a heterologous booster dose



Aloke Singh appointed head of Air India's low cost airline business:

- Aloke Singh appointed as the chief of Air India's low-cost airline business from January 1, 2023.
- The Low Cost Carrier (LCC) business will comprise AirAsia India and Air India Express.
- AirAsia India was launched in 2014 while Air India Express started operations in 2005.
- Currently, four airlines are part of the Tata group. They are Air India, Air India Express, AirAsia India and Vistara.

Antim Panghal nominated for Rising Star of the Year award:

- Indian women's wrestler Antim Panghal has been nominated for United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year award in Dec 2022.
- Japan's Nonoka Ozaki, USA's Amit Elor, Sweden's Emma Malmgren and Andreea Ana of Romania are the other in the five-woman nominees list.
- Antim Panghal created history in Aug 2022 by winning India's first-ever gold medal at the World U20 Wrestling Championships.

Shalini Kumari tops in the Grassroots Innovation Competition:

- Shalini Kumari from India received first prize in the Grassroots Innovation Competition at the 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum for her innovation 'Modified walker with adjustable legs', on 22 Dec 2022.
- It is organized by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI).
- The 2nd and 3rd prize have been won by innovators from Philippines and Myanmar.

UIDAI headquarters building wins top Green Building Award:

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) headquarter in New Delhi has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022
- .GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is a national rating system for green buildings in India.
- It has been declared a winner among the existing highest rated building category.
- In 2021, UIDAI HQ building was adjudged the 2nd rank.

India offers to set up permanent secretariat for No Money for Terror :

Ministerial Conference:

India has offered to set up a permanent secretariat for the No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference in the country. The proposed secretariat is not expected to be an investigative body, and will operate on the concept of collaboration and cooperation between nations.

India hosted the third Ministerial Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing last month. During the conference, the need was felt for permanency of this unique initiative to sustain global focus on countering terror financing. This was informed by Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today. He said a discussion paper will soon be circulated to all participating jurisdictions for their comments.

Gol Grants GI Tags to 9 New Products, Raising The Total to 432:

Nine new items have been given GI tag, including gamocha of Assam, Tandur red gram of Telangana, Raktsey Karpo apricot of Ladakh, and Alibag white onion of Maharashtra. Total number of GI tags in India comes to 432.

India having a diverse culture is home to various arts and crafts mastered by many generations over the years. Adding to the present collection of GIs, 09 new items from various states of India such as,

S. NO	PRODUCT	STATE
1.	ASSAMESE GOMACHA	ASSAM
2	ALOBAG WHITE ONION	MAHARASHTRA
3.	TANDUR REDGRAM	TELANGANA
4.	RAKTSEY KARPO APRICOT	LADAKH
5.	ATTAPPADY THUVARA (ATTAPPADY RED GRAM)	KERALA
6.	KANTHALLOOR VATAVADA GARLIC	KERALA
7.	KODUNGALLUR SNAP MELON	KERALA
8.	ATTAPPADY AATTUKOMBUDOLICHOS BEAN	KERALA
9.	ONATTUKARA SESAME	KERALA

Parliament passes New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022:

- Parliament has passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving it today unanimously. Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill.
- The Bill amends the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019. The Bill renames the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre. The Act requires the Arbitration Centre to strive to facilitate the conduct of international and domestic arbitration and conciliation and the new legislation expands this to include the conduct of other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates 7th Edition of India Water Impact Summit in New Delhi:

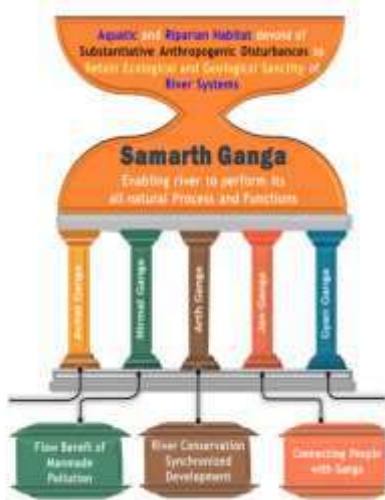
- ❖ Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) on December 15, 2022 in the presence of Shri Bishweshwar Tudu, Minister of State for Jal Shakti.



7th India Water Impact Summit [IWIS 2022]:

“Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps”

(PEOPLE, POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS)



1st IWIS – 2012 Water Innovation in India

2nd IWIS – 2017 Exploring Potential of Stipulations Made in Ganga River Basin Management Plan – 2015

3rd IWIS – 2018 Showcasing an enhancing Impact of National and International Efforts on Ganga River Restoration and Conservation

4th IWIS – 2019 – Realizing Vision Ganga Through Jal Jeevan Mission

5th IWIS – 2020 Comprehensive Analysis and Holistic Rivers and Waterbodies: Arth Ganga: River conservation Synchronized Development

6th IWIS – 2021 River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level

Govt approves Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL:

The government has approved a revival package of Rs 1,64,000 crore for revival of BSNL. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in Lok Sabha on Wednesday (14 December), Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said this project will totally transform BSNL.

The revival measures focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL. Vaishnaw said BSNL is going to implement indigenously developed 4G and 5G technology stat.

He said the days have gone when BSNL was a cash cow. The reasons for losses of BSNL are high employee cost over the years, debt burden, stiff competition in the market and lack of 4G services (except on a limited basis in certain areas).

Report: India has 350 mn digital payment users, count set to double by 2030:

India currently has around 350 million online transacting users across e-commerce, shopping, travel and hospitality, and OTT and the number is set to double by 2030

There are about 40-45 million mature users who spend a considerable share of their wallet online (more than 50 per cent).

"We expect online transactors to become 2X by 2030, with mature users being the faster-growing cohort," said Mukesh Kumar, Engagement Manager, Redseer Strategy Consultants.

"We also estimate that these mature users would account for \$400 billion online spending by 2030," he mentioned.

Ministry of Heavy Industries allocates Rs 1000 crore for development of charging infrastructure:

Ministry of Heavy Industries stated that Under phase-II of FAME-India Scheme, Rs. 1000 Cr. is allocated for the development of charging infrastructure. The Ministry has sanctioned 2,877 electric vehicle charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs.

Further, 1576 charging stations across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under phase-II of FAME India Scheme has also been sanctioned. The Ministry of Heavy Industries had sanctioned 520 Charging Stations for developing charging Infrastructure under Phase-I of FAME India Scheme.

G-7 approves USD 15.5 billion deal with Vietnam to help cutting climate-damaging pollution:

A group of nine rich industrialized nations has approved a deal to provide Vietnam with 15.5 billion US dollars to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.

The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said in a statement that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to “net zero” by 2050. It is a goal which experts say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.



G-7

- The G7 is an informal grouping of advanced democracies that meets annually to coordinate global economic policy and address other transnational issues.
- Russia’s membership was suspended in 2014 over the annexation of Crimea.
- Due to internal divisions and the rise of alternative institutions such as the G20, some experts have questioned the G7’s relevance.

The G7 is an informal bloc of industrialized democracies—the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom—that meets annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy

SC offers to find solution to ‘deceitful conversions:

Everybody has a right to choose their faith but that does not mean luring somebody by giving something. If you believe that a particular community needs help, you help it. It is charity should not be conversion - Justice M.R. SHAH

Article 25 - Citizens, all have freedom to adopt, practice and propagate any religion without restriction.

Article 26 - Gives the fundamental right to all religions and sects to establish and maintain Samayashri and Charitable Institutions, to manage matters related to religion themselves, to acquire and manage property.

Article 27 - No person shall be compelled to pay tax towards the expenses incurred for the development and maintenance of any particular religion.

Article 28 – states that there should be no religious instruction in educational institutions which are wholly government funded.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurated 65th Foundation Day Celebrations of DRI:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the two-day long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in New Delhi. She also launches the current edition of Smuggling in India Report 2021-22 on the occasion.

As many as 22 Customs administrations covering the Asia-Pacific region along with international organisations are invited to the event this year. The 8th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM) will also be held at the event.

Airtel and Meta collaborate to accelerate India's digital ecosystem:



Airtel Founder : Sunil Bharti Mittal;
Airtel Founded : 7 July 1995, India;
Airtel Headquarters : New Delhi.

The telecom major Airtel has announced that it has collaborated with Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta) to support the growth of India's digital ecosystem.

The announcement comes on the back of telecom operators demand to share revenue with service providers to build networks.

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

India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022, the World Bank has said. Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries declined by 10%, it rose by 12% in India's case.

Remittances to South Asian countries grew by 3.5% to \$163 billion in 2022.

- Worldwide, remittances are estimated at \$794 billion in 2022.
- South Asia receives the most remittances that are estimated at \$163 billion in 2022.
- India's share will be \$100 billion.
- Latin America and Caribbean comes second with \$142 billion.



Nagpur Metro successfully created a Guinness World Record:

- Nagpur Metro has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the longest double-decker viaduct (metro) is 3,140 meters and was achieved by the Wardha Road in Nagpur.
- The double-decker viaduct of 3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations – Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar
- . These stations require special planning which are station specific to meet the functional requirements of the metro duly incorporating site specific constraints and double-decker viaduct requirements.

ISRO will develop “Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal ‘Geo-Ladakh’ for Ladakh:

Ladakh has approached the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for developing “Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal ‘Geo-Ladakh’”.

Ladakh has approached the **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)**, a unit of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for developing “**Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal ‘Geo-Ladakh’ for UT-Ladakh**”. This portal will be used to find, access, distribute & contribute geospatial information and its associated geographic services such as navigation, buffer, measurements analysis, metadata catalogue, map catalogue and more.

The Union Territories of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli will become a single union territory on January 26,

The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019 was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the just concluded winter session of Parliament.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 2 of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Act, 2019 (44 of 2019), the central government hereby appoints the 26th day of January, 2020

Ladakh was established as a **union territory of India** on **31 October, 2019**, following the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. Prior to that, it was part of the Jammu and Kashmir state. Ladakh is both the largest and the second least populous union territory of India.

Now,

India currently has 8 Union Territories (UTs) – Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu,

An Act to provide for the **Reorganisation of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir**

Act No. 34 of 2019

Considered by - Parliament of India

Enacted by : Rajya Sabha
Enacted : 5 August 2019

Enacted by : Lok Sabha

Enacted : 6 August 2019

Assented to : 9 August 2019

Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

Signed by : President of India
(Ram Nath Kovind)
Signed : 9 August 2019
Effective : 31 October 2019

Legislative history

First chamber : Rajya Sabha
Bill published : 5 August 2019
Introduced by : Minister of Home Affairs
(Amit Shah)
First reading : 5 August 2019
Second reading : 6 August 2019

Some special news for Ladakh

- ❖ Pyongyang Lake in Ladakh is the highest salt water lake in the world. Here, the water is almost completely frozen.
- ❖ The Khartungal Pass in Ladakh, the world's longest mountain pass, claimed 18 lives during its construction.
- ❖ Marmot is a type of animal that can be seen only in Ladakh region. These are small and beautiful to look at.
- ❖ The royal palace in Ladakh is very famous. It was built in 1600 AD by Chengi Namkiai. The Druk White Lotus School here is one of the most famous schools in Tibet. Hundreds of students study in it.
- ❖ Siachen Army Base is known as Obi Baba Monastery. The name is given in honor of the hero Obi Baba who single-handedly defeated the Mavlon attack.

Arun Kumar Singh, former chairman of BPCL, is appointed Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC:

- ❖ Arun Kumar Singh, former chairman of oil refining and marketing company BPCL, was on Wednesday appointed chairman and managing director of ONGC — the first instance of a retired person being appointed the head of a maharatna PSU.
- ❖ “The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas for the appointment of Arun Kumar Singh, ex-CMD, BPCL as chairman, ONGC for a threeyear tenure with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post,” an official order said.

❖ Govt launches plan for transmission of 500 GW green energy by 2030:

The government Wednesday launched a ₹2.44 lakh crore transmission plan to evacuate 500 gigawatts (GW) of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030.

The plan, based on the recommendations of an expert committee set up by the ministry, entails 50,890 circuit km transmission lines and 4,33,575 MvA substation capacity.



UGC forms panel to work on textbooks in Indian languages:

The course books will be translated into various languages including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Odiya, Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu. The UGC has informed the publishers that it would like to encourage Indian authors and academicians to write the textbooks in regional languages



Rs 1,620 Crore Allocation for Driverless Automated Metro Rail:

A contract has been awarded for the construction of a state-of-the-art signal train at a cost of Rs 1,620 crore to run an automatic driverless metro train. Metro has tied up with Hitachi Rail S.P.A. and Hitachi Rail STS India Pvt. It has been said that automatic trains can be run at a minimum interval of 1 minute and 30 seconds. He said that the new metro trains will be run through a specially made telecommunication harness system.



Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshini Nadar in the list of world's most powerful women! Forbes magazine publication:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar are among six Indians who have made it to the Forbes' annual list of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women". Ranked at number 36, Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 in the list, while she was in the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019

Nirmala Sitharaman is an Indian economist and politician serving as the **Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India since 2019.**

She is a member of the **Rajya Sabha, Upper house of the Indian Parliament**, since 2014.

Born: 18 August 1959 (age 63 years), Madurai

Education: Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Spouse: Parakala Prabhakar (m. 1986)

Previous offices: Minister of Defence of India (2017- 2019),

Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

Office: Minister of Finance of India since 2019.



SAARC:

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh

History

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an economic and political organization of eight countries in South Asia. It was established in 1985 when the Heads of State of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka formally adopted the charter. Afghanistan joined as the 8th member of SAARC in 2007. To date, 18th Summits have been held and Nepal's former Foreign Secretary is the current Secretary General of SAARC. The 19th Summit will be hosted by Pakistan in 2016.

Areas of Cooperation

- ❖ The Member States agreed on the following areas of cooperation:
- ❖ Agriculture and rural development

- ❖ Information, Communication and Media
- ❖ Education and culture
- ❖ Biotechnology
- ❖ Economic, trade and finance
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Science and Technology
- ❖ Poverty alleviation
- ❖ Security aspects
- ❖ People-to-People Contacts
- ❖ Funding mechanism
- ❖ Social development



Eminent economist and former Union minister YK Alagh passes away:

Yoginder K Alagh was an Indian economist and Union Minister of Government of India. He was the Chairman of Institute of Rural Management Anand from 2006 to 2012. He was the Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

Yoginder K Alagh, a veteran economist and former Union minister, recently passed away at the age of 83. He was the union minister of state for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and Power during 1996–98. He also served as the Vice Chancellor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi.



Priya Mohan Sinha passed away recently:

Priya Mohan Sinha, or Suman Sinha, an executive who acquired a formidable reputation as a business leader through his stints at the top rungs of Hindustan Lever and PepsiCo India went through economic liberalisation and witnessed a resultant consumer boom, passed away in Gurugram on Wednesday, aged 82-years

India ranked 48th in Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022:

- India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the **International Civil Aviation Organization**.
- India's score in terms of effective implementation of key safety elements has improved to 85.49%, putting it ahead of China (49), Israel (50) & Turkey (54).

4 years ago, India was at the 102nd spot in the rankings

Council President: Salvatore Sciacchitano

ICAO HQ: Montreal, Canada
ICAO Founded: 7 Dec 1944
Parent organization: United Nations

PURPOSE

To promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation around the world

Official language:

Arabic; Chinese;
English; French;
Russian, Spanish

India's First Virtual eLearning Platform for Drone Tech Will Train Future Champions: Garuda Aerospace CEO:

India's first eLearning platform for drone technology by Garuda Aerospace will provide skilling and training to one lakh youth over the next two years, said founder and CEO Agnishwar Jayaprakash. Inaugurated by union youth affairs minister Anurag Singh Thakur on Tuesday, this virtual platform called Garuda Virtual Drone and Skilling University will train future leaders and champions in the field, he said.



Mysuru scientist becomes UNESCO-TWAS fellow:

Mysuru-based scientist K S Rangappa has been awarded a fellowship of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a programme unit of UNESCO.

Rangappa, who was also vice-chancellor of University of Mysore (UoM) and Karnataka State Open University, is specialised in Chemical Biology-Drug Discovery.

Having served as General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) for the year 2019-20, Rangappa is also an ambassador (science and technology) of Hokkaido University of Japan.

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Headquarters: Paris, France

Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom

Founders: India, United States, Brazil, China, Egypt, Turkey, Mexico, MORE
(44 COUNTRIES)

Awards: Peabody Award, Shorty Social Good Award for Best Use of Music & Dance

Subsidiary: International Committee of Slavists

Parent organization: United Nations

Rajya Sabha clears Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, to strengthen the protection of endangered species and raise punishment for illegal trade in wildlife:

THE WILD Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022, which seeks to to strengthen the protection of endangered species and enhance punishment for illegal wildlife trade, was passed in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote.

The Bill, which was cleared by the Lok Sabha on August 2 during the monsoon session, was introduced by Environment and Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav.



Road transport Ministry to launch Surety bonds insurance product for infrastructure sector on December 19:

India's first ever Surety Bond insurance product is going to be launched on December 19 to boost liquidity in the infrastructure sector said Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

Speaking at the CII Global Economic Policy Summit, the minister said that the surety bonds will boost liquidity in infrastructure sector by freeing the contractors' working capital stuck in bank guarantees.

He added that highway project developers were facing difficulties in getting bank guarantees for their projects and this is going to give good relief to the contractors.

Gadkari also said that the Ministry will launch India's first insurance scheme for providing guarantee for construction projects.

This announcement comes in the backdrop of India looking to build 26 Expressways, multimodal logistics parks, funicular railway in Ladakh, 35 multimodal logistic parks, 670 wayside amenities, 28 emergency landing facilities and 260 ropeway and cable cars, among others.

Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) says Rural India adds 4.3 million jobs in November; marginal rise in employment in urban India:

Rural India added 4.3 million jobs in November, leading to a rise in the employment rate to 37.5% from 37% in October, while urban India saw a marginal increase from 34.2% to 34.4%, said the Center for Surveillance of India's Economy.

According to CMIE, the consumer sentiment index fell 0.2% in November after urban sentiment fell 1.5%, while rural India rose 0.5%. According to CMIE, the November 2022 ICS decline comes after two months of robust gains after rising somewhat sharply by 11.4% in the previous two months, the big festival months in India.

“A correction after the celebrations is understandable. Interestingly, the correction is small (0.2%) compared to the rise (11.4%) and consumer sentiment has consolidated almost all of the gains made during the festive months of 2022,” CMIE said in its weekly jobs analysis.

National Judicial Commission Bill introduced in Rajya Sabha:

A private member bill to regulate the appointment of judges through the National Judicial Commission was on Friday introduced in Rajya Sabha by CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya but was opposed by AAP MP Raghav Chadha.

The National Judicial Commission Bill, 2022 was introduced after the majority of voice votes were in its favour.

Bhattacharyya moved the bill that aims to regulate the procedure to be followed by the National Judicial Commission for recommending people for appointment as the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and other judges of High Courts.

Govt picks 67 entries under PLI scheme for specialty steel, to create jobs:

The government has selected a total of 67 entries with an investment potential of Rs 42,500 crore under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel.

The proposed investments are expected to generate 70,000 job opportunities and add 26 million tonnes of speciality steel capacity in the country.

A total of 79 applications were received from 35 small and large steel-making companies with investment commitments totalling Rs 46,000 crore to add downstream capacity of 28 million tonnes (MT) by 2030, the steel ministry said in a statement.

After several extensions, the final window for participation in the PLI scheme closed on September 15, 2022.

"Sixty-seven applications from 30 companies have been selected. This will attract committed investment of Rs 42,500 crore with a downstream capacity addition of 26 MT and employment generation potential of 70,000," the ministry said.

Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior steel ministry official had earlier told PTI.

The Union Cabinet in July last year approved a Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost the production of speciality steel in India.

Some of the categories of specialty steel included in the scheme are coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products, and steel wires, and electrical steel.

SEBI brings in revised norms for foreign investments in AIFs:

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has revised rules related to foreign investment in alternative investment funds (AIFs).

At the time of onboarding investors, the manager of an AIF should ensure that the foreign investor is a resident of the country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission's (IOSCO) multilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU), or a signatory to a bilateral MoU with SEBI.

Over 1 lakh Indians gave up citizenship in 10 months of 2022: Government in Lok Sabha:

Over 1.83 lakh Indians have renounced their citizenship between January and October, up by almost 20,000 from 1.63 lakh (approximately) in 2021, according to the Centre's reply in Lok Sabha on December 9.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs M Muraleedharan gave the figures in response to a question by Congress MP Abdul Khaleque.

According to the reply, 1.29 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2014. This number stood at 1.31 lakh in 2015 and 1.33 lakh in 2016. The number increased to 1.34 lakh in 2018 and 1.44 lakh in 2019. It dwindled to 85,256 in 2020.

This means that since 2014, over 12.43 lakh Indians have given up their citizenship

Pottery Barn Signs Deepika Padukone As Brand Ambassador:

US furniture retailer Pottery Barn on Friday announced that it has signed up Deepika Padukone as the brand ambassador to promote the company's international expansion.

As a brand ambassador for Pottery Barn, Padukone will also work closely with the brand to co-create a collection, Reliance Brands Limited - the retailer's local partner in India - said in a statement announcing the association.

Pottery Barn in partnership with Reliance Brands Limited recently opened doors in India with its website potterybarn.in followed by the company's first store in Ambience Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates FAI Annual Seminar at New Delhi:

Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Annual Seminar 2022(Fertilizer Sector by 2030) at New Delhi today.

Shri Arun Singhal, Secretary Department of Fertilizers, Shri Arvind Chaudhary, DG FAI, Shri KS Raju, Chairman FAI and representatives of Industries and other senior officials of the Ministry were also present on the occasion.

While addressing the occasion, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya stated that one of the important components for ensuring food security is fertilizers. He said that during the last three years, there has been a huge increase in fertilizers and raw materials prices. The Minister informed “our government has brought various reforms and ensured that fertilizers are made available at affordable prices to Indian farmers. We have done this by increasing the amount of fertilizer subsidy from US dollars 10 Billion for the pre-pandemic year 2019-20 to almost US dollars 27 Billion in the current year.

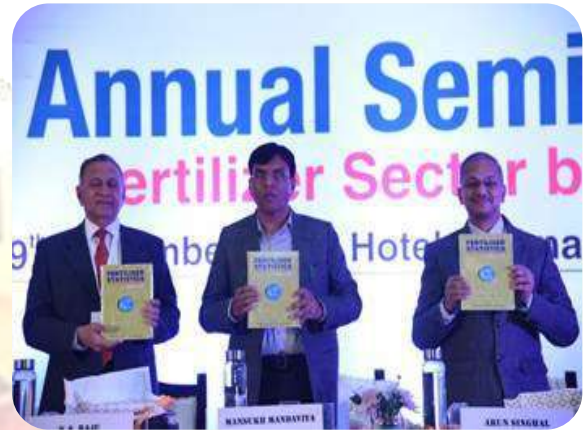
Dr. Mandaviya said that “long-term Agreements and MoUs will have an important role to play in making steady progress in this direction. Our government has facilitated various such agreements and MoUs between Indian Fertilizer companies and foreign suppliers to ensure stability in fertilizer supplies to our farmers”.

India’s first payment gateway to support credit cards on UPI:

Razorpay becomes India's first payment gateway to support credit cards on UPI. Razorpay, India's full-stack payments and banking platform for businesses announced the platform's readiness to support credit card transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Military Logistics Production:

The Sweden-based Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has listed the 100 largest military logistics companies in the world. In it, 2 public sector companies Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) and Bharat Electronics (BEL) from India have been placed.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-U.S. exercise near Line of Actual Control irks China:

New Delhi: India-US joint military exercise in the Uttarakhand region on the India-China border is considered very important.

The border issues between India and China have become an ongoing story even beyond the wars. Negotiations have been going on for years following China's incursion into the eastern Ladakh border. China's harassment continues in all areas like Ladakh border, Arunachal Pradesh border, Bhutan border.

In this case, the Indian-American army is going to conduct a joint military exercise in the border region of Uttarakhand state, which is shocking to China. The military exercise will be held in Ali, Uttarakhand. This joint military exercise will be conducted under the name of **Ex - Youth Abhyas 2022**.

Ex - Youth Abias is an annual India-US joint military exercise. The 18th edition of the X Youth Abias is currently being held.

The exercise was held as part of Indo-US military cooperation. An Indian contingent of 350 soldiers from the 7th Madras Infantry Battalion and 350 American soldiers from the First Squadron (Airborne) participated in it.

The exercise is hosted alternately by the two countries since 2004.

India-France Strategic Dialogue:

The 36th India-France Strategic Dialogue is set to take place on January 5, with a focus on addressing China's militarization of the Indo-Pacific region and ways in which the two nations can work together to counter it.

In addition to the strategic talks, Diplomatic Advisor Bonne will also meet with India's Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister. Though the Indian government has not disclosed further details about the content of the dialogue, it is clear that India is seeking to strengthen its self-reliance in weapons and hardware with the help of key allies like France due to Russia's preoccupation with the war in Ukraine.



India abstains from voting on U.N. resolution on Israel:

The draft resolution was adopted with 87 votes in favour, 26 against and 53 abstentions, including by India

India abstained in the U.N. General Assembly on a resolution that asked the International Court of Justice for its opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's "prolonged occupation" and annexation of the Palestinian territory.

The draft resolution 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem' was adopted by a recorded vote on Friday, with 87 votes in favour, 26 against and 53 abstentions, including by India.

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

i. The World Bank in its 37th Migration and Development Brief 2022 titled 'Remittances Brave Global Headwinds, Special Focus: Climate Migration' stated that India is all set to receive more than USD 100 bn in yearly remittances in 2022.

ii. This means migrant workers from India will send a record USD 100 bn in 2022 to their

home country (India), despite global headwinds like rising prices.

iii. This is for the first time a single country will receive more than USD 100 bn in yearly remittances.

iv. India remains the world's top recipient of remittances.

v. The growth of global remittance flows is expected to be 4.9% in 2022.

vi. Remittance flows to India will rise 12% which is ahead of China, Mexico and the Philippines.



India to Receive
Over record
\$100 bn
in remittances in
2022
World Bank
AffairsCloud

World Bank Report: Over 160-200 Million Indians Could Be Exposed to Lethal Heat Waves Annually:

According to the World Bank (WB) Report titled "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector," India is experiencing increasing temperatures every year, and by 2030, over 160-200 million people across the country could be subjected to severe heat waves every year.

- Due to productivity declines brought on by heat stress, 34 million people in India would lose their jobs.

Impacts of Heat Stress:

Food loss due to heat during transportation currently costs close to USD 13 billion per year. ii. There will be a need for a new air conditioner every 15 seconds by 2037 and hence the demand for cooling is projected to be 8 times more than it is in 2022.

India's Initiatives for Assisting People in Adapting to Rising Temperatures

The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to provide sustainable cooling solutions across various sectors.

The ICAP gives a 20-year outlook (2017-18 to 2037-38) and recommendations to address cooling needs across sectors.



India and South Korea sign agreement for EDCF loan to develop Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project:

The Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan of Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 crores) to establish Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project was signed between the Government of India and Government of Republic of Korea.



The Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan of Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 crores) to establish Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project was signed between the Government of India and Government of Republic of Korea.

Republic of Korea was designated as India's Official Development Assistance (ODA) partner for development cooperation in October, 2016. "This is the first project funded by EDCF loan by the Government of Republic of Korea," the ministry added.

The Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) was established in 1987 and plays an important role as Korea's representative aid fund. As an OECD DAC



member, the government of Korea is continuously reflecting the demands of developing countries for infrastructure expansion and endeavor to establish a new development cooperation model and raise the level of aid quality.

The EDCF supports partner countries in providing of loans for their economic development. The EDCF's loans are administered by the Export-Import Bank of Korea under the supervision of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance.

Germany Announces 1 billion EURO for Energy Transition Projects in India:

On 30th November 2022 Germany launched a proposal to grant 1 billion EURO (Rs. 8440 crore) for energy transition projects across India under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development.

The announcement was made ahead of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India in December 2022.

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

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

The fund will support India's initiatives in the areas of renewable energy, sustainable urban development in smart cities, and sustainable resource use.

The funding comprises 10% in grants and the remaining 90% will be in the form of lines of credit.

The lines of credit will be provided by Development Bank with very cheap interest ranging from 2.7% to 3.2% for development projects in states including Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

Tea Import:

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has moved up to the 2nd position in the list of countries that import the most tea from India.
- ❖ The UAE imported 28.59 million kg of tea from India during the period from January to September last year.
- ❖ This is an increase of 159 percent compared to the same period last year. Russia and the former Soviet Union topped the list.

Suhel Ajaz Khan appointed as next Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia:

Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22 Dec 2022.

He is a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and is presently serving as Indian ambassador to Lebanon.

He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer.

He worked at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh between September 2017 and June 2019 as Deputy Chief of Mission.

New Zealand govt passes world's first tobacco law to ban smoking:

- The New Zealand government has passed a law to completely end tobacco smoking by banning youth from buying cigarettes for life. The Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products (Smoking Tobacco) Amendment Bill has been passed in New Zealand which aims to make New Zealand smoke free by 2025.



PM Modi holds telephonic conversation with Russian President Putin:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday had a telephonic conversation with the President of Russia Vladimir Putin. During the conversation, Mr. Modi briefed President Putin on India's ongoing Presidency of the G-20, highlighting its key priorities.

Mr. Modi said that he also looks forward to both countries working together during India's Chairship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Having expressed satisfaction with the high level bilateral co-operation developing on the principles of the Russian-Indian special and privileged strategic partnerships the two leaders discussed in detail the prospects for practical interaction in such areas as mutual investment, energy, agriculture, transport and logistic, trade and investments, defence and security cooperation, and other key areas.



In the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy as the only way forward. At the request of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President gave fundamental assessment of Russian lines on the Ukrainian direction. The two leaders agreed to remain in regular touch with each other.

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

- Ukraine war boosts energy prices, spending shifts to services
- Trade flows to fall in 2023 due to higher prices, lower growth

The value of global trade is set to reach a new record this year, increasing by about 12% to an estimated \$32 trillion, according to a UN report that signaled a slowdown heading into 2023.

"The substantial trade growth during the last year was largely due to increases in the value of the trade of energy products," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in the report released Tuesday.

Indo-Nepal Joint Training Exercise “SURYA KIRAN-XVI” Begins at Nepal Army Battle School:

Focus Of The Exercise:

The joint exercise would focus on the evolution of combined drills for the planning and conduct of tactical operations at the unit level in counter-terrorism operations and disaster response mechanisms in general, as well as the role of armed forces in the management of disasters.

During the exercise, participants will be training together to develop inter-operability and share their experience, including counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations as well as humanitarian relief operations. The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation, which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations, said the release.

The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal joint military training exercise Surya Kiran was held on September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

The 14th edition of the exercise took place in Saljhandi, Nepal, in 2019.



Trade in merchandise goods soared to \$25 trillion, an increase of about 10% versus the prior year. Trade in services grew 15% year-over-year to nearly \$7 trillion, according to the report.

The UN body expects the inflation-adjusted value of global trade will diminish next year because of the combined impact of geopolitical frictions, lower economic growth, higher prices for goods and record levels of global debt. Based on volumes, “trade continued to increase throughout 2022, a signal of resilient global demand,” the report stated.

Fiji elects Sitiveni Rabuka as new Prime Minister, ends Bainimarama’s 16-year reign:

Fiji has elected Sitiveni Rabuka as the new Prime Minister, ending Frank Bainimarama's 16-year rule. Rabuka gained 28 votes to Bainimarama's 27 to become the new leader in a parliamentary ballot on Saturday, more than a week after a national election delivered a hung parliament. Rabuka, who was also PM between 1992 and 1999, instigated two coups in 1987.

Fiji - Country in Oceania

Fiji, a country in the South Pacific, is an archipelago of more than 300 islands.

Capital : Suva

Area : 18,274 km²

Currency : Fijian Dollar

Continent : Oceania

Official languages: Fijian, English, Hindi, Fiji Hindi.

PUMA India appointed Anushka Sharma as its new brand ambassador:

Puma India has roped in Bollywood actor and entrepreneur Anushka Sharma as its new brand ambassador in December 2022.

The association is intended to “accelerate Puma’s strong commitment towards the women consumer segment”.

The brand’s other ambassadors in India include Kareena Kapoor Khan, MC Mary Kom, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, and most recently Harrdy Sandhu.

Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise ‘Kazind – 2022’ commences at Umroi, Meghalaya:

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 upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

UK, France, and UAE extend support for India’s permanent membership at UNSC:

UK, France, and UAE extend support for India's permanent membership at UNSC. The UK, France, and UAE have extended their support for India's permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). India is holding the presidency of United Nations Security Council for the month of December 2022.

India, Germany ink migration agreement; Jaishankar defends Russian oil purchase:

India’s consumption of Russian oil is just one-sixth of European consumption and should not be compared unfavorably Ms. Baerbock’s visit coincided with the launch of an “oil price cap” plan by the G-7 and European Union countries to withdraw shipping and insurance services to countries that buy Russian oil above the price of \$60 a barrel.

GERMANY

- **It is Western European Country**
- **Capital : Berlin**
- **Currency : Euro**

The current Minister of External Affairs is **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, succeeding Sushma Swaraj of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 30 May 2019.

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



Famous Footballer, Cristiano Ronaldo has sensationally joined Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr on a two and a half year deal worth 200 million euros per season.

12th World Hindi Conference will take place in February 2023 in Nadi, Fiji:

12th World Hindi Conference: According to P S Kartigeyan, the Indian High Commissioner to the South Pacific island, Fiji will host the famous World Hindi Conference for the first time next year as a new platform for the globalisation of Hindi. The governments of India and Fiji decided together to host the World Hindi Conference in Fiji.

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" as its 2022 person of the year, for the resistance the country has shown in the face of Russia's invasion. Zelensky shares the 2022 title with "the spirit of Ukraine," which Felsenthal said was embodied by the "countless individuals inside and outside the country" who fought behind the scenes, including everyday people such as chefs and surgeons.



The largest trading partner of India after China and US, as of 2022:

- The India-UAE trade is valued at USD 72.8 billion in 2021-22, making the UAE India's third largest trading partner after China and US.
- Abu Dhabi, UAE's capital city is seeking more investments from India.
- Abu Dhabi has identified priority sectors including agri-tech, tourism, healthcare, pharma and financial services, where Indian enterprises can invest.

India and Bangladesh celebrated "Maitri Divas" on December 6.

On 6 December, the 51st anniversary of by India to Bangladesh in 1971 was celebrated in Dhaka.



- ❖ Freedom fighters, parliamentarians, civil society members, media, dignitaries and other prominent people participated in the event organized by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.
- ❖ Bangladesh Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque was the chief guest on the occasion.
- ❖ The two countries had decided during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in March to commemorate December 6 as Maitri Divas as it was on this day in 1971 that India recognised the new country.
- ❖ The decision to celebrate 6th December as 'Maitri Diwas' was taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during Prime Minister Modi's state visit to Bangladesh in March 2021.
- ❖ It is the day on which India recognized Bangladesh as the new country in 1971.
- ❖ India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.
- ❖ Maitri Divas is observed to strengthen the ties between India and Bangladesh.

Dina Boluarte becomes Peru's first female president after former president Pedro Castillo is impeached:

Dina, who started the day as vice president and next in line after Castillo, faces the challenge of healing a divided Peru where the presidency has been locked in battle with Congress.

The South American country, Peru, has just seen a significant political upheaval. Pedro Castillo has been impeached and arrested and Dina Boluarte, a 60-year old lawyer, has become the country's first female President. For the markets, the crisis in Peru may be important because it makes for nearly 15% of the world's copper exports as per 2020 data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha participate in maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) conducted by Bangladesh Navy (BN):

Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to participate in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) being conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN). The ships are taking part in a variety of activities being conducted as a part of BN IFR-22 from 06 to 09 December 2022.

IFR-22 is being conducted by BN this year, to commemorate the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. The Chief Guest for the Fleet Review scheduled was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mrs Sheikh Hasina.

SPORTS

Ash Barty wins Australia's prestigious Don Award for second time:

Ash Barty, who retired from tennis earlier this year at the age of 25, won Australia's prestigious Don Award for the second time in her career after 2019.

Ash Barty won 3 Grand Slams in her career

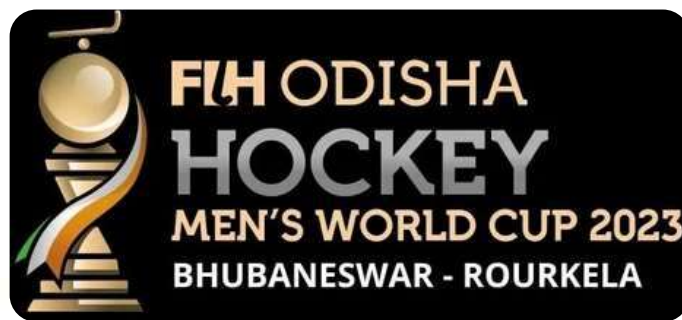
Barty became the 3rd to win the Don Award for the 2nd time

- Barty retired from tennis at the age of 25
- By India Today Web Desk: Former tennis star Ash Barty won Australia's prestigious Don Award for the second time in her career after 2019. She also became the third after hurdler Sally Pearson (2012 and 2014) and pole vaulter Steve Hooker (2008 and 2009) to win the award twice.
- The Don Award is given to a player or a team, "which has provided the most inspiration to the country through performance and example in the past year." It's considered the highest honour in Australian sport.



FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023:

Odisha is the host of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023. The quadrennial tournament is scheduled from January 13 to 29 at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The state's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently unveiled official logo of FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023. The country's largest hockey stadium is being constructed in Rourkela.



The Player of the Year Award by the Women's Tennis Association 2022:

Tennis star **Iga Swiatek** was chosen for the player of the year award by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) for the first time following her incredible run in 2022

T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind:

The third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind was inaugurated at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium in Gurugram on December 5, 2022.

The participating nations are Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the host, India. It is being organised to mark the World Disability Day celebrations universally.

Yuvraj Singh is the brand ambassador of the tournament.

FINA World Swimming C'ships 2022: Chahat Arora sets national record in women's 50m breaststroke:

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 on Saturday.

Chahat Arora clocked 32.91s to top heat 2 at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre's 25m short course pool and bettered her own previous record of 32.94s set at the National Aquatic Championships 2022 in September. Lithuania's Ruta Meilutyte, topped the overall heats with a timing of 29.10s.



Argentine swimmer Macarena Ceballos was the final competitor to make the semis cut with a 30.33s timing. This was the 25-year-old Chahat Arora's second national record-setting

performance at the Melbourne meet. The FINA World Swimming Championships 2022, the 16th edition of the competition.

First football player to score goals in 5 different World Cups:

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first player to score goals in 5 different World Cup tournaments. The former Manchester United player reached this milestone after he converted a penalty in the 65th minute against Ghana in their Group H match

Most searched sports person in India:

spinner Pravin Tambe

Surprisingly the biggest sports stars including Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma or Neeraj Chopra failed to top the list in India. Veteran leg spinner Pravin Tambe, became the most searched sportsperson on Google in India in 2022, even though he was not part of the IPL or any form of cricket this year.

Google's most searched Sportsperson for 2022:

After a year-long hiatus due to COVID-19, most major sports events returned to their former glory in 2022. Several tournaments opened their doors to fans as well after a long break. Athletes have always been a topic of interest for the public due to their humble backgrounds and nationalist appeal. Many have accumulated a vast amount of wealth and celebrity status.

Google's most searched Sportsperson for 2022:

Novak Djokovic was the top searched athlete on Google in 2022. The Serbian player took the 2022 Wimbledon trophy, earning his 21st Grand Slam title.

The new batting coach of the Indian women's team in December 2022:

- Former India player Hrishikesh Kanitkar has been named as the batting coach of the India women's team ahead of the T20Is against Australia this month.
- BCCI announced Kanitkar as the new batting coach of the women's team with former head coach Ramesh Powar switching to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) as spin bowling coach.
- "It is an honour to be appointed as the new Batting Coach of the Senior Women's team," Kanitkar said of his appointment.

EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

India To Be First Country To Auction SatCom Spectrum:

India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication, and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector, telecom regulator Trai chairman PD Vaghela said.

Speaking at a Broadband India Forum summit on SatCom, Vaghela said the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) will soon make recommendations to make permissions required for satellite communication from various ministries.

Satellite communication refers to any communication link that involves the use of an artificial satellite in its propagation path.



Senior nuclear scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla is new head of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:

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.

He joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in the year 1981 after completing the 25th batch of BARC Training School.



Formed	: 15 th November 1983
Jurisdiction	: Indian Government
Head Quarters	: Mumbai

20 New Nuclear Power Plants to be Commissioned in Country by 2031:

India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by 2031, adding nearly 15,000 MW in power generating capacity, the government told the Lok Sabha. The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is expected to be commissioned in 2023 at Kakrapar in Gujarat, which already has three atomic power generating units operational.

According to a written reply by Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam is likely to be operational in 2024, followed by two 1,000 MW units at Kudankulam in 2025.



8th India International Science Festival in Bhopal:

The eighth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in Bhopal next month to celebrate the country's achievements in the field of science, technology and innovation.

The minister said the participation of the Department of Space (DOS) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in supporting IISF was an added attraction this year.

IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati which is a science movement with swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country.

International Conference on “J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist” Organized in New Delhi:

On the occasion of 164th birth anniversary of legendary Indian scientist **Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose** and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, Vijnana Bharati and Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organized an “**International conference on the contributions of J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist**”, at Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi.

He was a **Plant Physiologist and physicist** who invented the crescograph, a device for measuring the growth of plants. He for the first time demonstrated that plants have feelings.



Lophopetalum tanahgambut:

- Lophopetalum tanahgambut is a newly identified tree species belonging to the genus Lophopetalum in the cosmopolitan family Celastraceae.
- It is a large top canopy tree that grows to 40 m tall And with a trunk diameter at breast height of up to 1.05 m.
- The new species is only known from peat swamp forests of the Indonesian island of Sumatra.



PEAT SWAMP FORESTS:

Peat swamp forests are tropical moist forests where waterlogged soil prevents dead leaves and wood from fully decomposing. Over time, this creates a thick layer of acidic peat. Large areas of these forests are being logged at high rates.



Peat swamp forests

ISRO’s RH-200 sounding rocket records 200th consecutive successful flight:

- ❖ The RH-200 Rohini sounding rocket recorded its 200th consecutive successful launch on Wednesday from Thumba here.
- ❖ The milestone event was witnessed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S. Somanath, former chairman G. Madhavan Nair and senior officials and veterans of the space agency.
- ❖ The small rocket lifted off at 11.55 a.m. from the launchpad at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).



What is the digital rupee?

The digital rupee, or the e-rupee, is a central bank digital currency issued by the RBI. It is similar to the physical cash that you hold in your 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. It is, however, different from deposits that you hold in a bank. Unlike deposits which are paid interest, the digital rupees in your wallet are not paid any interest by the central bank. Deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice-versa

Supreme Court directs Centre, RBI to submit records behind demonetisation decision.

The Supreme Court on December 7 directed the Centre and the RBI to place on record the “relevant records” relating to the government’s 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of ₹1,000 and ₹500 denomination for its perusal.

Demonetisation date : 8 November 2016.

Demonetisation in India has taken place three times till now
→ 1946, 1968, 2016



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA



Governor: Shaktikanta Das
Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
Founder: British Raj
Currency: Indian rupee (*)
Reserves: \$532.30 billion
Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Head Quarters : Mumbai

World Bank revs up growth hopes to 6.9%:

After three downgrades in its 2022-23 GDP growth estimates, Bank reverses course, citing strong Q2 growth and strong demand at the start of Q3

The World Bank on December 6 lifted its growth forecast for India's economy this year to 6.9%, after having downgraded it to 6.5% in October, citing resilience in economic activity despite a deteriorating external environment.

The Bank said it revised the GDP forecast considering the strong upturn in the July to September quarter of 2022-23, when it grew 6.3% despite inflationary pressures and tighter financing conditions, "driven by strong private consumption and investment".

In a better place

India is better positioned to manage external shocks, according to the World Bank's India Development Update. Excerpts:



India's growth is affected by slower growth in major economies but the impact on India is relatively less compared to other emerging market economies



The merchandise trade deficit will widen, driven by high oil prices. Goods export growth expected to moderate but will be 'somewhat offset' by Services exports



Forex reserves down 10% this year, but still provide 'adequate buffer against global spillovers' with about eight months' import cover

RBI signs Currency Swap Agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority:

About Currency Swap Arrangement:

The word swap means exchange. A currency swap between two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

In the present context, the facility is to provide swap support as an alternative source of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements.

In 2020, the RBI signed a currency swap agreement for extending up to a USD 400 million to Sri Lanka.

Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made.

These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.

Exchange rate risk, also known as currency risk, is the financial risk arising from fluctuations in the value of a base currency against a foreign currency in which a company or individual has assets or obligations.

About RBI's Framework for Swap Facilities for SAARC:

The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation on 15th November, 2012.

The RBI can offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion.

The swap drawals can be made in US dollar, euro or Indian rupee. The framework provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian rupee.

The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.

AWARDS

Sharath Kamal receives Khel Ratna award:

Achanta Sharath Kamal (born 12 July 1982) is an Indian professional table tennis player. He is the first Indian table tennis player ever to become ten times Senior National Champion hence breaking the record of eight-time National Champion Kamlesh Mehta. In 2019 he was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award and in 2022, he was awarded the Khel Ratna Award, India's highest sporting honour.

THE DAWN AWARD

The Dawn Award was introduced by the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2021 and is awarded annually by the Sport Australia Hall of Fame Selection Committee. The Award honours an individual, team, or organisation – from this or a previous generation – who are courageous, brave, and have changed sport for the better. It was struck to recognise those who may sit below the nation's consciousness but whose stories are inspiring when given the light of day.

Above all, like Dawn, the Award winner has been a courageous ground breaker, who achieved against the odds and challenged the status quo.

The Dawn Award is named in recognition of inaugural Sport Australia Hall of Fame female Inductee and Legend, Dawn Fraser AC MBE.

Winners of The Dawn Award are not inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame however, once retired, they do become eligible for nomination.



Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award' in America:

US President Joe Biden has recognised Indian-American and a longtime Houstonian, Krishna Vavilala, with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award, the nation's highest honour for his contributions to his community and the country at large.

The Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Awards, led by AmeriCorps, is an annual event held to honour citizens, who exhibit outstanding character, worth ethic, and dedication to their communities.

AmeriCorps, an agency of the United States government, engages more than five million Americans in service through a variety of volunteer work programmes in many sectors.



Sahitya Akademi Awards announced, Anuradha Roy among 23 winners:

The awards in 23 languages included seven books of poetry, six of novel, two of short stories, three dramas, two literary criticism and one each of autobiographical essays, collection of articles and literary history

India author Anuradha Roy won the coveted Sahitya Akademi Award 2022 in the English language for her novel 'All The Lives We Never Lived',

Sahitya Akademi,

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, was established in 1954 by the Government of India. As India's Premier literary institution, the Akademi preserves and promotes literature contained in twenty four Indian Languages recognized by it through Awards, Fellowships, Grants, Publications, Literary Programmes, Workshops and Exhibitions. The Akademi also undertakes literary exchange programmes with various countries across the globe to promote Indian literature beyond the shores of India.

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi is **India's National Academy of Letters**.
- ❖ The Government of India established the Sahitya Akademi on **12 March 1954**.
- ❖ Sahitya Akademi was set up by the Government but functions as an **autonomous organisation**.
- ❖ On 7 January 1956, it was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ Sahitya Akademi has recognised **English and Rajasthani** apart from the **22 languages** enumerated in the Indian Constitution.

Former IAS officer M. Rajendran, who has won the Sahitya Akademi award for the year 2022 for this Tamil Novel "Kaala Paani" called on Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on Friday. He also met Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat.

Quaide Milleth Award for Probity in Political / Public Life 2022 awarded to Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani and The Wire (India) Media:

The Quaide Milleth Educational and Social Trust on Thursday announced that it will present the Quaide Milleth Award for Probity in Political / Public Life 2022, to Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani and The Wire (India) Media at a function next month.

The award, named after Quaide Milleth Mohamed Ismail Sahib, is given annually to veterans in political and public life with deep commitment to constitutional values, secularism, pluralism, inclusivism and concern for marginalised people, according to a trust press release.

Mr. Veeramani has been recognised for upholding the principles and taking forward the DK movement while The Wire is being honoured for its “outstanding contribution to journalistic excellence” based on value and high principles of fairness and ethics, the Trust said.

Retired civil servant and SIET Chairman Moosa Razar, former Vice-Chancellor V. Vasanthi Devi, CSI (retd) Rev. Bishop Devasagayam, veteran journalist A.S. Paneerselvan and trust ex-officio general secretary M.G. Dawood Miakhan were a part of the selection committee.

Indian-origin teacher, Veena Nair wins PM’s prize in Australia:

Indian-origin teacher in Australia, Veena Nair has been awarded the 2022 Prime Minister’s Prize for Excellence in Secondary Science Teaching.

Melbourne-based, the Head of Technology and STEAM project leader at ViewBank College, Veena Nair, has received recognition for her work in showcasing students how to apply STEAM in real-world settings and how their abilities can have a positive impact on society.



A video message from Nair stated, “To be recognised in the Prime Minister’s prizes for science, I am deeply humbled. I am very grateful to my school, to my colleagues, to my students, and to my family”.

Veena said, “Many people know about STEM – science, technology, engineering and maths, but STEAM with an A, which is for Art. Art brings in out-of-the-box thinking, and it brings in creativity because students need steam skills to innovate, to become resilient and to take risks”.

Veena has more than 20 years of experience teaching science-based curricula all around India, the United Arab Emirates, and now Australia as a pioneering STEAM educator. In particular, young women and students from diverse backgrounds now obtain more first-round offers to study engineering and technology at universities because of her work.

She started her teaching career in Mumbai, where she taught pupils how to code and gave computers to schools with low socioeconomic status. Students from Veena's class take part in the Swinburne Youth Space Innovation Challenge, a 10-week initiative that challenges secondary students to design the best experiment for launch into space.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DECEMBER 1 - World AIDS Day 2022 :

The global HIV response is in danger, even as HIV remains a major public health issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Over the last few years progress towards HIV goals has stalled, resources have shrunk, and millions of lives are at risk as a result.

Division, disparity and disregard for human rights are among the failures that allowed HIV to become and remain a global health crisis.

On 1 December WHO joins partners to commemorate World AIDS Day 2022, under the **theme "Equalize"**. WHO is calling on global leaders and citizens to boldly recognize and address the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS; and equalize access to essential HIV services particularly for children and key populations and their partners - men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who use drugs, sex workers, and people in prisons.



December 2 - International day of abolition of slavery:

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is celebrated, each year, on December 2.

The day is observed to remind us of the evils of enslavement, forced labour, child labour, and sexual exploitation and trafficking and to eliminate slavery practised in our time.

In the last five years, there has been an increase in instances of forced labour and forced marriages, as noted by the United Nations (UN). The UN mentions that the number of modern slaves increased to 50 million by the end of 2021.

On December 2, 1949, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others via resolution 317 (IV). The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is celebrated on December 2 to mark the above convention.



December 2 - World Computer Literacy Day

December 2 is observed as International Computer Literacy Day. It was started in 2001 by NIIT, a world-famous Indian computer firm.

Founded in 1981 by Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani, N.I.I.T, which stands for National Institute of Information Technology, is a skills and talent development company.



December 3 - International Day of People with disabilities:

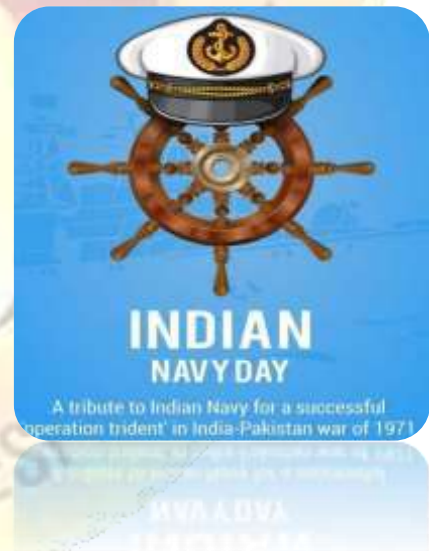
The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The main programme of the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the UN Headquarters in New York will include the Opening, panel discussions and cultural events. Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector are welcome to organize their own events to celebrate the International Day to raise awareness and promote the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities around the world.



December 4 - Indian Navy Day :

Navy Day in India is celebrated on 4 December every year to recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy to the country. 4 December was chosen as on that day in 1971, during Operation Trident, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels including PNS Khaibar, killing hundreds of Pakistani Navy personnel.



National Zoological Park celebrates International Cheetah Day 2022

The National Zoological Park, Delhi Zoo has celebrated International Cheetah Day and Wildlife Conservation Day in New Delhi on 4th December. The purpose of the celebration is to spread awareness among the present generation about Wildlife Conservation.

BINOMIAL NAME : *Acinonyx jubatus*

Fastest mammal on land, the cheetah can reach speeds of 60 or perhaps even 70 miles (97 or 113 kilometers) an hour over short distances. It usually chases its prey at only about half that speed, however. After a chase, a cheetah needs half an hour to catch its breath before it can eat.



December 5 - International Volunteer Day :

International Volunteer Day is celebrated on 5 December every year to promote volunteerism at local, national, and international levels.

The United Nations General Assembly notified in its resolution of 20 November 1997 that 2001 will be observed as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV).

The theme of the International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2022 is “solidarity through volunteering”.

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, more commonly referred to as International Volunteer Day, is an international observance mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.



December 5 - World Soil Day:

World Soil Day is held every year on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.

In December 2013 the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day. World Soil Day 2022 Theme: “Soils: where food begins”.

An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.



Parakram Diwas celebrated on the occasion of 51st anniversary of Longewala battle

To mark the 51st anniversary of India's victory in the Longewala battle during the 1971 war, Parakram Diwas celebrated at Jaisalmer Military Station and Longewala War Memorial in Rajasthan on December 5. Several programs has been organized on this occasion at the Sagat Singh Stadium.



December 6 - BR Ambedkar's death anniversary :

On 6 December 1956, he passed away. The day is observed to commemorate his unforgettable contribution to society and his achievements.

India observed December 6 as 67th Mahaparinirvan Divas to mark the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Babasaheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas at Parliament House Lawns in New Delhi.

BR Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, was born on April 14, 1891. Fondly known as Babasaheb, he fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country, eradicating the social scourge of untouchability and promoting gender equality. He was also among the seven members of the drafting committee who prepared a draft of the Constitution of independent India.

Ambedkar died in his sleep on 6 December 1956 at his home in Delhi. On his death anniversary, here's a look at some of his inspiring quotes to commemorate his memory and uphold the values he strongly believed in.

AWARD

In 1990, the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred on Ambedkar. The salutation **Jai Bhim** used by followers honours him. He is also referred to by the honorific Babasaheb, meaning "**Respected Father**".

Books by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- The Problem of the Rupee-Its Origin and its solution
- The Untouchables, Who are they?
- Who were the Shudra?
- States and Minorities
- Emancipation of the Untouchables

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is known as the father of the Indian Constitution.

December 6 - National Microwave Oven Day:

It is observed on 6 December to celebrate and honor the invention that has made their lives easier by making it convenient and faster for them to cook and reheat food.

December 7 - Armed Forces Flag Day:

Armed Forces Flag Day is commemorated around the country on December 7 every year. The day is observed to honour the martyrs and Armed Forces members who protect the homeland. It is dedicated to raising funds from the general public for the benefit of Armed Forces personnel.

Since 1949, December 07 has been observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day. It is celebrated in honour of the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.



December 7 - International Civil Aviation Day:

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December worldwide to raise awareness about its importance to the social and economic development of States and the role that ICAO plays in International air transport.

In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that 7 December was to be the International Civil Aviation Day. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization since 7 December 1994, the 50th anniversary of the signing the Convention on International Civil Aviation.



December 8 - Bodhi Day

Each year on December 8th, Buddhists celebrate the day that Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment through meditation. The word Bodhi means awakening or enlightenment.

Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, is popularly known as the Buddha. Siddhartha, once an Indian Prince, eventually abandoned his life of luxury for a much simpler one. Many believe that Siddhartha resolved to sit underneath a Bodhi tree and meditate until he found the root of suffering and how to free himself from it.

It took 49 days of unbroken meditation. After becoming enlightened and experiencing Nirvana, Siddhartha became a Buddha, or “Awakened One.” For 2,500 years, Buddha’s enlightenment has served as the central tenant of the Buddhist faith.



9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day:

The 2022 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development. At its core is the notion that tackling this crime is the right and responsibility of everyone, and that only through cooperation and the involvement of each and every person and institution can we overcome the negative impact of this crime. States, government officials, civil servants, law enforcement officers, media representatives, the private sector, civil society, academia, the public and youth alike all have a role to play in this.

The 2022 IACD also marks the start of our efforts to mark the twentieth anniversary of UNCAC. This is reflected by the theme of this year’s international day, “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”. Over the next year, culminating with IACD 2023, together with partners worldwide, we will be reflecting on a world made better thanks to the collective push afforded by the Convention and, crucially, what gaps remain to ensure this is a truly strong mechanism for the years ahead.

On this day, as well as beyond as we mark 20 years of UNCAC, join us as we continue to unite the world against corruption.



December 10 - Human Rights Day:

Human Rights Day is observed on 10th December:

2022 Theme: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be celebrated on 10 December 2023. Ahead of this milestone, starting on this year's Human Rights Day on 10 December 2022, we will launch a year-long campaign to showcase the UDHR by focusing on its legacy, relevance and activism.

In the decades since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, human rights have become more recognised and more guaranteed across the globe. It has since served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today focuses also on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants.

However, the promise of the UDHR, of dignity and equality in rights, has been under a sustained assault in recent years. As the world faces challenges new and ongoing – pandemics, conflicts, exploding inequalities, morally bankrupt global financial system, racism, climate change – the values, and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide guideposts for our collective actions that do not leave anyone behind.

The year-long campaign seeks to shift the needle of understanding and action towards greater knowledge of the universality of the UDHR and the activism associated with it.



December 11 - International Mountain Day:

International Mountain Day is celebrated on 11 December every year to educate children and people about the role that mountains play in providing fresh water, clean energy, food, and recreation. The theme of 2021 is "Sustainable mountain tourism".

December 11 - UNICEF Day

Several countries around the world were still to recover from the shock of the Second World War, with national economies in ruins. However, a significant event happened on December 11, 1946, the United Nations General Assembly took the decision to look after and protect children's lives across the world and formed an emergency fund. Subsequently, in 1953 the fund, under the management of the UN, became a separate organisation, and UNICEF was born.



December 11 became the UNICEF day when thousands of UNICEF associates across the world renewed their pledges to work to uplift the condition of children of the World, particularly those from the underprivileged sections.

December 12 - Universal Health Coverage Day:



INTERNATIONAL
**UNIVERSAL
HEALTH**
COVERAGE DAY
12th DECEMBER

Universal Health Coverage Day, commemorated each 12 December, is the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.

December 13 - National Horse Day

National Horse Day is celebrated every December 13. It's a day to remember the economic, historic, and cultural contributions that horses have made. Equine enthusiasts across the country will get together on December 13 to show their appreciation for these majestic creatures. Whether you're a seasoned rider or have never been on a horse in your life, check out some ways you can recognize the day.



December 14 - National Energy Conservation Day :

Objective:

The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources. It also highlights the achievements of the country in the fields of energy efficiency and conservation

Since 1991, National Energy Conservation Day has been celebrated on December 14.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the power ministry of India, launched the National Energy Conservation Awards in 1991.

National Energy Conservation Day: Quotes, Wishes, Messages, Slogans, Theme, Awards, and More.



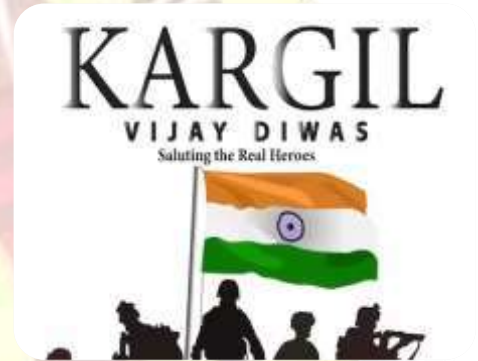
December 16 - Vijay Diwas:

Vijay Diwas is celebrated on December 16 every year to honour the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war. On the day, India pays homage to all the soldiers who defended the nation.

Why does India celebrate Vijay Diwas?

On December 16, 1971, India had won the war against Pakistan after fighting for 13 days. The chief of the Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini, along with 93,000 Pakistani troops.

It was also the biggest-ever military surrender after World War II.



December 18 - Minorities Rights Day in India :

Minority Rights Day which is observed on December 18th every year was celebrated at the National Commission for Minorities on December 16, 2022. The United Nations on December 18, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities. Minority Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.

Union Minister of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla



December 18 - International Migrants Day :

International Migrants Day is celebrated on 18 December to raise awareness about the protection of migrants and refugees. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is calling on the international community to come together and remember the migrants and refugees who have lost their lives or have disappeared while reaching a safe harbor.



December 19 - Goa's Liberation Day:

It took Goa 14 years after India gained independence from Portuguese rule to become independent.

On December 19, 1961, Jawaharlal Nehru sent armed forces to the coastal state. The Portuguese surrendered and the state was liberated. As a result, Goa, Daman, and Diu became Union Territories of India.

Goa continued to be a Union Territory till 1987 and then was given statehood by becoming the 25th state of India.



**GOA
LIBERATION
DAY**

December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day

International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is **observed annually on December 20 across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity**. IHSD highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to create awareness about poverty and the need to reduce poverty in independent nations.



December 21 - Blue Christmas :

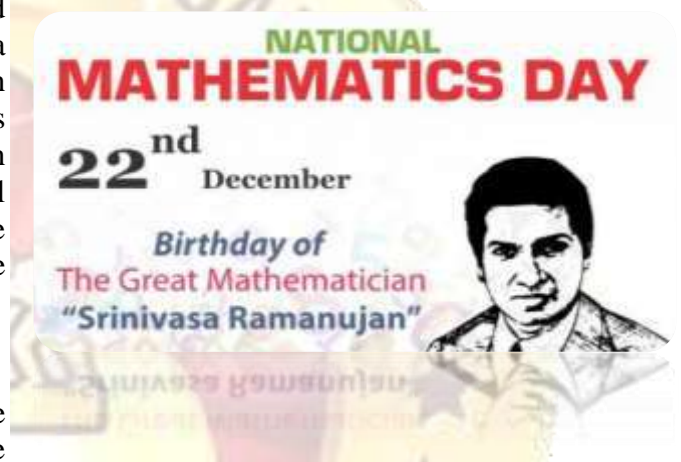
Blue Christmas is a Western Christian tradition that happens on or around the longest night of the year, usually December 21 the Winter Solstice. It is about comforting fellow Christians who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during the season.

December 21 - World Saree Day:

World Saree Day 2022: **World Saree Day is an initiative to commemorate and highlight the beauty of this traditional attire.** It is observed annually on 21 December. The Nine-Yard Wonder- Saree is one of the most exquisite, graceful, and gorgeous presents of Indian craftsmanship that has been passed down through the ages

December 22 - National Mathematics Day :

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22 across the nation every year. The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887. This year nation celebrates his 135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.



National Mathematics Day: History

The day was announced on 26 February 2012 by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (22 Dec 1887- 26 Apr 1920). 2012 was also observed as National Mathematics Year. Ramanujan had a wealth of ideas that have transformed and reshaped 20th-century mathematics. These ideas continue to shape the mathematics of the 21st century.

1729 called Ramanujan number:

It's the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways." Because of this incident, 1729 is now known as the Ramanujan-Hardy number

The Father of Math is the great Greek mathematician and philosopher Archimedes.

December 23 - Kisan Diwas :

Kisan Divas or Farmer's Day in India or National Farmer's Day is celebrated on 23 December across the country to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

On this day various events, seminars, functions, and competitions are organized on agriculture and its importance to educate and provide knowledge to the people.

Chaudhary Charan Singh (23 December 1902 – 29 May 1987) served as the 5th Prime Minister of India between 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.

Historians and people alike frequently refer to him as the 'champion of India's peasants.

Following in the footsteps of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who gave the farmers the iconic phrase "JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN,".

He was the only Prime Minister of India who did not face Parliament.



The theme for 2022 is: "Igniting Young Minds By Innovative Farmers"

December 24 - National Consumer Rights Day :

Every Year 24th December is observed as National Consumer Day with a specific theme in India. On this day the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the president. The enactment of this Act is considered as a historic milestone in the consumer movement in the country.

The Consumer Protection Act 2019 is in to force from 20th July 2020.



December 25 - Christmas Day :

Christmas Day is celebrated on 25 December worldwide annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

December 25 - Good Governance Day (India) :

Good Governance Day in India:

Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on the twenty-fifth day of December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

Date: Sunday, 25 December, 2022

Significance: Birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Frequency: Annual

Observed by: India

- ❖ Good Governance Index 2021 launched on Good Governance Day, December 25, 2021 by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah
- ❖ 20 States have improved their composite GGI scores in 2021
- ❖ Gujarat tops the composite ranking in the 58 indicator index followed by Maharashtra and Goa
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh registers 8.9 percent improvement in GGI indicators in the period 2019 to 2021
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir registers 3.7 percent improvement in GGI indicators in the period 2019 to 2021
- ❖ Delhi tops the Union Territories category composite ranking

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Mr Amit Shah today released the Good Governance Index 2021 prepared by DARPG on Good Governance Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Good Governance Index, GGI 2021 Framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators.

The sectors of GGI 2020-21 are

- 1) Agriculture and Allied Sectors,
- 2) Commerce & Industries,
- 3) Human Resource Development,
- 4) Public Health,
- 5) Public Infrastructure & Utilities,
- 7) Social Welfare & Development,
- 8) Judicial & Public Security,
- 9) Environment, and
- 10) Citizen-Centric Governance.

The GGI 2020-21 categorises States and UTs into four categories,

- i.e., (i) Other States – Group A;
(ii) Other States – Group B;
(iii) North-East and Hill States; and
(iv) Union Territories.



December 26 - Veer Bal Diwas :

Veer Bal Diwas is a day to commemorate and honour the martyrdom of sons of Guru Gobind Singh – Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh. On January 9 this year, the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, Modi had announced that December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of the Sikh guru's sons.



December 27 - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness :

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2022: Significance

The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness reminds us what we went through during the two years of peak-COVID infections. Hospitals were overwhelmed. Family members could not conduct the last rites of their loved ones. Such grim situations could be avoided in the future if people remain alert and prepared.

December 28 - Ratan Tata Birthday :

Ratan Tata Birthday: Indian industrialist and former Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata will turn 85 on December 28, Wednesday. He was born on December 28, 1937, in Mumbai to Naval Tata and Sooni Tata. Ratan Tata went to Cornell University to study architecture and structural engineering in 1959.

29 December: Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti :

It is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh and this year it falls on 9 January. He was the tenth Guru out of total ten Sikh Gurus. On 22 December 1666, he was born in Patna, Bihar as per the Julian calendar.

According to the Julian calendar, he was born on December 22, 1666 in Patna, Bihar. The Julian calendar is obsolete and no one uses it at the present time. Guru Gobind Singh's father was Guru Tegh Bahadur who was killed by Aurangzeb.

